

University of Florida
College of Public Health & Health Professions Syllabus Course
Number: HSA 7708: Health Services Research Methods II
Spring: 2018
Delivery format: On-Campus

Instructor Name: Kalyani Sonawane, PhD
Room Number: HPNP 3112
Course schedule: Wednesday 1:55-4:55pm
Phone Number: 352-273-6074
Email Address: ksonawane@php.ufl.edu
Office Hours: By appointment, please contact instructor
Preferred Course Communications: Email

Prerequisites: Basic understanding of SAS/ PHC 6052

Course Overview

This course is the second in a two course doctoral level research methods series in the Department of Health Services Research, Management, and Policy at the University of Florida. Research Methods II focuses on developing a larger toolbox of research methods, but more importantly, it will provide a greater understanding of how and when to apply those methods to address research questions. This course will help in the development of students to become successful independent investigators.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Peer review original research manuscripts and grant proposals
2. Develop important and innovative health services research (HSR) questions and hypotheses, with appropriate research designs, measures and methods.
3. Apply a variety of inferential statistical techniques (e.g., generalized least squares regression, Cox regression, Logistic regression) to both primary and secondary data.
4. Conceptualize multiple methodological strategies to address a single research question and elucidate the strengths and weaknesses of each strategy.

Technology (Required)

Laptop with SAS software

Course Materials (Required)

An Introduction to Medical Statistics (4th Edition) by Martin Bland
Required readings (posted on canvas)

Course Materials (Optional)

Delwiche, Lora D., and Susan J. Slaughter. 2008 *The Little SAS[®] Book: A primer, Fourth Edition*. Cary, NC: SAS Institute Inc.

Instructional Methods

Classroom sessions will be a mix of traditional lecturing and practice problems. For practice problems, you will need your laptop (with access to SAS) with you in class. Readings will be posted to Canvas prior to each class session. For issues or technical difficulties with E-learning please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- Learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT

Topical Outline/Course Schedule

Date	Time	Topic	Due dates
1/10	1:55	Introduction	
	0:50	No Assignment	
1/17	1:55	Descriptive statistics	
	0:50	Assignment 1	
1/24	1:55	Modeling continuous outcomes	Assignment 1
	0:50	Assignment 2	
1/31	1:55	Modeling categorical outcomes	Assignment 2
	0:50	Assignment 3	
2/7	1:55	Modeling time-to-event data	Assignment 3
	0:50	Assignment 4	
2/14	1:55	Modeling count data	Assignment 4
	0:50	Assignment 5	
2/21	1:55	Manuscript writing session	Assignment 5
2/28		Mid-term Project	
3/7	1:55	Spring Break	
	0:50	Spring Break	
3/14	1:55	Modeling costs	
	0:50	Assignment 6	
3/21	1:55	Confounders/Subgroups/Uncertainties	Assignment 6
	0:50	Assignment 7	
3/28	1:55	Mixed models	Assignment 7
	0:50	Assignment 8	
4/4	1:55	Time series analysis	Assignment 8
	0:50	Assignment 9	
4/11	1:55	Difference-in-difference	Assignment 9
	0:50	Assignment 10	
4/18	1:55	Proposal writing session	Assignment 10
4/25	1:55	Final Project	

NOTE: Schedule can change at the discretion of Lead Instructor

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Assignments

Policies Related to in-class SAS exercise:

SAS exercise must be completed individually.

One of the best ways to learn the quantitative tools, concepts, interpretations and analyses discussed in this course is through practice. Each SAS assignment will contain problems that are based on material drawn from the lectures, readings, and other sources. For each assignment, you must turn in the following:

1. **An electronic copy** of your **answers** uploaded to the appropriate folder on the e-learning website Assignment section as a Word document.
2. **An electronic copy** of your **SAS output** uploaded to the appropriate folder on the e-learning website Assignment section as a Word document.

Late/Make-up assignments will not be accepted.

Policy Related to Required Class Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Personal issues with respect to class attendance or fulfillment of course requirements will be handled on an individual basis. It is your responsibility to inform the instructor about upcoming absences. Excessive absences may result in a lowering of your grade at the instructor's discretion.

Please note all faculties are bound by the UF policy for excused absences. For information regarding the UF Attendance Policy see the Registrar website for additional details: http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalogarchive/01-02-catalog/academic_regulations/academic_regulations_013_.htm

Grading

Grades for this course will be determined according to student performance on the four requirements as shown in the table below. The same evaluation procedure will be applied to ALL students.

Requirement	% of final grad (must sum to 100%)
Attendance and participation	10%
Assignments	30%
Mid-term project	30%
Final project	30%

Point system used (i.e., how do course points translate into letter grades).

Points earned	93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	Below 60
Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E

Please be aware that a C- is not an acceptable grade for graduate students. A grade of C counts toward a graduate degree only if an equal number of credits in courses numbered 5000 or higher have been earned with an A.

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E	WF	I	NG	S-U
Grade Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

For greater detail on the meaning of letter grades and university policies related to them, see the Registrar's Grade Policy regulations at:

<http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Exam Policy

There will be two take home projects.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS, ROLES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FEEDBACK

Expectations Regarding Course Behavior

Communication Guidelines

Directions – Proper directions will be communicated to you in class, through the homework assignments and in this syllabus. If you do not understand the expectation, ASK the instructor before you turn in the assignment. It is too late to seek clarification after grades have been assigned.

Professionalism –Please be punctual! No phone calls, text messages, e-mails, tweets, or any other new electronic communication method that may be invented between now and the end of the semester. **Laptops may be used in class for course-related work. Otherwise your computer should remain closed during class times.**

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity. As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge:

“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”

You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For additional information regarding Academic Integrity, please see Student Conduct and Honor Code or the Graduate Student Website for additional details:

<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>
<http://gradschool.ufl.edu/students/introduction.html>

Please remember cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

Online Faculty Course Evaluation Process *optional in UF Template*

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu> so make sure you include a statement regarding the value and expectation for student participation in course evaluations. We suggest you include a comment regarding how you will use the evaluations (e.g. to make specific improvements to the course and teaching style, assignments, etc.). It is also important to make some statement regarding the direct influence they have on faculty tenure and promotion, so your input is valuable. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>

SUPPORT SERVICES

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, you must register with the Dean of Students Office <http://www.dso.ufl.edu> within the first week of class. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to you, which you then give to the instructor when requesting accommodation. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

Counseling and Student Health *optional in UF Template*

Students sometimes experience stress from academic expectations and/or personal and interpersonal issues that arise in the course of pursuing higher education or that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing issues that have the potential to or are already negatively affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and/or seek help through University resources available to you.

- The Counseling and Wellness Center 352-392-1575 offers a variety of support services such as psychological assessment and intervention and assistance for math and test anxiety. Visit their web site for more information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/>. On line and in person assistance is available.
- You Matter We Care website: <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>. If you are feeling overwhelmed or stressed, you can reach out for help through the You Matter We Care website, which is staffed by Dean of Students and Counseling Center personnel.
- The Student Health Care Center at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 392-0627 or check out the web site at: <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>
- Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from:
- Alachua County Crisis Center:
(352) 264-6789

BUT – Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.