# Syllabus

**Course Title:**          Outcomes Research Operations (1 credit)

**Course Number:**          HOPE 9516

**Course Pre- and Co-requisite(s):**  None

**Course Location:**          All course sessions will be held on Zoom.

**Course Date & Time:**     Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00 pm, Jan 19th - March 2nd

**Course Instructors:**

Nikita Mody-Patel, PharmD, MBA, Adjunct Associate Professor, Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy - nm1022@pharmacy.rutgers.edu

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Laura T. Pizzi, PharmD, MPH, Professor, Rutgers School of Public Health and Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy - laura.pizzi@rutgers.edu

**Office Hours:**          By Appointment Only - please email instructor(s).

**Course Assistant:**     Samuel Gautier, Student, Rutgers School of Public Health - sg1639@sph.rutgers.edu

**Course Website:**     canvas.rutgers.edu

**Required Course Text:**  No assigned textbook.

**Course Description:** This course will build skills in outcomes research operations pertaining to IRB requirements, project management, literature evaluation, reference management, and professionalism. Students will be prepared to transition these academic skill sets to independent professional practice. The course is designed to serve as a foundation to the MS-HOPE capstone project.

**Selected Concentration Competencies Addressed:** The following competencies are addressed in this course for the MS curriculum in Health Outcomes, Policy, and Economics:

1. Ethical considerations in human subject research in biomedicine including IRB certification.

2. Work independently and as part of a team to conduct health outcomes and economics research (HEOR) projects.
3. Design, evaluate, interpret, and communicate the results of non-randomized, observational research for applications in health outcomes, health economics, and health policy research.
4. Synthesize evidence for health policy decision makers to facilitate translation of interventions, applications, or programs.
− Please visit the Concentration webpages on the School of Public Health's website at rutgers.edu for additional competencies addressed by this course for other degrees and concentrations.

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

1. Understand research ethics (CITI Training)
2. Conduct literature searching
3. Maintain reference management by using a formal program such as Endnotes, RefWorks, and Zotero
4. Explore databases available for Capstone project
5. Develop professionalism in research
6. Understand research project management

**Special Circumstances During COVID-19 (For Spring 2022)**

The School of Public Health recognizes that students may experience challenges or be negatively impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, mental and emotional health toll from systemic racism, altered personal and professional obligations, and other crises existing at the moment in our local, national, and global communities. Students are encouraged to discuss these challenges and circumstances with their instructor, if they feel they may need additional support or temporary accommodations at the beginning or during this course. The course instructor may consider making reasonable temporary adjustments depending on the student's situation. If additional support is needed, students may reach out to the Office of Student Affairs (studentaffairs@sph.rutgers.edu) or any of the appropriate referral resources listed on the Student Connect Canvas page.

**Course Requirements and Grading:**

- Students' final grade will be computed using a combination of the points as allocated in the Course Schedule section.
- Grading Policy: 94 – 100    A

  90 – <94    A-

  87 – <90    B+

  84 – <87    B

  & etc.

**Course Schedule by the Week:**

| Week | Date | Topic | Assignment(s) | Course Points |
|------|------|-------|---------------|---------------|
| **1** | 1/19/2022 | Introduction to class<br>Research ethics (CITI training)<br>**Instructors**: Dr. Laura Pizzi and Dr. Nikita Mody-Patel | Complete certification exam and upload your certificate to the assignment in Canvas. | 17 |
| **2** | 1/26/2022 | Literature searching a research question<br>**Instructor**: Pam Hargwood | Identify a question, MeSH headings, keywords, and complete a PubMed search for a topic of choice. Then identify at least two key stakeholders relevant to the question in the project and how they might be engaged in answering the question. | 18 |
| **3** | 2/2/2022 | Reference management | a. Take references identified in Week 2 and generate an EndNote reference | 12 |

