

Syllabus can be updated by instructor at any time.

*University of Virginia
School of Medicine
Department of Public Health Sciences*

Introduction to Health Research Methods PHS 3130

Spring 2022

Medical Center West Complex C1

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 9:30AM – 10:45AM

Instructor:

Aaron Pannone, PhD
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Office Hours: Department of Public Health Sciences Room 3182A:

Tuesdays 1:30 – 3:00PM

Wednesdays 9:00 – 10:30AM

This course will take part in a new inclusive access program with The UVA Bookstore providing your course material at a low price.

ALL students enrolled in the class will have immediate access to your digital course materials through UVA Collab for the first 2 weeks of class—for free. **After February 2**, your student account will be charged **\$37.04**.

This program is optional for students but you must actively opt out by the deadline to not be charged. Additionally, you will lose access to your materials. Due to the special pricing, no refunds can be processed.

This program aims to offer all students accessibility and affordability. If you have any questions regarding the program, please email us at UVAInclusiveAccess@virginia.edu .



Course Description:

Much of what we know about human health and health-related behavior is based on research. This course introduces students to the tools to interpret and critique health research and involves students in the research process from start to finish, including formulating a research question; conducting a background literature review; choosing a study design; assuring data quality; analyzing data; and interpreting and presenting the results.

Educational Competencies:

1. Understand the purposes of health-related research;
2. Delineate each step involved in the process of quantitative health research;
3. Describe the strengths and limitations of different types of health research;
4. Accurately interpret examples of published findings in health research;
5. Practice each step of the process of health research, using research science instruments and methodologies to analyze and interpret data;
6. Use SPSS to manage and analyze data;
7. Demonstrate effective written and oral skills for communicating the findings of health research;
8. Appreciate the need for respectful community engagement in conducting health research; and
9. Employ ethical principles in the collection, maintenance, use and dissemination of data and information.

Required Materials:

AUTHOR: Jacobsen, Kathryn H.

TITLE: Introduction to Health Research Methods; 3rd edition, 2020

PUBLISHER: Jones & Bartlett Learning

Other assigned readings will be posted on Collab.

Small Groups:

Students will be assigned to small groups for in-class discussions and work sessions. For Module 1, small groups will discuss example research articles. For Modules 2 and 3, small groups will workshop the sections of one another's work.

Research Paper:

Two research papers are required for this course. In Module 2, each person will write a research paper addressing the same research question with assigned data. In Module 3, each student will write a research paper with variables selected by the student from an assigned dataset.

This paper should reflect the research skills developed in the course and utilize data from The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. Analysis will be conducted using SPSS. The paper should include the following sections: Introduction (Background and Significance), Methods, Results, Discussion, and References. The specific components of each section will be discussed in class. Papers should be 4 - 5 pages (excluding references and appendixes), double-spaced, in 11-point font, one-inch margins and follow APA 7th or AMA 11th citation guidelines.

Grading:

Students are expected to come to class having completed readings and prepared to participate in discussions and activities.

Assignments: 45%

Module 2 Submissions (Intro, Methods, Results, Conclusions): 20%

Module 3 Research Paper and Presentation: 35%

Grading Scale:

A+ 97 - 100	B+ 87 - 89	C+ 77 - 79	D 60 - 69
A 93 - 96	B 83 - 86	C 73 - 76	F < 60
A- 90 - 92	B- 80 - 82	C- 70 - 72	

Honor Code:

Students are expected to be familiar with and abide by the University of Virginia Honor Code. For more information regarding the Honor System, please consult the Honor Committee website at: <https://honor.virginia.edu/>

Please note: cell phones should be turned *off* or on *silent* during class.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings Due that Day	Assignments Due
1/20	Introduction	None	None
	Module 1: Interpreting Studies		
1/25	Types of Health Research, Selecting a Topic, Reviewing the Literature Focusing the Research Question	Jacobsen preface and chapter 1-4; Readings on Collab;	Assigned Questions on Collab
1/27	Topics and Research Questions Exercise	None	See Collab for Materials
2/1	Study Designs	See Readings on Collab. Jacobsen chapters 7-14;	Assigned Questions on Collab
2/3	Data Collection	Jacobsen chapters 21-24	Assigned Questions on Collab
2/8	Populations & Samples	Jacobsen chapters 19-20	Assigned Questions on Collab
2/10	Secondary & Tertiary Studies	Jacobsen chapters 25-26	See Video on Collab
2/15	Qualitative Research	Readings on Collab	Assigned Questions on Collab
2/17	Qualitative Research	Readings on Collab	None
2/22	National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey	Readings on Collab	None
	Module 2: First Research Study		
2/24	Background & Significance (The Introduction)	Lots of reading for 3/15 on Collab.	Assignment on Collab
3/1	Data Analysis & SPSS - Descriptive	Jacobsen chapters 28 - 29; Readings on Collab	None
3/3	Needs Assessment Research	None	None
3/8	No Class SPRING BREAK		

Date	Topic	Readings Due that Day	Assignments Due
3/10	No Class SPRING BREAK		
3/15	Workshop: Intro	Readings on Collab	Assignment on Collab
3/17	Data Analysis, SPSS – Comparative & Reporting Findings	Jacobsen chapters 30-33;	See Class on Video
3/22	More Good Writing Workshop Methods and Results	Jacobsen chapters 6, 27, 35-42	Assignment on Collab
3/24	Ethics, and IRB	Jacobsen chapters 17-18	Assignment on Collab
3/29	Literature Searching Strategies and Workshop: Conclusion	None	Assignment on Collab
	Module 3: Conducting A Research Study		
3/31	Mod 3 Development	See Collab for more information	Assignment on Collab
4/5	WORKSHOP: Research Question	Jacobsen review as needed	Assignment on Collab
4/7	Program Evaluation	Reading on Collab	Assignment on Collab
4/12	Guest Speaker: John Densmore, MD, PHD Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs, UVA School of Medicine		
4/14	WORKSHOP: Introduction and Methods	Jacobsen review as needed	Assignment on Collab
4/19	ZOOM for SPSS Questions		Assignment on Collab
4/21	WORKSHOP: Introduction, Methods, Results, and Conclusion	Jacobsen review as needed	Assignment on Collab
4/26	ZOOM for SPSS Questions		
4/28	WORKSHOP: Posters	Jacobsen chapter 31	Assignment on Collab
5/3	Poster Presentations	None	Assignment on Collab

Date	Topic	Readings Due that Day	Assignments Due
5/9	---	---	Module 3 Paper Due at 5PM See Assignment on Collab