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PUBH 4890 - Directed Individual Study

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Georgia Southern University
Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health
Department of Health Policy and Community Health
Honors Thesis in Public Health
PUBH 4890
Fall 2021

<u>Instructor:</u>	Stacy W. Smallwood, PhD, MPH
<u>Office:</u>	Hendricks Hall 2039
<u>Phone:</u>	(912)-478-2040
<u>E-Mail Address:</u>	ssmallwood@georgiasouthern.edu
<u>Office Hours:</u>	Tuesdays 12pm-3pm, Wednesdays 2pm-4pm, or by appointment

Course Description: This course is intended to enhance your knowledge of a contemporary public health issue while developing your skills as a researcher. An essential part of scientific research is learning to conduct a detailed literature review. Without this fundamental skill, you are likely to waste a great deal of time exploring questions that have already been answered or fail to get the best results due to outdated theories and methods.

Course objectives:

- Students will conduct a detailed literature review
- Students will expand current knowledge in public health
- Students will remediate deficient areas of knowledge, behavior, or skills
- Students will develop or enhance skills in analyzing, synthesizing, and integrating public health related information

BSPH Competencies

- Identify and assess public health problems to develop appropriate public health education programs based on sound theoretical foundations of health behavior
- Design, implement and evaluate public health educational programs for identified health problems for at-risk populations and communities.
- Demonstrate argumentation, analysis, and synthesis skills writing through the development of comprehensive health promotion program plans and materials.
- Communicate and advocate for health and health education.

CEPH BSPH Competencies

Public Health Communication

The ability to communicate public health information, in both oral and written forms, through a variety of media and to diverse audiences.

Information Literacy

The ability to locate, use, evaluate and synthesize public health information.

Performance-Based Objectives Linked to Course Activities (Note: Assessment Activities Described in Next Section)

Assignment Description:

Your **thesis** should contain the following sections:

- Title page
- Abstract (about 250 words)
 - Background
 - Methods
 - Results
 - Conclusion
- Introduction
 - Background information
 - Descriptive epidemiology
 - Important considerations
- Methods
 - Research questions
 - Data sources
 - Data analysis
- Results
 - Findings related to research questions
- Discussion
 - Brief summary of main findings
 - Strengths and limitations
 - Policy implications
 - Key stakeholders
 - Recommendations for future research
- Conclusions
- References
 - At least 15–20 references from within the past 5 years
 - Cite references using APA style guidelines
- Appendix

- Literature review matrix table

The final paper should be 25 pages in length (excluding title page, references, and appendices). The formatting should use 12 point-font, be double spaced, and conform to APA style guidelines.

General Expectations

1. For every one-credit hour, you should expect to work roughly two hours outside the classroom each week. For example, for a three-credit hour course, during a regular fifteen week semester, you should expect approximately ninety hours of work outside of class.
2. Students are expected to independently complete all activities.
3. Students are expected to produce quality work. Typos and grammar errors should be kept to a minimum. The format and readability of submissions will be taken into consideration when assigning a grade.
4. Remember to check when assignments are due. It is recommended that you stay ahead of schedule on the assignments, so if an emergency happens, your assignment will be completed and ready to submit within the designated time frame. It is your responsibility to keep track of the due dates for each assignment.

Response Times

During a normal work week (i.e., Monday 9:00 AM through Friday 5:00 PM) students can expect responses as follows:

- Email: within 48 hours
- Discussion posts: within 72 hours
- Assignment grades: within 72 hours- 1 week of submission date.

Exceptions: I may not check FOLIO or GSU email over the weekends. If you send me an email after 5:00 PM on Friday, please do not expect a response until the following Monday.

Course Expectations

1. Late work assignments are not accepted, please submit all assignments via Folio. Assignments are due upon entering the class, after that they are considered late and will not be accepted. **I will ONLY accept assignments submitted in .doc or .docx formats online.** Any other type of submissions will not be opened and receive automatic “0” points. I do not accept assignments via email or via email as an attachment and if you try to send them this way, an automatic “0” will be assigned.
2. **All assignments** must be typed.

