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PUBH 7991A - Capstone Research Course

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Georgia Southern University
Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health

PUBH 7991A – Capstone Research Course (1 credit)
Spring 2015

<u>Instructor:</u>	Katie M. Mercer, DrPH, MPH
<u>Office:</u>	Hendricks Hall 2008
<u>Phone:</u>	912-478-1343
<u>E-Mail Address:</u>	kmercerc@georgiasouthern.edu
<u>Office Hours:</u>	Monday 1:00 – 5:00 Wednesday 2:30 – 4:30 Also by appointment
<u>Class Meets:</u>	Wednesdays 1:25 pm – 2:15 pm Carroll Building 1022

Course schedules can be found at: <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/registrar/>

Prerequisites: N/A

Catalog Description: Requires the completion of an independent research project in the preferred field requiring the defense of the design, methods, analysis, and interpretation of the data.

Required Textbook: Turabian, Kate. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. University of Chicago Press. 2013.

Introductory Core Competencies:

At the completion of the MPH Program and the Public Health Capstone Research Project the student will be able to:

Biostatistics Competencies (BIO)

1. Apply descriptive and inferential methodologies according to the type of study design for answering a particular research question.
2. Interpret results of statistical analyses found in public health and biomedical studies, including those obtained from output using a statistical software package.

3. Develop written and oral presentations that effectively communicate statistical results to both public health professionals and educated by lay audiences.

Environmental Health Sciences Competencies (EH)

1. Identify the ethical, social, and legal issues implied by biological systems within public health.
2. Demonstrate effective written and oral skills to communicate risk to practitioners, clients, policy-makers, interest groups and the media.
3. Evaluate the strengths and limitations of environmental health source material in order to compile relevant and appropriate information when needed.

Epidemiology Competencies (EC)

1. Communicate epidemiologic information to lay and professional audiences.
2. Evaluate the strengths and limitations of epidemiologic findings.

Health Policy & Management Competencies (HPM)

1. Compare the potential impacts of policy and management on the conduct of public health research and practice.
2. Analyze the potential impacts of policy and management on the conduct of public health research and practice.

Community Health Competencies (CH)

1. Assess philosophical foundations and assumptions of research applied to community health problems.
2. Compare qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods to address community health issues through intervention, evaluation and research.
3. Apply Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) approaches when working on collaborative projects.
4. Explain ethical principles critical to (community-based) research and practice.

Learning Objectives: The number in parenthesis corresponds to the competency number from the list above. As a result of this course the student should be able to:

- a) Understand the purpose and contribution of research to public health
(Competencies: CH 1, & HPM 1)

- b) Select appropriate, discipline specific methodologies for addressing research questions (Competencies: BIO 1, CH 2, & CH 3)
- c) Evaluate the strengths and limitations of information sources (Competencies: EH 3 & EC 2)
- d) Understand the ethical use of research (Competencies: EH 1, CH 4, HPM 1, & HPM 2)
- e) Exhibit the ability to develop a research plan for a research question (Competencies: BIO 1, BIO 2, BIO 3, EH 1, EH 2, EH 3, EC 1, EC 2, HPM 1, HPM 2, CH 1, CH 2, CH 3, & CH4)

Spring 2015 SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignment
Week 1 1/14	Welcome/Introduction/Syllabus APA style Capstone Student Guide		
Week 2 1/21	What research is and how researchers think about it - SO WHAT?	Turabian Ch. 1	Research interests list due
Week 3 1/28	Class research interests – SO WHAT? Analysis of rationale and significance Discussion		Plagiarism quiz due NIH training certificate due
Week 4 2/4	Capstone mentor selection Discussion	JPHCOPH faculty website review	
Week 5 2/11	Ethics in research IRB process presentation		
Week 6 2/18	Moving from a topic to a question to a working hypothesis Discussion	Turabian Ch. 2	
Week 7	Research questions		

2/25	Discussion		
Week 8 3/4	Searching for sources Discussion	Turabian Ch. 3 and Ch. 4	Capstone Research Project Application Form due
Week 9 3/11	What is a literature review? Discussion		
Week 10 3/18	SPRING BREAK NO CLASS		
Week 11 3/25	Student presentation of Capstone poster		
Week 12 4/1	Research methodologies: Qualitative Discussion		
Week 13 4/8	Research methodologies: Quantitative Discussion		
Week 14 4/15	Research methodologies: Mixed methods Discussion		
Week 15 4/22	Research delimitations/limitations Discussion		
Week 16 4/29	Class re-cap Lessons learned discussion		Benchmarks sheet due

Samples of your work may be reproduced for search purposes and/or inclusion in the professor's teaching portfolio. You have the right to review anything selected for use, and subsequently ask for its removal.

