University of North Texas

Department of Rehabilitation and Health Services

PUBH 2015: Research Methods in Public Health
Fall 2023
Section 001: Tuesdays & Thursdays: 2:00 P.M. – 3:20 P.M.
Class Location: Gate 131

Instructor Name: Chisom Iwundu, PhD, MPH
Instructor Email: chisom.iwundu@unt.edu
Instructor Phone: 859-951-6266
Office: Chilton Hall 238L
Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays: 12:30 P.M – 1:30 P.M, or by appointment

Course Description**:** 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 use of secondary data and ethical issues in conducting research will also be covered.

Learning 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 targeted literature review
- Discuss epidemiologic methods and designs used in public health research
- Develop skill 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 better inform public health policy and practice

Course Pre-requisites**:** None

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

Supplemental text: Guest, Greg & Namey, Emily (2015). Public health research methods (1st ed.) SAGE Publication. ISBN-13: 978-1452241333

Additional readings will be provided on Canvas

Student Evaluation

Assignments	%
Five discussions set (5% each)	25%
Five article reviews (5% each)	25%
Two exams (10% each)	20%
Group project (Annotated bibliography – 5%, abstract-5%, presentation-10%)	20%
Class participation and attendance	10%
Total	**100%**

More details and instructions for the various assignments will be provided on Canvas.

Grading Scale**:** Your final grade will be based on the following scale:

A: 90.0 -100.0
B: 80.0 - 89.9
C: 70.0 - 79.9
D: 60.0 - 69.9
F: <60.0

Time Requirements/Commitment: To be a successful student, you should plan to log in to the course at least twice per week (especially the day a new lecture is scheduled), possess excellent time management and organization skills, and avoid procrastination (risk of technology failure increases as the deadline for an assignment approaches).
*Technology/Internet issues is not an excuse for missed assignment.
There are weekly readings that you need to keep up with in order to do well in this class. Make note of due dates for the quizzes, discussions, movie evaluations, and exams.

Submitting Assignments**:** Assignments should be submitted through Canvas by the specified due date. Assignments sent to the instructor's email will not be graded. Each assignment will have a submission link/dropbox. Article reviews may be checked by Turnitin, and lock down browser may be used for the exams, all within the Canvas system. The times used in this syllabus are all Central Standard Time. Modules open every Sunday at 11:59 pm. You will still have access to material after the end of the module.

Late Assignments**:** Late assignments are accepted with a penalty of 5% of the points for the assignment for each day or part thereof late, up to a maximum of 4 days late. After 4 days, the assignment will no longer be accepted, and the student will receive a score of 0. (This is not applicable to exams – All exams must be completed by the stated due date in the syllabus and appropriate documentation must be provided for missed exams).

Online Course Technology Requirements & Skills

Technology Requirements: Please familiarize yourself with the technical requirements to complete this online course:

Canvas
Please familiarize yourself with the technical requirements to complete this course:
1. Hardware and Software requirements for Canvas
2. Canvas Browser Check

Software
1. We will be using **iClicker Reef**, so each student must be registered to Reef and have a device (computer, smartphone, or tablet) for polling responses for this course. Because iClicker Reef is flexible across devices, you may participate by choosing any option below:

   a) iClicker Reef app: You may use your own smartphone or tablet by downloading the app available for iOS and Android
   b) iClicker Reef website – app.reef-education.com (Links to an external site.) – for browser-based use.

   With either option, you will create an account with iClicker, select University of North Texas as your institution, and enter your EUID in the *Student ID (optional)* space. Then click on "add course" and search for "PUBH2015" to enroll.

Technology Competencies/Skills
Students enrolled in the course must be prepared to perform the basic tasks below.

1. Send and receive email
2. Attach files to an email message
3. Use of basic Microsoft Office programs
4. Save files to an external device (e.g., flash drive)
5. Post and reply to discussion boards

Student Support Services: Also known at the University of North Texas campus as SSS. All activities and services provided by SSS are intended to help students progress through their degree to an *on-time graduation*. Please refer to the student support services website (https://trio.unt.edu/sss) for detailed list of services. More student support information is also available on Canvas.

Student Technical Support
The University of North Texas provides student technical support in the use of Canvas and supported resources. The student help desk may be reached at:
Email: helpdesk@unt.edu
Phone: 940.565-2324
In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

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

Communication with the Instructor**:** Personalized communication between instructor and student is important in enhancing the learning experience. The primary means to contact me will be via e-mail: chisom.iwundu@unt.edu or via the Canvas inbox.

Instructor Response Time:

- Questions via email will be answered within 24 hours during the work week, and 36 hours on weekends and holidays
- Feedback/grades will be posted within 7 days after the item's submission due date
- Final grades will be posted by the due date listed in the Academic Calendar

Grades Incomplete: In general, students will not be allowed to take an Incomplete in the course. If you find you have a legitimate reason for needing to take an Incomplete (refer to UNT policy on requesting incompletes), please discuss with me as soon as possible.