3. For assignments that are submitted via Folio, please note the following. If you are experiencing difficulty with Folio, contact tech support immediately. Please try to do all assignments a day early so that submission of assignments will not be a problem.
4. Samples of your work may or may not be reproduced for inclusion in the professor's teaching portfolio. You have a right to review anything selected for use, and subsequently ask for its removal.
5. By enrolling in this course, it is understood that you have read the syllabus, understand the rules and policies as stated, and will abide by them.
6. If you are receiving services from the GSU Office of Disability please come and see me as soon as possible, to schedule an appointment to present me with an accommodation letter.
7. When you need to contact me, please do so through the ssmallwood@georgiasouthern.edu email account. Please give me 48 hours to respond to emails. To write a **professional** email, please include the following: a salutation, identify who you are, what the contact is in reference too, and what you would like me to do. At the bottom of the email, please type out your name. Please be careful of nick names that you have associated with the person because they might show up that way!

Basic Needs Statement

Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students Office for support. The Dean of Students Office web address is <https://students.georgiasouthern.edu/dean>. You may also reach the Dean of Students Office for the Statesboro campus at (912) 478-3326 or deanofstudents@georgiasouthern.edu. For the Armstrong and Liberty campuses, you can also reach the Dean of Students Office at (912) 344-2514 or rmdeanofstudents@georgiasouthern.edu. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in contacting the Dean of Students Office for support. This will enable the professor to provide any other resources that they may possess.

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.

Plagiarism

According to the Academic Dishonesty Policy of Georgia Southern University, 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 by a JPHCOPH, 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

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.

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

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.

Second Violation of Academic Dishonesty

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.

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 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.

CONFIDENTIALITY

In accordance with provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and the Georgia Open Records Act, any information related to a violation of academic dishonesty or the outcome of a judicial hearing regarding academic dishonesty, is prohibited and must be treated as confidential by members of the faculty."

Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Georgia Southern University will honor requests for reasonable accommodations made by individuals with disabilities. Students must self-disclose any disability for which an accommodation is being sought to the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) before academic or other accommodations can be implemented. For additional information, please call the Director of EEO and Title IX at (912) 478-5136 / TDD (912) 478-0273 or the SDRC Director at (912) 478-1566 / TDD (912) 478-0666. The TDD phone numbers are intended for individuals with hearing impairments.

University Calendar for the Semester

The University Calendar is located with the semester schedule, and can be found at:
<http://em.georgiasouthern.edu/registrar/resources/calendars/>

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

The Student Conduct Code is the official University publication governing student conduct and behavior. It is the responsibility of each student to become familiar with the rules and regulations governing student life. Student conduct procedures, appeal procedures, and disciplinary sanctions are found in the Student Conduct Code at <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/conduct>. I acknowledge that I have read and understand this statement referencing the Student Conduct Code.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

The University goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces educated, literate people. Because cheating and plagiarism are at odds with that goal, they shall not be tolerated in any form. Students are expected to adhere to the rules and regulations as set forth in the Student Conduct Code. Therefore, all work submitted by a student must represent that student's own ideas and effort; when the work does not, the student has engaged in academic dishonesty. Plagiarism occurs when a person passes in another person's work as his or her own, borrows directly from another person's work without proper documentation, and resubmits his or her own work that has been previously submitted without explicit approval from the instructor. For example, academic dishonesty occurs whenever a student participates in any of the following: Cheating submitting material that is not yours as part of your course performance; using information or devices that are not allowed by the faculty; obtaining and/or using unauthorized materials; fabricating information, research, and/or results; violating procedures prescribed to protect the integrity of an assignment, test, or other evaluation; collaborating with others on assignments without the faculty's consent; cooperating with and/or helping another student to cheat; demonstrating any other forms of dishonest behavior. Plagiarism directly quoting the words of others without using quotation marks or indented format to identify them; using sources of information (published or unpublished) without identifying them; paraphrasing materials or ideas without identifying the source; self-plagiarism - resubmitting work previously submitted without explicit approval from the instructor; unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic material. NOTICE: The list above is intended only to provide general guidelines for recognizing and avoiding common types of academic dishonesty. It is in no way an exhaustive or comprehensive list of all the types of academic dishonesty. For more information about academic honesty, see

the Student Conduct Code at <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/conduct>. I acknowledge that I have read and understand the Academic Dishonesty Policy.

I have read the syllabus and understand the contents and course requirements.

Student Name (print)

Student Signature

Date