

**Department of Health Promotion and Behavior
College of Public Health
The University of Georgia**

**HPRB 7510
Health Promotion Research Methods (3cr)
Spring 2019**

Course Information

Instructor: Jennifer L. Gay, PhD
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Email: jlgay@uga.edu
Office Hours: By appointment (in-person, online video conference, or telephone). You also may ask questions via email.

Course Meeting Time and Location

Course content will be delivered entirely online via eLC.

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 11:59pm on Tuesdays during the week listed on the syllabus. Assignments submitted after the deadline will be considered late (see Late Assignment Grading Policy).

Students will prepare weekly by reading assigned book chapters and articles, watching assigned videos, and completing 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

Jacobsen, KH. (2017). Introduction to Health Research Methods: A Practical Guide. Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning. Available through the UGA Bookstore.

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.

SAS statistical software will be used in this course. A one-year full SAS license is available for purchase for PC users through EITS. SAS University Edition is available for free for Mac or PC users at https://www.sas.com/en_us/software/university-edition.html.

Access to iTunes and Quicktime is required. iTunes and Quicktime are freely available software used to view videos and listen to podcasts. iTunes can be downloaded at <http://www.apple.com/itunes/> and Quicktime may be downloaded at <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>. You may use iTunes to watch the recorded lectures.

Adobe Reader – This program will allow you to view PDF files. You can download a free copy at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/?promoid=BUIGO>

Microsoft Word & Powerpoint – If you do not have access to Microsoft Office products, you may download them free of charge for the duration you are enrolled at UGA. http://ugamail.uga.edu/download_office_proplus/

Respondus LockDown Browser – Exams in eLC must be taken using the Respondus Lockdown Browser. Respondus LockDown Browser can be downloaded via eLC. More information is available at <http://ctl.uga.edu/elc/respondus-lockdown>

Java Plug-in for Windows – This plug-in may be necessary to view some of the videos required for the course. If you do not have Java on your computer, you can download it at <http://www.java.com/en/download/index.jsp>.

Grading Policy

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 are provided on eLC.

Pass/Fail Items: There are 8 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.

Discussion Board Questions: There will be 7 times during the semester where students post questions they have about required software programs or upcoming assignments (valued at 5 points each). If students do not have a question in a given week, they should respond to a fellow student's question from that week to earn points.

Reading Quizzes: There will be 11 reading quizzes valued at 5 points each.

Final Grading: There are a total of 700 points available for completion of all assignments. Final letter grades correspond to the point values below.

Letter Grade	Points
A	≥658
A-	630 – 658
B+	609 – 629
B	588 – 608
B-	560 – 587
C+	539 – 559
C	518 – 538
C-	490 – 517
D	455 – 489
F	≤454

Late Assignment Grading Policy

Assignments are considered late if they are submitted after the end of the class week during the week they are due – 1159pm on Tuesdays unless otherwise stated in the Course Schedule or 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 11:59pm on Tuesday and before 11:59pm on Wednesday, you will receive a score of 75. This pertains to project items only. Pass/Fail items, Reading Quizzes, and Discussion Board Questions submitted late or missed will be graded as Fail (zero points).

The earlier assignments provide the foundation for the later assignments. Therefore, it is imperative that assignments are completed on time.

Attendance Policy

This course is not self-paced; you are expected to keep up with class activities. If you experience extenuating circumstances that preclude you from completing work, 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/missed assignments (equivalent to ≥20% of classes; <https://reg.uga.edu/faculty-staff-services/drop-withdrawal-for-non-attendance>).

Email Communication Policy

Students are encouraged to follow professional email etiquette when writing to the professor. Please review <https://medium.com/@lportwoodstacer/how-to-email-your-professor-without-being-annoying-af-cf64ae0e4087> for more details. Emails not meeting basic minimum standards will experience delays in responses. I typically respond to emails within one-to-two business days, during normal business hours.

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>). 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 (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/plagiarizing?show=0&t=1323189840>) as, “to steal 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/>) 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>.

General Disclaimers

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