HSC6735 Research Methods

SPRING 2022

Course Description

This is a graduate-level course in Research Methods that will cover key methods and approaches to research in health education and behavior with the goal of providing students with the knowledge and skills necessary to interpret and evaluate research conducted by others; to synthesize and discuss their viewpoints on this research; and ultimately to design their own scientifically and ethnically sound research projects.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course students are expected to successfully:

- ✓ Understand the role of the Institutional Review Board for research oversight and complete trainings to submit human subjects research.
- ✓ Identify strengths and weaknesses of different research approaches for addressing a specific research question.
- ✓ Critically and constructively evaluate research studies in health education and behavior.
- ✓ Formulate research questions and match them with appropriate methods for investigation.
- ✓ Develop a research study design that addresses a research question in health education and behavior.
- ✓ Contribute to current discussions about trends and controversies in social and behavioral research methods.

Instructor

Liana Hone, MS, PMH, PhD
Assistant Professor
Florida Gym 75 | (352) 294-0547 | lhone@ufl.edu

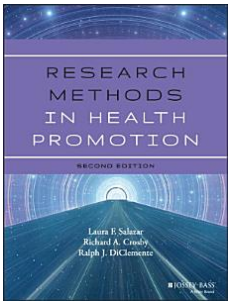
Course Requirements

15% - Exams
30% - Weekly Quizzes
25% - IRB Proposal Project Components
20% - Activities
10% - Yellowdig Engagement

Grading Standards

A	= 100-93	C(S)	= 76.99-73
A-	= 92.99-90	C-(U)	= 72.99-70
B+	= 89.99-87	D+	= 69.99-67
B	= 86.99-83	D	= 66.99-63
B-	= 82.99-80	D-	= 62.99-60
C+	= 79.99-77	E	= 59.99-0

See current UF Grading Policies for further details:
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx



Text & Reading Material

- Salazar LF, Crosby RA, DiClemente RJ. (2015). **Research Methods in Health Promotion (2nd ed.).** San Francisco, CA: Jossey Bass.

Additional Readings posted to Canvas.

Course Schedule

Week #	Topic	Assignment	Due Date
Week #1	Introduction to research	Weekly quiz Introduce yourself on Yellowdig IRB training	1/9
Week #2	Philosophy of science	Weekly quiz Topic selection for research proposal Annotated bibliography	1/16
Week #3	Observational research	Weekly quiz Observational design activity Research topic proposal due	1/23
Week #4	Conducting observational research	Weekly quiz Good clinical practice training	1/30
Week #5	Survey research	Weekly quiz Research talk #1	2/6
Week #6	Experimental design and randomized trials	Weekly quiz Experimental design activity Outline draft due for peer review	2/13
Week #7	Methodological considerations for randomized trials	Peer review of outline Exam 1	2/20
Week #8	Sampling	Weekly quiz Sampling activity Draft IRB proposal for peer review	2/27
Week #9	Measurement	Weekly quiz Measurement activity Peer review of drafts due	3/6
Week #10	Spring break		3/13
Week #11	Basics of statistical analyses	Weekly quiz Statistical analyses activity	3/20
Week #12	Qualitative research	Weekly quiz Qualitative research activity Draft IRB proposal for instructor review	3/27
Week #13	Community-based participatory research	Weekly quiz Research evaluation presentation	4/3
Week #14	Dissemination and implementation	Weekly quiz Research talk #2	4/10
Week #15	Research ethics & transparency in science	Weekly quiz Ethics and article retractions activity	4/17
Week #16	Wrap-up & review	Full draft of IRB due Exam 2	4/24 4/24

Course Requirements

The following will be used to assess the student's academic standing in this course. Late assignments will not be accepted for credit unless arrangements have been made with the instructor prior to the due date for that particular assignment. Failure to make prior arrangements may result in rejection of work submitted late as rescheduling/accepting assignments is at the discretion of the instructor. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work are consistent with university policies: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx.

10% - Yellowdig Participation

15 Weeks/Periods of Participation = 60 points

Overview: Students are required to participate in ongoing dialogue related to the course content and assignments via the Yellowdig platform. The quality and of engagement in this activity will graded based on the point system.

