

## UMBC UGC Change in Existing Course: Research Methods in Health, HAPP 412

Date Submitted: 3/8/16

Proposed Effective Date: students declaring the major on or after 5/1/16

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**COURSE INFORMATION:** (please provide all information in the “current” column, and only the information changing in the “proposed” column)

change		Current	Proposed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Course Number(s)	HAPP 412	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Formal Title	Research Methods in Health	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transcript Title (≤30c)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recommended Course Preparation		
X	Prerequisite <b>NOTE:</b> Unless otherwise indicated, a prerequisite is assumed to be passed with a “D” or better.	You must complete <a href="#">HAPP 100</a> and <a href="#">STAT 121</a> or <a href="#">STAT 350</a> or <a href="#">STAT 351</a> or <a href="#">SOCY 301</a> . All courses must be completed with a grade of C or better.	You must have a 2.5 cumulative GPA and have completed <a href="#">HAPP 100</a> and ( <a href="#">STAT 121</a> or <a href="#">STAT 350</a> or <a href="#">STAT 351</a> or <a href="#">SOCY 301</a> ). All courses must be completed with a grade of C or better.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Credits	3	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Repeatable?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes X No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Max. Total Credits	3	<b>Max. Total Credits:</b> This should be equal to the number of credits for courses that cannot be repeated for credit. For courses that may be repeated for credit, enter the maximum total number of credits a student can receive from this course. E.g., enter 6 credits for a 3 credit course that may be taken a second time for credit, but not for a third time. Please note that this does NOT refer to how many times a class may be retaken for a higher grade.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grading Method(s)	X Reg (A-F) <input type="checkbox"/> Audit <input type="checkbox"/> Pass-Fail	<input type="checkbox"/> Reg (A-F) <input type="checkbox"/> Audit <input type="checkbox"/> Pass-Fail

### CURRENT CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

This course considers principles of health research, including an overview of different types of health and health related research. The course examines issues in research design, measurement, sampling, and computer applications.

**PROPOSED CATALOG DESCRIPTION** (no longer than 75 words): leave blank if no changes are being proposed to the catalog description. NOTE: information about prerequisites should NOT appear in the catalog description.)

This course considers principles of health research, including an overview of different types of health and health related research. The course examines issues in research design, measurement, sampling, and computer applications. **Departmental Permission Required.**

**RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:**

We are adding a 2.5 cumulative GPA to this core course as students below a 2.5 GPA often do not have the foundational knowledge required to succeed in the course. In addition, placing a 2.5 GPA on this course, which ideally is taken within the first 3 semesters of declaring a HAPP major, requires students to assess whether they are performing at a level required to succeed in HAPP. That is, currently, we have students who fulfill the requirements for the major but do not have the 2.5 GPA required for the internship course (HAPP 495 and proposed course HAPP 470). Thus, placing a “benchmark” on HAPP 412, creates a critical earlier point in the academic career for students to assess their major trajectory.

It is our understanding that we will need to monitor students' GPA to determine eligibility (i.e., that a GPA check cannot be automated with the course pre-reqs). Therefore, departmental permission is required to enroll in the course.

Students who have declared a HAPP major prior to 5/1/16 will be grandfathered into the existing pre-requisite.

## SYLLABUS HAPP 412: RESEARCH METHODS IN HEALTH

**Term:** Fall 2015  
**Time:** Monday & Wednesday 1:00-2:15 pm  
**Location:** Eng 333  
**Instructor:** Andrea Kalfoglou, Ph.D.  
**Office:** 1000 Hilltop Circle, PUP 212  
**Phone:** 410-455-2061  
**Office Hours:** M & W 9:30-10:30 pm and by appointment  
**Email:** [akalfogl@umbc.edu](mailto:akalfogl@umbc.edu)  
**Contact:** I will respond to e-mail within 24 hours. Please do not call my home or cell phone unless instructed to do so.

