**Course Information**

Instructor: Jennifer L. Gay, PhD  
Office Location: 251E Wright Hall, Health Sciences Campus  
Phone: 706-542-6698  
Email: jlgay@uga.edu  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 8:15am to 9:15am (Ramsey Center 302, main campus), Wednesdays 8:15am to 8:45am (Wright Hall 251E, Health Sciences Campus), and by appointment. You also may ask questions via email.

**Course Meeting Time and Location**

Class is scheduled in 233 Russell Hall on the Health Sciences Campus on Wednesdays from 9:05am to 12:05pm. We also have the computer lab, room 203, reserved for class activities.

**Course Description**

This course prepares students to construct and answer research questions. Students will review literature, develop and implement a questionnaire, create a codebook, and conduct data entry and analysis to answer a specific research question. Reporting results and presentation skills will be practiced.

**Course Learning Objectives**

The purpose of this course is to practice research skills needed to answer health promotion research questions. At the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Describe the process of constructing a health promotion research question.  
2. Apply the Scientific Method to answer a research question.  
3. Discriminate amongst the types of validity and reliability for measures and study designs.  
4. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of study designs commonly used in health promotion research and practice.  
5. Identify the components of informed consent and the historical events that led to protection of human subjects.  
6. Describe the process of data collection, including recruitment, enrollment, and survey administration.  
7. Analyze and interpret survey data with commonly used statistical procedures to answer health promotion research questions.

**Course Requirements for Grading Purposes**

Unless otherwise noted on the syllabus or course schedule, all assignments are due by the start of class on the assigned due date. Assignments submitted after this time will be considered late (see Late Assignment Grading Policy).
Participation in class discussions with other students and the instructor is expected. Students will prepare weekly by reading assigned book chapters and articles, watching assigned videos, and completing any assignments posted on eLC.

### Topical Outline

- Developing research questions and surveys
- Reliability and validity of measures
- Recruitment, enrollment, retention and working with human subjects
- Matching your research question to statistical tests
- Data management and analysis
- Presentation of research in various forms

### Textbooks and Other Required Course Material


Additional readings, videos, and other required course materials will be provided via eLC.

We will use Endnote citation software and SAS statistical analysis software in this course. These programs are available in the Russell computer lab (room 203). You may download a free copy of Endnote through the UGA Library website for Mac or PC. A one-year SAS license is available for purchase for PC users through EITS.

Students will be required to present a poster as part of the course. Posters can be printed for $30 through the College of Public Health Office of Information Technology. You may contact cphoit@uga.edu for the poster request form and to set up an appointment for printing.

### Grading Policy

**Final Grading:** There are a total of 750 points available for completion of all assignments. Final letter grades correspond to the point values below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>≥564</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>540 – 563</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>522 – 539</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>504 – 521</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>480 – 503</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>462 – 479</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>444 – 461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>420 – 443</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>390 – 419</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>≤389</td>
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</tbody>
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The major assignments in this course are an exam and reporting of your research through written, visual, and oral presentations. For each assignment specific guidelines and assessment criteria are available on the eLC course website. Students will complete drafts of research components throughout the semester, receive feedback, and submit a final revised version. Instructions for, and a checklist of, all assignments, is provided on eLC.

**Pass/Fail Items:** There are 6 Pass/Fail assignments. These are valued at 10 points each. Although the point totals are low, these assignments include drafts and required research training that are the foundation for your major assignments. They provide an opportunity for you
to complete the assignment in a low-risk environment and receive feedback for use in revising
your final versions. The online CITI Human Subjects Research Training is required. Students
who do not complete this training will not be permitted to attend class until the training is
complete. Additionally, students are expected to assist with recruitment during data collection.

Reading Quizzes: There will be 9 reading quizzes valued at 5 points each. Students may drop
the lowest score.

### Late Assignment Grading Policy

Assignments are considered late if they are submitted after the start of class during the week
they are due – 9:05am on Wednesdays unless arrangements have been made ahead of time
with the instructor (e.g., in the event of serious illness or unavoidable and unexpected trips out
of town). For each day that your assignment is late, 10% will be subtracted from your grade. For
example, if a paper is worth 100 points and you receive a score of 85, but the paper was turned
in after 9:05am on Wednesday and before 9:05am on Thursday, you will receive a score of 75.
Pass/Fail items submitted late will be graded as Fail.

The earlier assignments provide the foundation for the later assignments. Therefore it is
imperative that you complete assignments on time.

### Attendance Policy

You are expected to attend class and actively participate. If you experience extenuating
circumstances that preclude you from attending, it is to your advantage to contact me as soon
as possible to make arrangements for assignments. Students may be administratively
withdrawn for excessive absences/lack of participation (equivalent to ≥20% of classes;

### Technology in the Classroom

The use of technology during class will not be allowed unless otherwise indicated. This includes,
but is not limited to, cell phones, pagers, headphones, iPods or other mp3 players, iPads,
tables, and laptop computers. Please turn off all electronic devices prior to the start of class.
Students will be asked to leave class and be counted as an absence for technology use during
class. If a situation arises where you need to be contacted during class time, please let me
know ahead of time and set your phone to vibrate. Examples include contact from a family
member or physician during an unexpected illness or event.

### University Honor Code and Academic Honesty Policy

*All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” All
students are responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing
any academic work ([http://honesty.uga.edu](http://honesty.uga.edu)). Violations of these policies will not be tolerated
and may result in the student receiving a failing grade in this course.*

A note about plagiarism: To plagiarize is defined by Merriam-Webster’s online dictionary
and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one’s own: use (another’s production) without
crediting the source”. This means that you must do more than cite your sources. You must not
copy or reword others’ work. If you are unsure how to paraphrase or summarize content, please
meet with Dr. Gay. The Purdue Online Writing Lab website
([http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/)) is an excellent resource.
**Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations in order to participate in course activities or meet course requirements should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester or designate during regular office hours or by appointment. It is the policy of the University of Georgia to make reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. If you are a student with a disability and need accommodations to complete the course requirements, you must have a statement from the Disability Resource Center before accommodations can be made. Further information can be found online at [http://www.drc.uga.edu](http://www.drc.uga.edu).

**General Disclaimers**

*The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.*