| | | **Instructor**: Pam Hargwood | management database.<br>b. Reflection statement: Summarize lessons learned about executing the search. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **4** | 2/9/2022 | Data sources available for outcomes research **Instructor**: Dr. Ayse Akincigil | Identify two data sources suitable for answering a research question from Week 2 and explain two advantages and disadvantages of the data sources. | 15 |
| **5** | 2/16/2022 | Methods of Systematic Literature Review **Instructor(s)**: Dr. Laura Pizzi and Dr. Nikita Mody-Patel | Based on the PRISMA guidelines, identify the PICOTS for your research question. | 12 |
| **6** | 2/23/2022 | Research project management **Instructors**: Dr. Laura Pizzi and Dr. Nikita Mody-Patel | Identify the submission category and review IRB templates. Then highlight sections that will need to be completed for your project. | 6 |
| **7** | 3/2/2022 | Professionalism Roundtable **Instructors**: Dr. Laura Pizzi, Dr. Nikita Mody-Patel, Dr. Zeba Khan, Dr. Chureen Carter, Dr. Soham Shukla | A reflection statement on student's self - assessment of their strengths and weaknesses regarding principles of professionalism as related to outcomes research, including:<br>1. Demonstrating altruism, integrity, | 20 |

| | | | trustworthiness, flexibility, and respect in all interactions; <br>2. Displaying preparation, initiative, and accountability consistent with a commitment to excellence; <br>3. Conducting outcomes research in a manner that is legal, ethical, and compassionate; <br>4. Engaging in the discipline of outcomes research by demonstrating a commitment to its continual improvement and involvement in organizations. <br>Students will also be asked to sign and submit an oath of professionalism pertaining to the conduct of their Capstone research project. <br>1-2 pages | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | | | | 100 points |

**Assignments Received Late:** All assignments must be submitted via the course Assignment page in Canvas. Assignments not submitted by 6 PM on the due date will be considered late and will have 2 course points deducted for each day past due.

**Attendance:** Attendance will be taken by roll call during each class session. To be considered for an excused absence, the student must send an email copying the course instructors AND course assistant before the start of the missed class. Requests for excused absences will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Supporting documentation is required for excuse. Students will be granted a maximum of one (1) unexcused absence. After that, points will be deducted as follows:

• **For the 2nd unexcused absence and each unexcused absence beyond that: 2 course points deducted for each missed session**

**Students are expected to turn their cameras on for sessions led by guest lecturers and for the Professional Roundtable session.**

**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.

**Plagiarism Technology Used in this Class:** All student assignments will be scanned by Turnitin, a plagiarism-checking software. Assignments submitted with plagiarism detected will receive zero points, with additional penalties and referral to SPH possible in accordance with the School of Public Health Honor Code.

**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.

**Commitment to Safe Learning Environment:** The Rutgers School of Public Health is committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the School as a whole. Free expression in an academic community is essential to the mission of providing the highest caliber of education possible. The School encourages civil discourse, reasoned thought, sustained discussion, and constructive engagement. Provocative ideas respectfully presented are an expected result. An enlightened academic community, however, connects freedom with responsibility. The School encourages all students to disclose any situations where you may feel unsafe, discriminated against, or harassed. Harassment or discrimination of any kind will be not tolerated and violations may lead to disciplinary actions.

**Reporting Discrimination or Harassment:** If you experience any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. You may report such incidents to the RBHS Title IX Office or to the School of Public Health's Office of Student Affairs. Rutgers University has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. If you experience any other form of discrimination or harassment, including

racial, ethnic, religious, political, or academic, please report any such incidents to the School's Office of Student Affairs. The School strongly encourages all students to report any incidents of discrimination or harassment to the School. Please be aware that all Rutgers employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as advocates, counselors, clergy and healthcare providers as listed in Appendix A to Policy 10.3.12) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the School and potentially the University. For example, if you tell a faculty or staff member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty or staff member must share that information with the RBHS Title IX Coordinator. If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can find a list of resources in Appendix A to University Policy 10.3.12. For more information about your options at Rutgers, please visit Rutgers Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance.

**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/academic-calendar.html