### Important Websites

**Department Website:** <http://www.umbc.edu/sociology/>  
**HAPP Website:** <http://www.umbc.edu/happ/>  
**American Public Health Association:** [www.apha.com](http://www.apha.com)  
**National Public Health Week** <http://www.nphw.org/>  
**Bioethics Student Association (BSA):** <http://www.umbc.edu/studentlife/orgs/bioethics/>  
**Free Documentaries:** [www.freedocumentaries.com](http://www.freedocumentaries.com)

### Important Facebook Pages

**HAPP COM:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/160382655699/>  
**UMBC HAPP Graduates:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/98881349513/>  
**UMBC Bioethics Student Assoc:** <http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=16955809462>  
**Public Health Ethics (Journal):** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/155807010233/>  
**APHA Ethics SPIG (Facebook):** <https://www.facebook.com/pages/APHA-Ethics-Special-Primary-Interest-Group/333585679622>

### Important Dates and Conferences

**Sept. 24, 2015 (Thursday 8 am – 3 pm)**  
The Maryland Public Health Association Annual Meeting  
**UMBC - Ballroom**  
<http://happ.umbc.edu/>

**October 22-25, 2015**  
The American Society for Bioethics and Humanities  
Houston TX  
<http://www.asbh.org/meetings/annual/annualmeeting.html>

**Oct 31-Nov 4, 2015**  
The American Public Health Association  
Chicago, IL  
<https://www.apha.org/events-and-meetings/annual>

Other important dates and events TBA

## **Instructor's Credentials and Experience**

- Current Appointment:** Associate Professor  
Health Administration and Policy Program  
Department of Sociology/Anthropology/HAPP  
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
- Previous Positions:** Research Fellow  
Social and Behavioral Research Branch  
National Human Genome Research Institute  
National Institutes of Health
- Social Science Research Coordinator  
Genetics and Public Policy Center  
Berman Institute of Bioethics  
Johns Hopkins University
- Program Officer  
Institute of Medicine  
The National Academies
- Instructor  
Department of Health Policy and Management  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Education:** Ph.D. Law, Ethics, and Health Policy  
Department of Health Policy and Management  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- B.A. Political and Social Thought  
University of Virginia

Research Methods in Health provides an introduction to basic methods for undertaking research on issues related to public health, health care, and within health services organizations and systems. This course is recommended for students who will be carrying out policy research, social science research, clinical research, or program impact evaluation within health delivery systems. It is also relevant to those who will evaluate or apply the results of health research conducted by others.

This course is required for all HAPP majors in Track II: Health Policy and III: Public Health. It satisfies an elective requirement for HAPP majors in Track I.

### **Course Objectives**

On completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- Critique published health research
- Conduct and write a literature review
- Develop a design for a research or evaluation project
- Understand the data collection, data analysis, data interpretation, and data dissemination processes

More specifically, after completing all aspects of the course students will be able to:

- Describe the essential steps of the scientific method
- Discuss the basic history of research ethics, understand the primary tenants of what constitutes ethical research and informed consent, identify the steps researchers take to be in compliance with federal and UMBC research ethics regulations.
- Conduct a literature review, critically evaluate and synthesize that literature, and identify gaps in the literature that warrant additional research
- Develop a conceptual framework for a study, showing the hypothesized causal variables and the expected outcomes
- Identify and critically analyze the basic components of a research proposal
- Identify different types of study design, including observational, pre-experimental and experimental designs, and their inherent threats to internal and external validity
- Understand how survey research is used in health research and evaluation, in terms of choice of sampling techniques, determination of sample size, and approaches to writing survey questions
- Analyze qualitative and quantitative data and be familiar with electronic programs that facilitate this analysis
- Identify and use secondary data and existing information sources in research projects
- Understand the process of interpreting analyzed data and disseminating results through presentation and publication

## Course Requirements

**Inclement weather policy:** If UMBC closes campus, class will be canceled. If there is inclement weather and you must travel to attend class, use good judgment.

**Flu policy:** If you have flu-like symptoms, stay home. You should not return to class until you have been fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducers. I will not expect a doctor's note. In the unlikely event that the campus is closed due to an outbreak of flu, instruction will continue on-line using Blackboard and iTunes U. The exact nature of the online instruction will depend on when such a closing occurs. The instructor will post a revised syllabus covering at least two weeks following the announcement of the campus closing. If I become ill or must care for ill children, I will make alternative arrangements for class and notify you as soon as possible.

**Attendance:** You are an adult and are paying for this course. I expect you to attend and participate in class. Graded assignments will take place during class and will not always be announced. Class participation will account for 10% of the final grade. Students who do not regularly attend class tend to get poorer grades. I suggest you get contact information from a number of other students in the class and arrange to get notes if you miss class. Do not ask me before or after class if you missed anything important. If you cannot get information on what you missed from another student, come to my office hours or make an appointment. I will make every effort not to miss class or to make alternative plans if I must be away; however, I may experience family emergencies or personal illness. In this event, I will do everything possible to notify you (via Bb announcements) about a class cancellation as soon as possible. As a last resort, a sign will be posted on the classroom door if class is canceled.