Each Yellowdig period opens on Monday and ends at 11:59 PM Sunday.

20% - Activities

10 Activities (10-30 points each) = 120 points

Overview: Activities in this course will build from lecture materials and outside trainings to help prepare students for the final project of the semester (IRB proposal).

All assignments are due Sunday of that week by 11:59 pm

25% - IRB Proposal Project Components

Activities building to final proposal (100 points) and final proposal (50 points) = 150 points

Overview: To demonstrate application of major concepts taught in this course students draft an IRB proposal for a research project of their choosing. Assignments throughout the semester will help students build towards the final proposal draft.

Students will be begin the semester with their topic selection, then move through a series of steps to help them build their IRB proposal. There will be two drafts submitted for peer review and a preliminary draft submitted for instructor review, ahead of the final proposal.

30% - Weekly Quizzes

13 Quizzes (4 Lowest Grades Dropped) = 180

Overview: Students will be assessed throughout the semester by taking 13 quizzes.

Students are required to complete quizzes and turn them in by due date assigned. Students will take 13 quizzes and their lowest 4 scores during the semester will be dropped from their final grade (i.e., 9 quiz scores will count). Please review each quiz's instructions & guidelines. Students will be assessed over all course materials: readings, videos, lectures, etc. All quizzes are due Sunday of that week by 11:59 pm.

15% - Examinations

2 Exams (45 points each) = 90 points

Overview: Students will have two exams– Exam 1 (Module 1) and Exam 2 (Module 2/3).

Students need to review opening and closing dates for both examinations. These examinations are not open note, they are timed and students will have one attempt in completion.

Students should be aware that online learning is different than a traditional classroom experience and can present unique challenges, particularly to individuals who do not possess good time management skills. The online classroom is available to you 24 hours a day. Unlike traditional instructional settings in which each student gets the same class at a set time and day, the online setting gives students the opportunity to tailor class to their particular learning style. You should note, however, that this course is not completely self-paced. As listed on the class calendar, there are select times during which units and course materials will be available and are due. You can view each unit's lectures at any time during the dates in which that specific unit is open. Please note that all quizzes, exams, assignments, Yellowdig participation, etc. must be completed and submitted by the due date listed on the syllabus. Quizzes and exams will only be available to you on the date(s) and time(s) listed on the syllabus. Since we will not have in-class meeting times for me to remind you of critical dates, it is essential to familiarize yourself with the course schedule, deadlines, and due dates.

Course Policies

Make Up Policy:
Work will not be accepted late, and on some days more than one of these tasks may be due. If personal circumstances arise that may interfere with your ability to meet a deadline, please let me know as soon as possible before the due date. Please keep in mind only university authorized excuses will be accepted, and documentation must be provided. Requirements for make-up exams, assignments, and other work are consistent with university policies: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

Communication:
You may email me through Canvas with any questions or concerns you have, and I will attempt to respond to your emails within 48 hours. If you have an urgent issue, please email my personal UF email, lhone@ufl.edu. Students are responsible for getting a University of Florida email account (e.g., john.doe@ufl.edu) and should use this email for all university related correspondence. The instructor may not read emails from or send emails to any non-UF email addresses (e.g., john@aol.com). Email use does not relieve students from the responsibility of confirming the communication with the instructor.

Questions:
For general course questions, I encourage you to check the Yellowdig community since other students may have the same question. If you do not find an answer, post your question using a descriptive subject line. All students are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in email messages, discussions, chats, etc. Please review the Netiquette Guide (also on course website) for further important information.

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities:
Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource (DSR) Center (352-392-8565; www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation to your instructor prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, so students should contact the DSR office as soon as possible in the term.

Honor Code Policy & Academic Integrity:
"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity." The following pledge will be either required or implied on all work: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." It is the duty of the student to abide by all rules set forth in the UF Catalog. Students are responsible for reporting any circumstances, which may facilitate academic dishonesty. University Policy on Academic Misconduct: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at: https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/. All students must adhere to university regulations regarding academic integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty (including but not limited to any form of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation, etc.) will not be tolerated. Any student guilty of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade (E) for the course, and the matter will be forwarded to the UF Office Student Affairs and the Dean of Students.

