Course Title: Doctoral Seminar in Health Education and Behavioral Science

Course Number: HEBS 0685J

Course Location: SPH, 683 Hoes Lane West, Room 234

Course Date & Time: Thursday 6:10 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Course Instructor: Patrick R. Clifford, Ph.D.

Professor and Associate Dean for Research
Alcohol Addiction Treatment and Research Program
Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research
112 Paterson St., Room 315
patrick.clifford@rutgers.edu; (848) 932-8064

Office Hours: By Appointment

Required Course Text: Selected Journal Articles

Additional/Supplemental Readings/Resources:

Supplemental Readings:


Course Description: The purpose of this course is to introduce doctoral students to the necessary knowledge and skill sets requisite for the critique of scientific research articles, formulation of viable research questions and related hypotheses, conduct of health behavior research, and the interpretation of data derived from such research.

Selected Department Competencies Addressed: Each Department identifies competencies for each degree offered. The competencies addressed in this course for the Ph.D. and DrPH degrees for the Department of Health Education and Behavioral Science include:

- critical analysis of the scientific literature
- understand the integration of research design, research methods, and data analysis
- conceptualization of research questions and related hypotheses

Please visit the Department webpages on the School of Public Health's website at http://sph.rutgers.edu/ for additional competencies addressed by this course for other degrees and departments.

Course Objectives: By the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- understand the relationship between experimental designs and causal inference
- interpret findings from the behavioral health literature
- formalize research questions and related hypotheses

Course Requirements and Grading:

1) Class Participation: Class participation will include informed, in-depth discussion of all research articles selected for scientific critique.

2) Attendance at the SPH Faculty Research Seminar: The SPH Faculty Research Seminar provides students with a unique opportunity to learn about faculty research and issues related to the conduct of research and the interpretation of study data. Seminars are generally scheduled for the third Thursday of the month (there are exceptions), from 3:30pm to 5:00pm, and take place in Room 334 of the SPH building.

3) Ethics - IRB CITI Training Assignment: All students should complete the following online protection of human subjects training and retain their certificates of completion. http://rbhs.rutgers.edu/hsweb/education

4) Scientific Critiques of Selected Journal Articles: Each student will critique all selected articles and contribute to meaningful in-class discussions. Article critiques should include a summary of the research, its purpose, significance and value, strengths and weaknesses/limitations, and realistic recommendations, when feasible, for addressing identified research deficiencies. Individual critiques should be typed, limited to two pages, and checked for grammar and spelling errors. Individual reviews/critiques are due the day of presentation/discussion.
5) Discussion Leader, Scientific Critique of Research Articles (2): Each student will serve as discussion leader for at least two research articles. The combined in-class presentation and discussion of each research article will be approximately 60-75 minutes in duration. A typed outline of each critique may prove very beneficial.

Grading (Pass/Fail): All course requirements must be satisfied in order to receive a passing grade.

To receive a passing grade, students must participate in class discussions regarding behavioral health research, attend all SPH Faculty Research Seminars (3), engage in informed discussion regarding all research articles selected for scientific critique, and serve as discussion leader for two article critiques.

NOTE: Per RU-SPH policy, all course requirements must be completed within one-year. If all course requirements are not completed satisfactorily within this timeframe, the incomplete grade will be converted to an "F."

Course Schedule:

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<td>Doctoral Research Training: AAHB Model</td>
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<td>Critiquing the Scientific Literature</td>
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<td>Critiquing the Scientific Literature (cont.) Scientific Critiques: Practice/Skill Development</td>
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<td>Conceptualization of a Research Question and Hypotheses</td>
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<td>Bias and Conflicts of Interest</td>
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<td>Ethics: Research Integrity</td>
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<td>Measurement Tool Selection</td>
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<td>Research Design and Causal Inference</td>
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11/26  Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class

12/3  Student Journal Article Critiques/Presentations

12/10  Student Journal Article Critiques/Presentations
        Course Wrap-up

School of Public Health Honor Code: The School of Public Health Honor Code is found in the student bulletin (sph.rutgers.edu/academics/catalog/index.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.

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.