**Quizzes:** There will be 6 quizzes throughout the semester (after each section) each worth 5% of your final grade (for a total of 30% of your final grade). Quizzes will be multiple choice, true/false, and some short answer questions. They are taken on Blackboard at home and are open notes and open book. *You may NOT discuss quiz questions or answers with your classmates. Receiving quizzes from previous students or sharing any quiz questions with future students will also be considered cheating.* The quizzes are intended to provide you with an opportunity to get immediate feedback on how well you are absorbing the concepts and vocabulary associated with research methods in health. They also provide an incentive to keep up with the readings and attend lecture.

**Assignments:** At the beginning of the semester, we will discuss a research topic. Through out the semester, we will work together as a group on how we might develop a research proposal (though pieces of this project will be done on your own). This project and associated assignments are worth 60% of your final grade.

Assignment #1: Pass Academic Integrity quiz on Bb (0% but required)

Assignment #2: Completion of Research Ethics Training (5%)

Assignment #3: Write a consent form (5%)

Assignment #4: Bibliography (10%)

Assignment #5: Literature analysis (10%)

Assignment #6: Literature review outline (5%)

Assignment #7: Statistics problem set (5%)

Assignment #8: Literature review (15%)

Assignment #9: Peer Review (5%)

**Additional Expectations:** Classroom attentiveness, compliance with assignment deadlines, and timely completion of all required readings are essential for you to be successful in this course. Late assignments will receive a reduced grade. Cell phones must be turned off or silenced during class. There is to be no texting during class. You would not text during a business meeting, and I think lectures deserve the same level of respect. If you bring a laptop to class, I expect you to be using it to take notes, not doing anything else on it.

**Recommendations:** This course will be fast-paced. There will be a quiz or assignment due every week. You will need to work hard to keep up with all the assignments and readings. Assignments will sometimes take longer than one day, so plan ahead. I suggest that **you form study groups** to share classroom lecture notes, discuss the readings, and study. Quizzes must be the individual's own work. Most assignments should be your own work; however, I encourage you to seek writing assistance and help editing your literature review (Assignment #7). The writing center may be helpful. A grading rubric will be provided so you understand how this assignment will be evaluated.

**Readings:** The required text for this course is: Jacobsen, Kathryn H. **Introduction to Health Research Methods: A Practical Guide** (2012). Additional **required** readings and most suggested readings are or will be available on blackboard or as Internet links.

Students should attend class **having read** the required material assigned to each session as noted in the syllabus. Such preparation will facilitate discussion of the day's topic. Required readings will be covered on the quizzes even if they are not covered in class. Suggested readings will not be on the quizzes.

**Academic Integrity:** By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in UMBC's scholarly community in which everyone's academic work and behavior are held to the highest standards of honesty.

Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and helping others to commit these acts are all forms of academic dishonesty and are unacceptable. Academic misconduct could result in disciplinary action that may include, but is not limited to, suspension or dismissal. The full student academic conduct policy is available in the UMBC Student Handbook, the Faculty Handbook and the UMBC Policies section of the UMBC directory. <http://www.umbc.edu/integrity/students.html>



You will be asked to write out and sign an integrity pledge for each graded assignment. For this course, any case of academic misconduct will result in immediate failure of the assignment and may result in failure of the course. All cases of suspected academic misconduct will be reported to the University Academic Integrity Committee. The most important thing that you master for this course is appropriate citation for scientific publications. There are many online resources and books available in the bookstore to help you master this skill. I am available during office hours to discuss the academic integrity policy and appropriate citation skills. It is your responsibility to ask me if you have any questions regarding your work for this course.

**The Pledge:** On my honor as a UMBC student, I have neither given nor received aid on this exam/assignment. (borrowed with my deepest admiration from the University of Virginia.)

**Accommodations:** UMBC is committed to eliminating discriminatory obstacles that disadvantage students based on disability. Student Support Services (SSS) is the UMBC department designated to receive and maintain confidential files of disability-related documentation, certify eligibility for services, determine reasonable accommodations, develop with each student plans for the provision of such accommodations, and serve as a liaison between faculty members and students regarding disability-related issues. If you have a disability and want to request accommodations, contact SSS in the Math/Psych Bldg., room 213 or at 410-455-2459. SSS will require you to provide appropriate documentation of disability. If you require accommodations for this class, make an appointment to meet with me to discuss your SSS-approved accommodations.