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|  | University of North Texas  College of Health and Public Service  Department of Rehabilitation and Health Services  PUBH 2015 Research Methods in Public Health |

Welcome to PUBH 2015 Research Methods in Public Health Fall 2024 course. My name is Professor

Brinta Thomas. I will be your instructor for this class.

# COURSE INFORMATION

Course Number and Title: PUBH 2015 Research Methods in Public Health

Meets: Tuesdays & Thursdays: 2:00 PM – 3:20 PM

Location: Sage Hall, Room #354

3 Credit Hours

# **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Brinta Thomas, M.H.Sc., B.S., ACUE-EOTP

Phone number: (405) 875-9609

Office hours:

In-person after class

***Virtual office hours MWF 12:00pm – 1:00pm and 2:00pm – 3:00pm***

***OR by appointment***

Email: Brinta.Thomas@unt.edu

# **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

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This course introduces students to research study designs, methods, and data collection in public health.It also serves as an introduction to quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods research. Students will learn the steps for planning, preparing, and conducting research, as well as learn specific research methodologies for public health research, such as cohort and case-control study designs, participatory approaches to research, etc. Topics such as the use of secondary data and ethical issues in conducting research will also be covered.

# **PRE-REQUISITES**

None

# **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

At the end of the course, students should be able to demonstrate knowledge of different research methods used in public health and demonstrate skills needed to conduct research and critically review published research. Students should be able to:

* Identify health disparities among populations
* Learn how to conduct a targeted literature review
* Discuss epidemiologic methods and designs used in public health research
* Develop skills in constructing and thinking through basic analysis of surveys and semi-structured interviews
* Describe the potential applications of research to inform policies that can be used in various settings and communities
* Acquire skills to investigate public health issues and problems to inform public health policy and practice better

# **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

## Required Textbook:

Crosby, R. A., & Salazar, L. F. (2021). Essentials of public health research methods (1st ed.). Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning. ISBN: 9781284175462

# TECHNICAL SKILL REQUIREMENTS

Students will need access to Canvas, have the ability to download and upload files, send and receive emails, and communicate with fellow students in various electronic formats, including video conferencing.

## **TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration

that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have

a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

**UIT Help Desk**: [UIT Student Help Desk site](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm) (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.html>)

**Email**: [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)

**Phone:** 940-565-2324

**In Person:** Sage Hall, Room 130

**Walk-**In-Availability: 8am-9pm

**Telephone Availability:**

* Sunday: noon-midnight
* Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
* Friday: 8am-8pm
* Saturday: 9am-5pm

**Laptop Checkout**: 8am-7pm

For additional support Visit: [Canvas Student Guide](https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/tkb-p/student) ([Student Guide - Canvas Community (canvaslms.com)](https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/tkb-p/student))

# **C**OURSE REQUIREMENTS

Here are the four major ways I will assess a student’s performance in this course. Students are required

to attend class and complete the reading assigned in the textbook and the supplemental readings.

Students are required to complete weekly reflections to assess their understanding of the material.

***The reflections center on the material presented the same week.*** A final exam will be held at the

end of the semester. It will cover all material discussed during the semester and will be taken in

Canvas. Finally, students will be given a chance to assess their work in the course.

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| **Assignment** | **Points Possible** | **Percentage of Final Grade** |
| Participation | 15 weeks @ 10 points each  150 points | 15% |
| Weekly Reviews | 15 reflections @ 20 points each  300 points | 30% |
| Student Project | 250 points total | 25% |
| Final Exam | 300 points | 30% |
| **Total Points Possible** | **1000 points** | **100%** |

# **GRADING**

**All of the components of a student’s grade will have a point value system, based on A being equivalent to a 4.0. Points will be given based on a student’s performance, such as the number of correct answers for each quiz, writing skills, research skills, and ability to illustrate comprehension of all course topics.**

**Total Points Possible for Semester/Grading Scale = 1,000**

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| **1000 – 900 = A** |
| **899 – 800 = B** |
| **799 – 700 = C** |
| **699 – 600 = D** |
| **599 – 500 = F** |

### Weekly Reflections:

Students are required to complete 15 weekly reflections in Canvas. Some of the reflections are straightforward from material in the text and lecture material. **In general, reflections are due Fridays at 5:00 pm.** If a student does not complete the reflection for the week, they will not receive any points. The reflections cannot be made up unless a student contacts me before the due date or has a valid reason for not completing the week’s requirement (illness, death in the family, etc.).