Grading

Assignment	Points	% of total grade
Class participation	100	25
Plagiarism quiz	25	6.25
Research interest list	50	12.5
NIH training	25	6.25
Capstone Research Project Application Form	100	25
Benchmarks sheet	100	25
Total	400	100

Point scale

Letter grade	Points	%
A	360 - 400	A
B	320 – 359	B
C	280 – 319	C
D	240 – 279	D

Note: A cumulative total of 278 points or less will be considered an “F” in the course.

Assignments

Class participation:

Students will be evaluated on their contribution to the class discussion. This grade will be calculated at the end of the semester. *Learning objectives a – f.*

Plagiarism quiz:

Please see section regarding plagiarism below. *Learning objectives d and e.*

Research interest list:

This list will be comprised of at least three research interests. Students can include more than three interests if they so choose. This assignment will be discussed further in class. *Learning objective f.*

NIH training:

This training must be completed by the student. Upon completion, the certificate must be printed out and handed in to the instructor on the due date. This training can be found at <http://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php>. *Learning objectives d and e.*

Capstone Research Project Application Form:

Students must complete a faculty mentor sheet and submit it to the instructor on the due date. This assignment will be discussed further in class. *Learning objective f.*

Benchmarks sheet:

Students will submit a benchmarks sheet outlining their interactions with their Capstone mentor. This assignment will be discussed further in class. *Learning objective f.*

Standard Georgia Southern University and JPHCOPH Expectations**Academic Integrity:**

The Instructor believes that the conduct of a student registered or taking courses in the JPHCOPH should be consistent with that of a professional person. Courtesy, honesty, and respect should be shown by students toward faculty members, guest lecturers, administrative support staff, and fellow students. Similarly, students should expect faculty to treat them fairly, showing respect for their ideas and opinions and striving to help them achieve maximum benefits from their experience in the JPHCOPH.

Please adhere to the strictest academic standards of conduct noted in the GSU *Student Conduct Code* and the *Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog*. Familiarize yourself with University's policies. Enrollment in this course is an implied contract between you and the Instructor. Academic integrity relates to the appropriate use of intellectual property. The syllabus and all materials presented and/or distributed during this course are protected by copyright law. You are authorized to take notes, but that authorization extends only to making one set of notes for personal (and no other) use. Students are not authorized to sell, license, commercially publish, distribute, transmit, display, or record notes in or from class without written permission of the Instructor.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is an academic dishonesty and is strictly prohibited. Sometimes students commit plagiarism without understanding what they are doing. Avoid this by visiting <http://www.education.indiana.edu/~frick/plagiarism/> and taking the quiz. Once you take and pass the quiz, print out the certificate from the website. Your certificate is due on January 28, 2015.

According to the GSU Academic Dishonesty Policy, Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to):

- A. Directly quoting the words of others without using quotation marks or indented format to identify them.
- B. Using published or unpublished sources of information without identifying them.
- C. Paraphrasing material or ideas without identifying the source.
- D. Unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic material.

If you are accused of plagiarism, the following policy as per the Judicial Affairs website <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/judicial/faculty.htm> will be enforced.

PROCEDURES FOR ADJUDICATING ACADEMIC DISHONESTY CASES

A. First Offense - In Violation Plea

1. If the professor and the Dean of Students agree that the evidence is sufficient to warrant a charge of academic dishonesty, the professor should contact the Office of Judicial Affairs to determine if this is a first violation of academic dishonesty. The incident will be reported via the following website:
<http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/judicial/faculty.htm>
2. If it is a first violation, the professor should talk with the student about the violation. If the student accepts responsibility in writing and the professor decides to adjudicate the case, the following procedures will be followed:
 - a. The student will be placed on disciplinary probation for a minimum of one semester by the Office of Judicial Affairs.
 - b. The student will be subject to any academic sanctions imposed by the professor (from receiving a 0 on the assignment to receiving a failing grade in the class).
 - c. A copy of all the material involved in the case (Academic Dishonesty Report Form and the Request for Instructor to Adjudicate Form) and a brief statement from the professor concerning the facts of the case and the course syllabus should be mailed to the Office of Judicial Affairs for inclusion in the student's discipline record.

