



University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point
School of Health Care Professions



Course Title: HS 360 Research Design & Methods for the Health Sciences (3cr)

Semester: Fall 2022

Online Instruction on Canvas

Instructor: Ornella Hills, PhD, MS

Office Phone: 715-346-3415

E-mail: ohills@uwsp.edu (best method of contact)

Virtual Office Hours: Weekly Study Sessions on Canvas (Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30am) or by appointment

Textbook (Optional) — *Jacobsen (2012). Introduction to Health Research Methods. 1st Ed. (Text Rental).*

Course Description: Design, experimental methods and critical interpretation of research publications in the health sciences. Topics include review of biomedical research publications, research ethics, and evidence-based healthcare. Demonstrate the steps in conducting research, protocol development, data collection and data analysis, and presenting research results.

Pre-requisite Courses: HS 301 or MATH 355 and/or Consent of Instructor

Course Technology: We will use Canvas for this class and Zoom for Office Hours. See online for Canvas training course or self-enroll here: [Self-enrolling/paced Canvas training course](#). You will need access to a webcam; microphone, printer and stable internet connection (don't rely on cellular). View this website to see [minimum recommended computer and internet configurations for Canvas](#). For help, visit with a [Student Technology Tutor](#) or Seek assistance from the [IT Service Desk](#) (Formerly HELP Desk).

- IT Service Desk Phone: 715-346-4357 (HELP)
- IT Service Desk Email: techhelp@uwsp.edu

Course Expectations:

- **Instructor's Role**
 - Foster an environment of learning for all students.
 - Respond to all phone calls and e-mails within 48 hours. If you do not hear back from me within 24 hours, please send a second email with the subject line: "Second Request".
 - Make adjustments to the course schedule as necessary for student learning.
 - Treat all students with integrity and respect.
- **Student's Role**
 - Prepare to engage in class activities and discussions by completing all readings and course preparation listed on the syllabus along with any other information seeking that may enhance individual understanding of course information.
 - Ask questions to help further understanding.
 - Communicate via email and on the discussion posts
 - Be open and respectful of others' ideas and challenge previous knowledge.
- **Tips for Success (see Canvas for additional tips)**
 - Communicate early and often regarding class conflicts, assignments, and any questions regarding this course.
 - Take advantage of your resources.
 - Create study groups with your peers.
 - Utilize the Tutor & Learning Center (<http://www.uwsp.edu/tlc/Pages/default.aspx>)

Core abilities:

- Communicate Effectively Verbally & In Writing
- Think Critically & Creatively
- Exercise Problem-Solving Skills
- Work Collaboratively

Course Goals:

Students will be able to:

- Explore importance of evidence-based research informing HC providers' decision-making abilities for improving health of individuals, communities, groups and the nation.
- Explore various methodologies & study designs for research application.
- Demonstrate appropriate ethical and professional behaviors relating to conducting research.
- Critically review scientific literature.
- Develop appreciation for the scope & complexity of the research process & conducting research.

Course Competencies:

By the conclusion of this course, learner participants will:

- Complete Institutional Review Board (IRB) protection of human subjects training.
- Apply ethical concepts related to conducting research.
- Identify various research study designs & methodologies.
- Write research proposals.
- Write research hypotheses/ null hypotheses and/or research questions / statements.
- Analyze research studies Complete a review of the scientific literature.
- Identify appropriate tools for collecting data.
- Develop research tools.
- Collect research data.
- Analyze research findings.
- Collaboratively present research findings.

Course Grades & Developmental Artifacts:

This is a communication in the major course. As such, the majority of your course grade is determined through writing & oral presentation assignments. The instructor suggests beginning assignments early and using various campus resources available for improving your writing skills & presentation abilities. These options will be discussed in class. Additionally, following any guidelines provided by the instructor can maximize your performance on all course assignments & work.

Assignments

Research Project (85%): **This is the main assignment for this class.** It will compose of individual and group components, designed to give you hands-on experience and insight into the research process. Each component contributes to the midterm proposal and final presentation. Therefore, ensuring each piece is completed is critical to your success. Below are the individual and group components of the assignment. The italicized assignments will attain full points as long as they are thoughtfully submitted in completion. Each week there will be a portion of this project due for submission. This should help you to stay abreast of the project and keep up with the deadlines. I will hold weekly study sessions for any problems/questions that arise.