This course is made up of a series of assignments and assessments to assist you in achieving the course learning objectives/outcomes. You have readings for each week and will work on various combinations of assignments, in-class group activities, presentations, etc.

Course Topics and Approximate Schedule

IMPORTANT NOTE: The schedule and topics may change as the course unfolds, to allow flexibility. Please attend class, read email, and check Canvas to stay current with assignments.

All assignments are due on Tuesdays of the assigned week

Week	Readings	Lecture topics	Activities/Due Dates
1	Crosby & Salazar Chapter 1	Introduction to public health research methods	**August 22**
2	Crosby & Salazar Chapter 2	Designing research and framing the research question *Guest speaker*	**August 29**
3	Crosby & Salazar Chapter 3	Ethical standards and practice for public health research	**September 5** Article review #1
4	Crosby & Salazar Chapter 4	Community-based participatory research	**September 12**

5	Crosby & Salazar Chapter 5	Qualitative research methods for public health *Guest speaker*	**September 19** Discussion #1
6	Crosby & Salazar Chapter 6	Observational research designs	**September 26** Discussion #2
7	Crosby & Salazar Chapter 7,8	Observational and Experimental research designs *Guest speaker*	**October 3** Article review #2
8	Guest & Namey Chapter 9	Using secondary data	Exam #1 – **Oct 11 - 12** Discussion #3 – **Oct 10**
9	Crosby & Salazar Chapter 9 & 10	Defining the study population and sampling techniques *Guest speaker*	**October 17** *Group project -* *Annotated bibliography*
10	Crosby & Salazar Chapter 11	Measurement and survey design and implementation *Guest speaker*	**October 24** Discussion #4
11	Crosby & Salazar Chapter 12	Data management and cleaning *Guest speaker*	**October 31** Discussion #5 *Group project – Abstract*
12	Crosby & Salazar Chapter 15	Disseminating findings – article structure, manuscript submission, peer review and publication	**November 7** Article review #3
13	Presentations begin Group 1,2,3 – November 14 Group 4,5,6 – November 16		**November 14** Article review #4
14	Thanksgiving break		**November 21**
15	Presentations continue Group 7,8,9 – November 28 Group 10,11,12 – November 30		**November 28** Article review #5
16	Presentations continue Group 13,14,15 – December 5 Exam #2 (December 6-7)		**December 5**

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Copyright Notice
Some or all of the materials on this course Web site may be protected by copyright. Federal copyright law prohibits the reproduction, distribution, public performance, or public display of copyrighted materials without the express and written permission of the copyright owner, unless fair use or another exemption under copyright law applies. *[Additional sample statements can be located at: http://copyright.unt.edu/content/sample-copyright-notices]* Additional copyright information may be located at: http://copyright.unt.edu/content/unt-copyright-policies.

Undergraduate Online Course Attendance Policy
Information about the University of Texas' Attendance Policy may be found at:
http://policy.unt.edu/policy/15-2-5

Policy on Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties
The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu *or 940.565.2324. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.*

Academic Integrity: All works submitted for credit must be original works created by the scholar uniquely for the class. It is considered inappropriate and unethical, to make duplicate submissions of a single work for credit in multiple classes, unless specifically requested by the instructor. You are encouraged to become familiar with the university's Student Standards of Academic Integrity policy:
(https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003.AcadIntegrity.Final_.pdf)

Students will receive no credit for the assignment or assessment on which the student engaged in academic misconduct.

Syllabus Revision**:** *The course instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus. Students are expected to be aware of any presented changes. A best effort will be made to provide an opportunity for students to comment on a proposed change before the change takes place.*

UNT Policies
Academic Honesty Policy: You are encouraged to become familiar with the University Student Code of Conduct maintained by the Dean of Students in the Office of Student Affairs: Student Conduct Operations | Dean of Students. You are encouraged to become familiar with the University Student Code of Conduct maintained by the Dean of Students in the Office of Student Affairs: Student Conduct Operations | Dean of Students.

ADA Policy**:** As per the Office of Disability Accommodation, a syllabus for a course SHALL include the following statement:

*The University of North Texas 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 you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You 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 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](http://disability.unt.edu/) (*http://disability.unt.edu/)*. You may also contact them by phone at* **940.565.4323.**

Add/Drop Policy**:** The department adheres to add/drop schedule established and published by the UNT office of the registrar. See the [registration calendar for information](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-registration-guide) *https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-registration-guide.*

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

Federal Regulation

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website at http://www.ecfr.gov. The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at "Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f) (6) (i) (G)" and can be found buried within this document: [http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/get cfr.cgi?TITLE=8&PART=214&SECTION=2&TYPE=TEXT](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getcfr.cgi?TITLE=8&PART=214&SECTION=2&TYPE=TEXT)

The paragraph reads: (G) For F–1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F–1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must

be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:
(1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
(2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

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