## Final Exam:

***The exam will be available from December 4th 8:00 AM to December 6th at 5:00pm***.

# **COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

As the instructor in this course, I am responsible for:

1. Providing course materials that will assist and enhance your achievement of the stated course goals
2. Providing timely and helpful feedback within the stated guidelines
3. Assisting in maintaining a positive learning environment for everyone

As a student in this course, you are responsible for:

1. Reading and completing all requirements of the course in a timely manner
2. Working to remain attentive and engaged in the course and interact with your fellow students
3. Assisting in maintaining a positive learning environment for everyone.

The instructor and students will share responsibility for each other’s learning. Much of the class time will

focus on application and discussion of information in the assigned readings. **Therefore, students are**

**expected to critically read and think about the assigned reading material, and be ready to raise**

**questions and discuss issues relevant to the readings in class.** Required reading should be completed

before class on the assigned day (*please bring your text and/or pertinent readings to class with you).*

# ATTENDANCE POLICY AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

**Students are required to attend classes. Attendance will be taken throughout the semester.** If a student does not attend class, they will potentially lose the ability to get credit for the course. They will also miss important information related to the course material, assignments, quizzes and the final exam. Students are encouraged to participate in class discussions and group work. If group participation cannot be shown, the student could lose points on the group work project. **LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED IN THIS COURSE!**

# **UNT POLICIES**

## Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. *Work submitted may be analyzed by software for academic integrity.*

## ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://disability.unt.edu/>. You may also contact them by phone at [940.565.4323](tel:940.565.4323).

## Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

## Important Notice for F-1 Students

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website at <http://www.ecfr.gov/>. Please contact me if you have further questions.

**For all other UNT Policies, please go to the Student Handbook.**

***The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus, and all other course materials as deemed necessary.***

# **CALENDAR**

Tentative calendar for the course, including information for each class date, each week’s topics, required reading for each class, and the due dates for quizzes, assignments, projects and the final exam. **These dates and topics are subject to change.**

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|  | Module | Readings | Assignments |
| Week 1 8/19-8/23 | Introduction to the Course | Chapter 1 | **Reflection #1 Due 8/23 at 5:00 PM** |
| Week 29/26-8/30 | Designing research and framing the research question | Chapter 2 | **Reflection #2 Due 8/30 at 5:00 PM** |
| Week 3 9/2-9/6 | Ethical standards and practice for public health research | Chapter 3 | **Reflection #3 Due 9/6 at 5:00 PM** |
| Week 49/9-9/13 | Community-based participatory research | Chapter 4 | **Reflection #4 Due 9/13 at 5:00 PM** |
| Week 5 9/16-9/20 | Qualitative research methods for public health | Chapter 5 | **Reflection #5 Due 9/20 at 5:00 PM** |
| Week 6 9/23-9/27 | Observational research designs | Chapter 6 | **Reflection #6 Due 9/27 at 5:00 PM** |
| Week 7 9/30-10/4 | Observational and Experimental research designs | Chapter 7 & 8 | **Reflection #7 Due 10/4 at 5:00 PM** |
| Week 8 10/7-10/11 | Using secondary data | Chapter 9 | **Reflection #8 Due 10/11 at 5:00 PM** |
| Week 9 10/14-10/18 | Defining the study population and sampling techniques | Chapter 9 & 10 | **Reflection #9 Due 10/18 at 5:00 PM** |
| Week 10 10/21-10/25 | Measurement and survey design and implementation | Chapter 11 | **Reflection #10 Due 10/25 at 5:00 PM** |
| Week 11 10/28-11/1 | Data management and cleaning | Chapter 12 | **Reflection #11 Due 11/1 at 5:00 PM** |
| Week 12 11/4-11/8 | Disseminating findings-article structure, manuscript submission, peer review and publication | Chapter 15 | **Reflection #12 and**  **PROJECT DUE 11/8 AT 5:00 PM** |
| Week 13 11/11-11/15 | Presentations: 11/12 – Group 1,2,3  11/14- Group 4, 5, 6 | No Readings | **Reflection #13 Due 11/15 at 5:00 PM** |
| Week 14 11/18-11/22 | Presentations: 11/19 – Group 7, 8, 9  11/21- Group 10, 11, 12 | No Readings | **Reflection #14 Due 11/22 at 5:00 PM** |
| Week 15 11/25-11/29 | **THANKSGIVING BREAK** | **THANKSGIVING BREAK** | **THANKSGIVING BREAK** |
| Week 16 12/2-12/6 | Final Exam | Chapters 1-15 | **Reflection 15 Due 12/4 at 5:00 PM**  **Final Exam Due 12/6 at 5:00 PM** |