Individual:

- *Selecting a Research Topic/Problem*

- *Short Discussion Post on the Ethical Considerations for Your Topic*
- *Annotated Bibliography*
- *Human Subjects Web Training and Library Services Quiz*

In a group, you will:

- *Formulate a Research Question, Goal and Hypothesis*
- *Draft a Study Design and Informed Consent Document*
- *Conduct Survey Development*
- *Mock IRB Application*
- *Draft a Mini Research Proposal (Mid-Term)*
- *Conduct Data Analysis*
- *Deliver a Short Research Presentation (Final)*

Other Assignments:

Discussion Posts on Ethical Research (7%) – throughout the semester, there will be films or interesting articles posted on research ethics in the discussion forum. You will be required to post a short reflection response for completion points.

Participation (8%) – You are expected to participate in online discussion forums, responding to your peers thoughts and engaging with the content of the course

Extra Credit (can obtain up to 2%) – I will post opportunities to gain extra credit in the announcements section of the Canvas Page. Participation in these activities will gain you points towards extra credit. Below are the first two known opportunities. More details will be posted on Canvas as they are made available.

- Participation in Chancellor’s Day of Service (Sept 22)
- Dr. Jessica Harris Speaking Engagement (Oct. 25 and Oct. 26th)

Grading Scale:

Final letter grades will be awarded as follows:

A: 95-100%	C: 73-76%
A-: 90-94%	C-: 70-72%
B+: 87-89%	D+: 65-69%
B: 83-86%	D: 60-64%
B-: 80-82%	F: 59% or below
C+: 77-79%	

Course Schedule

Date	Topic
Week (W) 1 9/6	Introductions/Syllabus Review What is Research and Why Evidence-Based Research How do I choose a Research Topic/Problem? Intro to Researching and Reading Articles
W2 9/13	Ethics of Research

W3 9/20	Conducting Background Research – Finding and Reading Research Articles In depth, <i>Annotated Bibliography</i> Where is the gap in the literature?
W4 9/27	Research Questions, Goals and Hypothesis
W5 10/4	Research Design How will I answer my research question? Who are my subjects? Consents
W6 10/11	Research Methods – Designing Questions
W7 10/18	Research Protocols and IRB Applications
W8 10/25	Research Proposal and Lit Reviews (Midterm)
W9 11/1	Data Analysis I
W10 11/8	Data Analysis II – Implications, Conclusions Future Directions
W11 11/15	Disseminating Research How do I present my results?
W12 11/22	Thanksgiving Break
W13 11/29	Research Presentations
W14 12/6	Research Presentations
W15 12/13	Last Week of Classes
W16 12/20	Exam week (No Final Exam)

Class Policies

- **Active participation** in online class activities are required.
- Students will be expected to complete all assignments on time based on the syllabus and due dates given by the instructor. Assignments turned in late will be dropped one letter grade per day. Students should expect additional assignments throughout the semester to facilitate learning. All assignments will be submitted electronically through Canvas unless otherwise instructed.
- This course will primarily use Canvas to distribute materials, conduct online quizzes/discussions, and inform students of syllabus changes become familiar with D2L and make it a point to check the course page regularly.
- Students are expected to treat everyone with respect and disrespect of any kind will not be tolerated online. If anyone feels uncomfortable for any reason, please contact me.

Netiquette Guidelines

Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online. Your instructor and fellow students wish to foster a safe online learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course community.

The following netiquette tips will enhance the learning experience for everyone in the course:

- Do not dominate any discussion.
- Give other students the opportunity to join in the discussion.
- Do not use offensive language. Present ideas appropriately.
- Be cautious in using Internet language. For example, do not capitalize all letters since this suggests shouting.

