

University of Florida
College of Public Health and Health Professions
PHC 6937, BSCH Journal Club
Fall 2014

Credit: 1.0 semester credit hour
Date and Time: Tuesday from 4 to 5p.m.
Room: G110

Instructor: Mark Hart, EdD, M.A.L.S..
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College of Public Health and Health Professions
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Office Hours: by appointment

Overview: This one credit course allows students to develop critical thinking and scientific writing skills while reviewing scientific articles. Each student will choose one article during the semester from recent scientific literature published in top peer reviewed journals. Articles will be selected from public health and health related journals. This will include those from social sciences, such as medical anthropology, sociology and human rights areas, which encompass behavioral science, community health perspectives, and infectious diseases with impact on public health both nationally and internationally. Students will select papers in areas of interest to them, but will be encouraged to select topics that will augment their thinking of public health issues.

The purpose of this course is to develop critical thinking and writing skills by reviewing scientific literature from top journals.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this semester students will be able to:

1. Identify quality scientific information within the vast behavioral science, global, environmental, and community health bodies of literature; Review, synthesize ideas and generate written criticism, lead discussions and engage peers on a topic that may be outside of a single discipline.

Readings:

Readings will be selected each week by the presenter or instructor (see schedule below). Readings will be made available to class members and faculty, via email, in the form of a PDF file. Topics will include: different aspects of chronic and infectious diseases, mental health, health disparities, migrant health, and maternal and child health. This may include molecular aspects, modeling, demographics, study design and statistical analyses.

Class members may receive guidance from faculty in their choice of readings.

Assignments:

1. Partner / Group Presentation (50 points):

- Students will create a PPT presentation, using the “Research Evaluation Tool” provided, based on article of their choice, based on the following themes:
 - Chronic Diseases
 - Infectious Diseases
 - Mental Health/ Maternal and Child Health
 - Human Rights/Health Disparities/Migrant Health
- Students will make 20 minute presentation / lead 20 minute discussion on article
- STUDENTS WILL EMAIL PDF ARTICLE TO INSTRUCTOR AT LEAST 1 WEEK PRIOR TO PRESENTATION

2. Individual Presentation (50 points):

- Student will create a PPT presentation, using the “Research Evaluation Tool” provided, based on article of their choice (using themes listed above in Assignment #1)
- Student will make 20 minute presentation / lead 20 minute discussion on article
- STUDENTS WILL EMAIL PDF ARTICLE TO INSTRUCTOR AT LEAST 1 WEEK PRIOR TO PRESENTATION

3. Student Final Paper (80 points... PART 1 = 40 points / PART 2 = 40 points)

- PART ONE: (1 – 2 page) Self-reflection / Course-reflection, Self-Research Assessment
- PART TWO: (2 page) Formal, Written Research Analysis (using course “Research Evaluation Tool”) on article of your choice (using themes listed above in Assignment #1).

4. Student Participation (20 points)

Grading Scale: The final grade will be computed on the basis of the following assessments:

Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent
A	93-100	C	70-77
A-	90-92	C-	68-69
B+	88-89	D+	66-67
B	83-87	D	60-65
B-	80-82	D-	58-59
C+	78-79	E	<58

Late Assignments: Will have a 5% deduction for each day late unless arrangements have been made ahead of the due date with the instructor or the TA.

Attendance: *Students are expected to complete all reading assignments and to come to class prepared for discussion and debate.* Attendance is required.

If you anticipate you will miss a class **please** contact the instructor before the class; students who have an emergency absence must contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Class Schedule

Class/Date	Perspective	Suggested Topics	Presenter
08/26/2014	Introduction to Course	Student Introductions / Syllabus	Hart
09/02/2014	The Research World Group Read	How to Evaluate a Research Article	Groups
09/09/2014	Chronic Diseases		1 & 2
09/16/2014	Infectious Diseases		3 & 4
09/23/2014	Mental Health/ Maternal and Child Health		5 & 6
09/30/2014	Human Rights/Health Disparities/Migrant Health		7 & 8 & 9
10/07/2014	Student Choice		1
10/14/2014	Student Choice		2
10/21/2014	Student Choice		3
10/28/2014	Student Choice		4
11/04/2014	Student Choice		5
11/11/2014	NO CLASS	VETERAN'S DAY	
11/18/2014	NO CLASS	APHA	
11/25/2014 (LONGER CLASS)	Student Choice		6 & 9
12/02/2014 (LONGER CLASS)	Student Choice		7 & 8
12/09/2014	NO CLASS	FINAL PAPERS DUE- ONLINE	

RESEARCH EVALUATION TOOL

PART 1: PP-ICONS

- Problem,
- Patient or population,
- Intervention,
- Comparison,
- Outcome,
- Number of subjects,
- Statistics.

PART 2: SWOT ANALYSIS

- Strengths of study
- Weaknesses of study
- Opportunities for future research
- Threats against the conclusions, or study set-up itself

PART 3: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Question #1... “so what do you think...”
- Question #2... “so what do you think...”
- Question #3... “so what do you think...”

Academic Honesty

Please review the University's complete policy regarding academic dishonesty, found online in the DSO's Judicial Affairs website: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php>. Students are expected to abide by the University's Academic Honesty Policy, and to adhere to the following pledge:

"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity."

According to the UF Student Guide, Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:

Cheating – copying another's work for academic gain

Plagiarism – representing another's work as your own

Misrepresentation – altering facts

Conspiracy – planning with others to commit academic dishonesty

Fabrication – making up information to avoid punishment or other difficulty

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either stated or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in completing this assignment."

Accommodations and other Services:

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 accommodations.

OTHER SERVICES

UF Counseling and Wellness Center

3190 Radio Road, Gainesville, FL 32611

(352) 392-1575

Monday through Friday, 8 am through 5 pm

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>

UF Reading and Writing Center

Located in the Teaching Center Mezzanine in SW Broward Hall

(352) 392-6420

Monday through Friday, 9 am through 5 pm

<http://www.at.ufl.edu/rwcenter/index.html>