

- Course Title:** Health Behavior and Policy Research Design and Methods
- Course Number:** HBSP 0600
- Course Pre- and Co-requisite(s):** PHCO 0504 Introduction to Biostatistics
- Course Location:** Online and synchronous
- Course Date & Time:** Wednesday, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- Course Instructor:** Fall Semesters: Marybec Griffin, PhD, Assistant Professor
mcg197@sph.rutgers.edu, (732) 235-9067, SPH building
- Office Hours:** By Appointment
- Course Website:** <https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/83018>
- Required Course Text:** Babbie, E. R. (2017). The basics of social research (7th ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.

Additional/Supplemental Readings/Resources: *Other readings as assigned (will be available on Canvas)*

SPSS - You will need to use SPSS software to analyze your final project datasets. SPSS v25 is available for purchase (1-year license, expires 6/30/20) for \$100.00 via the Rutgers University Software Portal: <https://software.rutgers.edu/product/3486>. You may also rent SPSS v25 standard version for \$52 for 6 months via On the Hub: <https://www.onthehub.com/spss/>.

Course Description: This is a basic course in research methods, designed to acquaint students with methods to conduct health behavior and health policy research. The course explores major research methods and techniques. While the emphasis will be on quantitative methods, qualitative methods are also introduced. While this is not a statistics course, a basic understanding of statistics will be useful in this course as statistical concepts, problems and analyses are frequently considered.

Selected Concentration Competencies Addressed:

Each Concentration identifies competencies for each degree offered.

The competencies addressed in this course for the MPH in Health Systems and Policy include:

1. apply quantitative and qualitative research methods in the analysis of health service and policy issues; and
2. assess and delineate public health policies and practices recognizing legal and ethical implications for individuals and populations.

The competencies addressed in this course for the MPH in Global Public Health include:

3. Apply fundamental principles of global standards for the protection of human subjects in diverse cultural settings; and
4. Apply the fundamental principles of global public health perspectives on global public health education, research, and practice

The competencies addressed in this course for the MPH in Social and Behavioral Health Sciences include:

5. use various techniques to conduct needs assessments of diverse populations; and
6. design, implement, conduct, and evaluate health education/promotion programs in diverse settings

The competencies addressed in this course for the MPH in Urban Public Health include:

7. Use relevant sources (including public health literature and qualitative and quantitative data) to identify the health status and disparities in urban populations and communities;
8. Evaluate the scientific evidence related to urban public health issues; and
9. Apply methods to develop and assess programs and strategies that protect or endanger the health and well-being of urban populations

Please visit the Concentration webpages on the School of Public Health's website at sph.rutgers.edu for additional competencies addressed by this course for other degrees and concentrations.

Course Objectives: *Provide a bulleted list of the objectives of the course (do not present as a paragraph). Begin this section with the following statement: By the completion of this course, students will be able to:*

- a) Demonstrate their understanding of the basic research designs and processes
- b) Review and synthesize research literature
- c) Formulate research questions/generate hypotheses
- d) Evaluate instruments for quality, including validity and reliability
- e) Articulate the pros and cons of various data collection methodologies
- f) Describe principles of sampling
- g) Describe appropriate uses of qualitative and quantitative approaches
- h) List and describe data bases used in public health
- i) identify and address methodological and estimation challenges in data analysis
- j) conduct descriptive secondary data analysis
- k) Interpret and effectively communicate results from data analysis

Course Requirements and Grading:

	Grade Value
Activity Participation: Participation will be assessed based on class attendance and participation in classroom discussion.	5%
Reading Quizzes: There will be eight multiple choice question quizzes administered on canvas. Each quiz will be associated with an assigned textbook chapter and will be due before class.	15%
Final Exam: A Final Exam will be given online. It will include multiple choice, true/false and short answer questions.	25%
Data Analysis Project: The Data Analysis Project is a course long project. Each student will conduct a data analysis project on a topic of his/her choice using the selected data set for the class and SPSS statistical software. The support for this project will in-class sessions of a demo data analysis project. The documentation and instruction for a demo data analysis project and sample presentations of the student data analysis projects from previous semesters will be available online.	55%

Assignment List

Attendance & Participation:	5 %
Reading Quizzes	15 %
Data Analysis Project	
Research Map	5 %
Annotated Bibliography	5 %
Research Question & Variable List	5 %
Data Analysis Methods	10 %
Tables	5 %
Results	10 %
Discussion/Limitations/Conclusion	10 %
Research Presentation	10 %
Final Paper	5 %
Final Exam	15 %
Total	100 %

Scale

94 - 100	A
90 - < 94	A-
87 - < 90	B+
84 - < 87	B
80 - < 84	B-
77 - < 80	C+
74 - < 77	C
<70	F

Competency	Course Objectives(s)	Lessons	Assessment(s)
1	a,g	1, 6, 8	Chapter 8 and 10 quizzes; Final exam
2	b, f, e	5, 10	Annotated bibliography assignment; Chapter 7 and 12; Final exam
3	a, b, e, f	4, 5, 6	Annotated bibliography assignment; Research question; Final exam
4	b,c,d,g	11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16	Annotated bibliography assignment; Research question;
5	h, e, d	2, 3, 4, 7	Chapter 4, 5, and 9 quizzes; Final exam;
6	c, i, j, k	11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16	Research question and variables list assignment; Data analysis plan assignment; Data analysis support sessions; Research presentation assignment; Chapter 14 quiz; Final exam;
7	b, d, e, g, h	1, 3, 7	Annotated bibliography assignment; Research question; variables list assignment; Final exam
8	d, g, h, i	2, 7, 8, 9,10, 11	Research question; variables list assignment;
9	c, i, j, k	11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16	Research question and variables list assignment; Data analysis plan assignment; Data analysis support sessions; Research presentation assignment; Chapter 14 quiz; Final exam;