Honorlock Quiz and Exam Proctoring Information:
Honorlock will proctor your quizzes and examinations. Honorlock is an online proctoring service that allows you to take your exam from the comfort of your home. You DO NOT need to create an account, download software or schedule an appointment in advance. Honorlock is available 24/7 and all that is needed is a computer, a working webcam, and a stable internet connection. To get started, you will need Google Chrome and to download the Honorlock Chrome Extension. You can download the extension at: wwww.honorlock.com/extension/install. When you are ready to test, log into Canvas/E-Learning, go to your course, and click on your exam. Clicking launch Proctoring will begin the Honorlock authentication process, where you will take a picture of yourself, show your ID, and complete a scan of your room. Honorlock will be recording your exam session by webcam as well as recording your screen. Honorlock also has an integrity algorithm that can detect search-engine use, so please do not attempt to search for answers, even if it's on a secondary device. Honorlock support is available 24/7/365. If you encounter any issues, you may contact Honorlock by live chat, phone (844-243-2500), and/or email (support@honorlock.com).

Grade Appeal Policy:
Should you want to contest a grade, you will have up to three (3) days after a grade has been posted to contact me and discuss your issue; after which the grade is final. Grades are based on a point scale and will not be rounded.

Resources

The University of Florida recognizes that pursuit of an online degree requires just as much student support as pursuit of a traditional on-campus degree and, therefore, each online program is responsible for providing the same student support services to both students who are in residence on the main campus and those who are seeking an online degree through distance learning. The following links provide support services for students:

Academic Resources

Disabilities Resource Center:
Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. If you have a physical, learning, sensory or psychological disability, please visit our Disabilities Resource Center.

Online Computing Help Desk:
The UF Computing Help Desk is available to assist students with technical issues. If you have any issues accessing the online course material you must contact the UF Computing Help Desk immediately for assistance and obtain a case number. The instructor will not accept late assignments or change any course dates due to technology difficulties if you do not have a case number prior to the due date for the assignment. For issues with technical difficulties in E-learning, please contact the UF Help Desk at helpdesk@ufl.edu or (352) 392-4357 [https://elearning.ufl.edu/student-help-faqs/]. Other resources are available at [https://distance.ufl.edu/getting-help/].

Graduate Advancement Resources:
The Office of Graduate Professional Development has compiled a comprehensive list of relevant resources for graduate students. Resources include mental and physical wellness, financial literacy, research skills, leadership skills, and career development. I strongly encourage you to browse the list of resources and take advantage of the personal and professional development opportunities available to you as a UF student.

E-learning technical support:
352-392-4357 (select option 2); learning-support@ufl.edu.

Career Resource Center:
352-392-1601

Online Library Help Desk:
The help desk is available to assist students with access to all of the UF Libraries resources.

Teaching Center:
352-392-2010; 352-392-6420

Writing Studio:
352-846-1138

Health and Wellness Resources

Counseling and Wellness Center:
352-392-1575; counseling.ufl.edu/cwc

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS):
352-392-1161

University Police Department:
392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies); police.ufl.edu

U Matter, We Care:
Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

Additional Information

Student Recording:
Per the House Bill 233 Intellectual and Viewpoint Diversity Act, students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Copyright Statement:
The materials used in this course are copyrighted. The content presented is the property of UF and may not be duplicated in any format without permission from the College of Health and Human Performance and UF, and may not be used for any commercial purposes. Content includes but is not limited to syllabi, videos, slides, quizzes, exams, lab problems, in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets. Because these materials are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy or distribute the course materials, unless permission is expressly granted. Students violating this policy may be subject to disciplinary action under the UF Conduct Code.

Disclaimer:
This syllabus represents the objectives and tentative plans for the course. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, will be communicated clearly, are not unusual, and should be expected.

Course creator credit:
All materials for this course including the syllabus, lectures, activities, and examinations were created by Dr. Danielle Jake-Schoffman (and updated by Dr. Liana Hone) for the University of Florida Department of Health Education & Behavior.