B. First Offense - Not In Violation Plea (student does not admit the violation)

1. If the professor and the Dean of Students agree that the evidence is sufficient to warrant a charge of academic dishonesty, the professor should contact the Office of Judicial Affairs to determine if this is the first or second violation of academic dishonesty. The student will be charged with academic dishonesty and the University Judicial Board or a University Hearing Officer would hear the case. If the student is found responsible, the following penalty will normally be imposed:
 - a. The student will be placed on Disciplinary Probation for a minimum of one semester by the Office of Judicial Affairs.
 - b. The student will be subject to any academic sanctions imposed by the professor.

C. Second Violation of Academic Dishonesty

1. If the professor and the Dean of Students agree that the evidence is sufficient to warrant a charge of academic dishonesty, and if it is determined this is the second violation, the student will be charged with academic dishonesty and the University Judicial Board or a University Hearing Officer would hear the case.
2. If the student is found responsible, the following penalty will normally be imposed:
 - a. Suspension for a minimum of one semester or expulsion.
 - b. The student will be subject to any academic sanctions imposed by the professor.

NOT RESPONSIBLE FINDING

When a student is found not responsible of academic dishonesty, the work in question (assignment, paper, test, etc.) would be forwarded to the Department Chair. It is the

responsibility of the Department Chair to ensure that the work is evaluated by a faculty member other than the individual who brought the charge and, if necessary, submit a final grade to the Registrar. For the protection of the faculty member and the student, the work in question should not be referred back to the faculty member who charged the student with academic dishonesty. In the case of a Department Chair bringing charges against a student, an administrator at the Dean's level will ensure that the student's work is evaluated in an appropriate manner.

Student Assessments: There are times when extraordinary circumstances occur (e.g., serious illness, death in the family, etc.). In such circumstances, and/or if you need additional time to satisfactorily complete any course requirement, please consult with the instructor within a reasonable amount of time. *Nota Bene:* Extensions are not guaranteed and will be granted solely at the discretion of the instructor.

Academic Misconduct: As a student registered at this University, it is expected that you will adhere to only the strictest standards of conduct. It is recommended that you review the latest edition of the *Student Conduct Code* book, as well as the latest *Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog* to familiarize yourself with the University's policies in this regard. Your continued enrollment in this course is an implied contract between you and the instructor on this issue; from this point forward, it is assumed that you will conduct yourself appropriately.

Academic integrity relates to the appropriate use of intellectual property. The syllabus, lecture notes, and all materials presented and/or distributed during this course are protected by copyright law. Students are authorized to take notes in class, but that authorization extends only to making one set of notes for personal (and no other) use. As such, students are not authorized to sell, license, commercially publish, distribute, transmit, display, or record notes in or from class without the express written permission of the instructor.

Academic Handbook: Students are expected to abide by the Academic Handbook, located at <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/sta/guide/>. Your failure to comply with any part of this Handbook may be a violation and thus, you may receive an F in the course and/or be referred for disciplinary action.

**University Calendar
for the Semester:**

The University Calendar is located with the semester schedule, and can be found at:

<http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/registrar>

Attendance Policy:

Federal regulations require attendance be verified prior to distribution of financial aid allotments. Attendance on the first day of class is mandatory.

Students are expected to attend and participate in classroom activities. Cell phones must be off and put away during class. Surfing the web, playing games, doing homework, and/or checking e-mail (including social media) are prohibited.

One Final Note:

The contents of this syllabus are as complete and accurate as possible. The instructor reserves the right to make any changes necessary to the syllabus and course material. The instructor will make every effort to inform students of changes as they occur. It is the responsibility of the student to know what changes have been made in order to successfully complete the requirements of the course.