Course Schedule:

Week	Date	Course Topic	Online 30/ Assignments	Readings
1	Sept 7	Introduction to Research Methods	Explore Data Set	Ch 1 (Human Inquiry and Science), Ch 2-pp. 43-57. (Paradigms, Theory and Research)
2	Sept 14	Study Designs and Research Questions Part 1	Reading Quiz	Ch 4
3	Sept 21	Study Designs and Research Questions Part 2	Reading Quiz DUE: Research Map	Ch 5 (Conceptualization, Operationalization and Measurement)
4	Sept 28	Conceptualization, Operationalization, Measurement	DUE: Annotated Bibliography Assignment	Ch 5 (Conceptualization, Operationalization and Measurement)
5	Oct 5	Sampling	Reading Quiz DUE: Research Questions & Variables List	Ch 7 (The Logic of Sampling)
6	Oct 12	Experiments	Reading Quiz	Ch 8 (Experiments)
7	Oct 19	Survey Research	Reading Quiz DUE: Data Analysis Methods	Ch 9 (Survey Research)
8	Oct 26	Quantitative Research	Reading Quiz	Ch 14 (Quantitative Data Analysis)
9	Nov 2	Evaluation Research	Reading Quiz DUE: Tables	Ch 12 (Evaluation Research)
10	Nov 9	Qualitative Research	Reading Quiz	Ch 10 (Qualitative Field Research)
11	Nov 16	Reading and Writing Research	DUE: Results	Ch 15 (Reading and Writing Social Research)
12	Nov 30	Data Analysis Support		
13	Dec 7	Data Analysis Support	DUE: Discussion/Limitations/Conclusion	
14	Dec 14	NO CLASS - Student Presentations Recordings	DUE: Final Presentation Recording	
15	Dec 21	NO CLASS	DUE: Final Exam, Final Paper, Final Presentation Question Responses	

Learning Management System: Canvas will be used extensively throughout the semester for course syllabus, assignments, announcements, communication and/or other course-related activities. It is the student's responsibility to familiarize themselves with Canvas and check it regularly. If you have difficulties accessing Canvas, please inform the instructor and Canvas Support (help@canvas.rutgers.edu). Canvas is accessible at canvas.rutgers.edu.

School of Public Health Honor Code: The School of Public Health Honor Code is found in the School Catalog (sph.rutgers.edu/academics/catalog.html). Each student bears a fundamental responsibility for maintaining academic integrity and intellectual honesty in his or her graduate work. For example, all students are expected to observe the generally accepted principles of scholarly work, to submit their own rather than another's work, to refrain from falsifying data, and to refrain from receiving and/or giving aid on examinations or other assigned work requiring independent effort. In submitting written material, the writer takes full responsibility for the work as a whole and implies that, except as properly noted by use of quotation marks, footnotes, etc., both the ideas and the works used are his or her own. In addition to maintaining personal academic integrity, each student is expected to contribute to the academic integrity of the School community by not facilitating inappropriate use of her/his own work by others and by reporting acts of academic dishonesty by others to an appropriate school authority. It should be clearly understood that plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can lead to sanctions up to and including separation from the Rutgers School of Public Health.

Students with Disabilities: Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student must Apply for Services by first completing a Registration Form with the Rutgers Office of Disability Services (ODS) at ods.rutgers.edu. The student will also be required to participate in an ODS intake interview and provide documentation. If reasonable accommodations are granted, ODS will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations which should be shared with your instructors as early in your courses as possible.

Graduate Student Computer Policy: Students are required to possess a personal laptop, no older than approximately two years, that must meet minimum requirements which may be found online at: sph.rutgers.edu/student-life/computer-support.html.

Policy Concerning Use of Recording Devices and Other Electronic Communications Systems: When personally owned communication/recording devices are used by students to record lectures and/or classroom lessons, such use must be authorized by the faculty member or instructor who must give either oral or written permission prior to the start of the semester and identify restrictions, if any, on the use of mobile communications or recording devices.

Policy Concerning Use of Turnitin: Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com (directly or via learning management system, i.e. Canvas) for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site. Students who do not agree should contact the course instructor immediately.

Withdrawal/Refund Schedule: Students who stop attending their course(s) without submitting a completed [Add/Drop Course](#) form will receive a failing grade. Furthermore, students dropping to zero credits for the semester are considered withdrawn and must submit a completed [Leave of Absence](#) form from the School of Public Health's Office of Student Affairs. The School of Public Health refunds tuition only. Administrative and technology fees are non-refundable. You may find the Withdrawal/Refund Schedule on the School of Public Health website at: sph.rutgers.edu/academics/school-calendar.html