

University of Florida
College of Public Health & Health Professions Syllabus
HAS 7708 Health Services Research Methods II
Semester: Spring 2016
Delivery Format: On-Campus

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PURPOSE AND OUTCOME

Course Overview

This course is the second in a two course doctoral level research methods series in the Department of Health Services Research, Management, and Policy at the University of Florida. Research Methods II focuses on developing a larger toolbox of research methods, but more importantly, it will provide a greater understanding of how and when to apply those methods to address research questions. This course will help in the development of students to become successful independent investigators.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Peer review original research manuscripts and grant proposals
2. Develop important and innovative health services research (HSR) questions and hypotheses, with appropriate research designs, measures and methods.
3. Apply a variety of inferential statistical techniques (e.g., generalized least squares regression, Cox regression, mixed models for clustered sampling) to both primary and secondary data.
4. Conceptualize multiple methodological strategies to address a single research question and elucidate the strengths and weaknesses of each strategy.

Course Materials

Readings will be assigned. This class will include student analyses of data sets with SAS.

Books that are not required but may be helpful are:

Cody R. Learning SAS by Example: A Programmer's Guide. SAS Institute, 2007.

Cody R. SAS Statistics by Example. SAS publishing, 2011.

Strategy to meet the course objectives

Assessment of the degree to which course objectives and competencies are achieved will be by means of

- One exam

- Class presentations and affiliated papers
- Class attendance, preparation, and participation

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT

Topical Outline/Course Schedule

Week	Date(s)	Topic(s)
1		Introduction/Syllabus/Peer Reviewer
2		Peer Reviewer/Regression Review
3		Model Building
4		Randomized Trials/Quasi-Experimental Trials
5		<i>I will be gone but may have a guest lecturer</i>
6		Randomized Trials/Quasi-Experimental Trials
7		Cox Regression/Survival Analysis
8		Cox Regression/Survival Analysis
9		<i>Spring Break</i>
10		Mixed Methods Research
11		Mixed Methods Research
12		Scale and Measure Creation
13		Scale and Measure Creation
14		Poisson Regression
15		Potpourri
Finals Week		Final Exam

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Grading

Grading Components

Exams (50%)

There will be a final exam.

Presentations/Written Analysis (50%)

Late papers will not be accepted.

Total Points (of 100)	Grade Points	Grade
95 or more	4.0	A
90-94	3.67	A-
87 - 89	3.33	B+
83-86	3.0	B
80 – 82	2.67	B-
77-79	2.33	C+
73-76	2.0	C
70-72	1.67	C-
67-69	1.33	D+
63-66	1.0	D
60-62	.67	D-
Below 60	0	E

Please be aware that a C- is not an acceptable grade for graduate students. In addition, a grade of C counts toward a graduate degree only if an equal number of credits in courses numbered 5000 or higher have been earned with an A.

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E	WF	I	NG	S-U
Grade Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

For greater detail on the meaning of letter grades and university policies related to them, see the Registrar's Grade Policy regulations at:

<http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Exam Policy

Exams will be delivered in the assigned time. Communication of issues is expected at least two weeks prior.

Policy Related to Make up Exams or Other Work

Make up work is at the discretion of the instructor and will only be offered under valid conditions and with advance coordination with the instructor.

Policy Related to Required Class Attendance

It is expected that you will attend, prepare for, and participate in all class sessions. Personal issues with respect to class attendance or fulfillment of course requirements will be handled on an individual basis and should be addressed as soon as possible.

All faculty are bound by the UF policy for excused absences. For information regarding the UF Attendance Policy see the Registrar website for additional details:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS, ROLES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

Expectations Regarding Course Behavior

Cell phone use is not permitted in class. Some use of tablets or laptops may be appropriate, but is generally discouraged.

Communication Guidelines

Students will be expected to communicate with the instructor via official ufl email address. In the case of emergency, direct phone contact either via call or text is appropriate.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity. As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge:

“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”

You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For additional information regarding Academic Integrity, please see Student Conduct and Honor Code or the Graduate Student Website for additional details:

<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>
<http://gradschool.ufl.edu/students/introduction.html>

Please remember cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

Online Faculty Course Evaluation Process

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, you must register with the Dean of Students Office <http://www.dso.ufl.edu> within the first week of class. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation of accommodations to you, which you then give to me as the instructor of the course to receive accommodations. Please make sure you provide this letter to me by the end of the second week of

the course. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

Counseling and Student Health

Students sometimes experience stress from academic expectations and/or personal and interpersonal issues that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing issues that have the potential to or are already negatively affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and/or seek help through University resources available to you.

- The Counseling and Wellness Center 352-392-1575 offers a variety of support services such as psychological assessment and intervention and assistance for math and test anxiety. Visit their web site for more information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu>. On line and in person assistance is available.
- You Matter We Care website: <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>. If you are feeling overwhelmed or stressed, you can reach out for help through the You Matter We Care website, which is staffed by Dean of Students and Counseling Center personnel.
- The Student Health Care Center at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 392-0627 or check out the web site at: <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>
- Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from:
Alachua County Crisis Center
(352) 264-6789
<http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx>

Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.