- Popular emoticons such as 😊 or / can be helpful to convey your tone but do not overdo or overuse them.
- Avoid using vernacular and/or slang language. This could possibly lead to misinterpretation.
- Never make fun of someone's ability to read or write.
- Share tips with other students.
- Keep an "open-mind" and be willing to express even your minority opinion. Minority opinions have to be respected.
- Think and edit before you push the "Send" button.
- Do not hesitate to ask for feedback.
- Using humor is acceptable

Inclusivity

- It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that the students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally, or for other students or student groups.
- If you have experienced a bias incident (an act of conduct, speech, or expression to which a bias motive is evident as a contributing factor regardless of whether the act is criminal) at UWSP, you have the right to report it using [this link](#). You may also contact the Dean of Students office directly at dos@uwsp.edu.

University Policies:

- Academic Integrity
 - The board of regents, administrators, faculty, academic staff and students of the university of Wisconsin system believe that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental to the mission of higher education and of the university of Wisconsin system. The university has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity and to develop procedures to deal effectively with instances of academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Students who violate these standards must be confronted and must accept the consequences of their actions.
- Absences due to Military Service
 - As stated in the UWSP Catalog, you will not be penalized for class absence due to unavoidable or legitimate required military obligations, or medical appointments at a VA facility, not to exceed two (2) weeks unless special permission is granted by the instructor. You are responsible for notifying faculty members of such circumstances as far in advance as possible and for providing documentation to the Office of the Dean of Students to verify the reason for the absence. The faculty member is responsible to provide reasonable accommodations or opportunities to make up exams or other course assignments that have an impact on the course grade. For absences due to being deployed for active duty, please refer to the Military Call-Up Instructions for Students.
- Drop/Add/Withdrawal Policy
 - You are expected to complete the courses for which you register. If you decide you do not want to take a course, you MUST follow the procedures established by the university to OFFICIALLY DROP the course. If you never attend or stop attending a course and fail to officially drop, you will receive an F in the course at end of the semester.

- **Incomplete Policy**
 - If you are unable to complete your work in a course due to extenuating circumstances or if you need to extend your research or performance beyond the normal limits of a term, you may ask the instructor for an “incomplete” in the course. You will have until the end of the next semester (excluding summer session) to complete the work unless your instructor gives you an earlier deadline. Failure to complete the work prior to the appropriate deadline will result in a grade of F.
- **Students’ Rights and Responsibilities**
 - The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities protects your rights as a student. If you believe that your rights have been violated, or if you have questions concerning your rights, write or visit the office in Room 139 Delzell Hall, or call 715-346-2611.
- **Confidentiality**
 - Learning requires risk-taking and sharing ideas. Please keep your classmates’ ideas and experiences confidential outside the classroom unless permission has been granted to share them.
- **Academic Accommodation Policy**
 - Individuals seeking accommodations are expected to demonstrate initiative in obtaining and arranging assistance. The Accommodation Request Form needs to be completed for each qualified student with a disability on a one-to-one basis. Students are encouraged to meet with the Disability & Assistive Technology Center staff early in the semester to discuss which accommodations are appropriate (based on disability and documentation) and what accommodations are needed.
- **Emergency Procedures**
 - “In the event of a medical emergency, call 911 or use red emergency phone. Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide emergency responders to victim.
 - In the event of a tornado warning, proceed to the lowest level interior room without window exposure in the athletic training facility. Avoid wide-span rooms and buildings.
 - In the event of a fire alarm, evacuate the building in a calm manner. Meet outside the Quandt Gym entrance. Notify instructor or emergency command personnel of any missing individuals.
 - Active Shooter – Run/Escape, Hide, Fight. If trapped hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out and remain quiet. Follow instructions of emergency responders.
 - See UW-Stevens Point Emergency Management Plan at www.uwsp.edu/rmgt for details on all emergency response at UW-Stevens Point.”
- **Copyright infringement**
 - This is the act of exercising, without permission or legal authority, one or more of the exclusive rights granted to the copyright owner under section 106 of the Copyright Act. Each year students violate these laws and campus policies, putting themselves at risk of federal prosecution. For more information about what to expect if you are caught, or to take preventive measures to keep your computing device clean, visit our [copyright page](#).
- **All University Policies can be found in the University Handbook**
<http://www.uwsp.edu/acadaff/Pages/handbook.aspx>