ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY

GENERIC BACHELOR of SCIENCE in HEALTH SCIENCE PROFESSIONS

HSP 4350
Healthcare Research and Evidence Based Practice
Fall 2017
Dinah J. Harriger Cummings
FACULTY
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Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday from 9-11/ Tuesdays and Thursday from 1-3 (*or by appointment)

COURSE INFORMATION
Title: Introduction to Epidemiology
Number: HSP 4325
Time and Location: Tuesdays/ Thursdays from 2:00-3:15pm in Vincent 146
Credits: Three Semester Credit Hours (3-0-0)
Pre-requisites/Co-requisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course introduces students to the research process. Integrating theory, research design and evidence based practice, students will learn the various methodologies and techniques commonly used in healthcare research.

HSP PROGRAM MISSION & GOALS
Mission Statement
The Bachelor of Science in Health Science Professions prepares students to enter health science professions either directly upon graduation or to enter advanced graduate study in healthcare. Students gain knowledge in ethics, policy, epidemiology, organization and leadership, research and evidence based practice, and communication skills that span multiple health science disciplines.

Goals
The Bachelor of Science in Health Science Professions strives to enhance multidisciplinary healthcare education and evidence-based principles to provide patient-centered care. Students will develop communication, decision-making, social, analytical thinking, and personal development skills necessary for professional practice as a healthcare professional.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcome</th>
<th>Assignment(s) or activity(ies) validating outcome achievement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By completing all course requirements, students will be able to:</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Identify health research questions and specific research objectives.</td>
<td>Lectures, Research Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Find relevant abstracts and access full-text articles using online resources/ critically read public health journal articles.</td>
<td>Lectures, Quizzes, Exams, Research Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Select appropriate epidemiological study designs for health research.</td>
<td>Lectures, Quizzes, Exams, Research Project</td>
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<td>4. Identify common challenges encountered during health research and discuss ways to address them.</td>
<td>Lectures, Quizzes, Exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Describe the process for conducting ethical health research.</td>
<td>Lectures, Quizzes, Exams</td>
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COURSE FORMAT & TEACHING STRATEGIES
This course is an on campus offering and will meet in the classroom. Most content will be delivered via class Lecture, Discussion and Course Assignments. The course will also use the Blackboard Learning Management System for online components. The course site can be accessed at http://blackboard.angelo.edu

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS
- Additional reading assignments noted in the syllabus or that are required for homework assignments will be posted to the course site in Blackboard.

OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS
- Computer with MAC or Windows Operating System
- High Speed Internet Access
- Ethernet Cable

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
- Technical Assistance: If you have any technical problems associated with assignments or quizzes (i.e. webcam problems, lock down browser problems) you should contact the IT Department. The IT Service Department is open M-F from 8-5 and the number is (325) 942-2911. If you call any time after 5 or on the weekend, most likely you will not be able to get assistance until the following week day, so please plan accordingly.

TOPIC OUTLINE
- The Health Research Process
- Selecting a General Topic
- Reviewing the Literature
- Focusing the Research Question
- Collaboration/Mentorship/Coauthoring
- Overview of Study Designs
  - Case Series
  - Cross-Sectional Surveys
  - Case-Control Surveys
  - Cohort Studies
  - Experimental Studies
  - Qualitative Studies
  - Correlational Studies
- Research Protocols
- Population Sampling
- Sample Size Estimation
- Questionnaire Development
- Surveys and Interviews
- Secondary Analyses
- Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses
- Ethical Considerations and Approval

GRADING SYSTEM
Course grades will be dependent upon completing course requirements and meeting the student learning outcomes.
The following grading scale is in use for this course:

A = 540-600 points
B = 480-539 points
C = 420-479 points
D = 360-419
F = 0-359 (Grades are not rounded up under ANY circumstances. Period.)

EVALUATION AND GRADES
Graded assignments, activities and percent of the overall course grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>PERCENT OF TOTAL GRADE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes/ Weekly Assignments</td>
<td>150 Points (1 per week) (25%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>150 Points (2 Exams) (25%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>300 Points Total (50%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Step 1. Lit Review</td>
<td>(50 points)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Step 2. Study Approach</td>
<td>(50 points)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Step 3. Study Design and Collection</td>
<td>(50 points)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Step 4. Data Analysis</td>
<td>(50 points)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Step 5. Final Paper</td>
<td>(100 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL COURSE GRADE</td>
<td>600 points total</td>
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ASSIGNMENT/ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS
*Please note: Instructions for all assignments and activities are located at the end of this syllabus & in Blackboard.*

*No extra credit assignments are provided.*

**Quizzes/ Weekly Assignments:** (150 points) Students will have weekly assignments to assess course knowledge and ensure students are keeping up with course content. Assignments may include quizzes, article selection, discussion questions, etc.

**Exams:** (150 points, 75 points each) The Exams each account for 75 pts of the total course grade. The exams are designed to test understanding of textbook material and the application of the material covered in both the textbook and lectures.

**Research Proposal Project (Steps 1-5):** (300 points TOTAL) This assignment is a series of application based assignments designed to give students experience walking through the research process and proposing a specific research project.

  - Step 1. Lit Review = Use existing research to provide justification for project proposal
  - Step 2. Study Approach = Explanation of how the research question will be answered
  - Step 3. Study Design and Collection = Explanation of how the research question will be answered
  - Step 4. Data Analysis
  - Step 5. Final Research Proposal and Presentation

GENERAL POLICIES RELATED TO THIS COURSE
All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in the following documents:

- ASU Undergraduate Catalog located on the ASU website [https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/16795-201213-undergraduate-catalog](https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/16795-201213-undergraduate-catalog)

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY & ATTENDANCE
Class attendance is necessary and required for successful and satisfactory completion of all course objectives; therefore, students must attend all course sessions. If a situation arises that prevents the student from attending, he or she should contact the instructor.
According to the undergraduate handbook, a week’s worth of cumulative absences (regardless of the nature of the absence) in any one course will result in faculty evaluation of the student’s ability to meet course objectives and may result in failure of the course. Three tardies (over 5 minutes late for lecture, campus laboratory, or clinical) will equal 1 hour of absence. Failure to meet these requirements hinders the student’s ability to complete the course. Attendance will be checked for each lecture.

Students are expected to engage in course activities and submit work by due dates and times. The hope is that students will make substantive contributions which reflect integration of assigned materials as well as any outside readings as appropriate. Scholarly contribution is an expectation. For planning purposes, this class will probably require a minimum of 6-9 study hours per week on average.

**COMMUNICATION**

Faculty will respond to email and/or telephone messages within 24 hours during working hours Monday through Friday. Weekend messages may not be returned until Monday.

*Written communication via Blackboard:* It is an expectation of this class that you use formal writing skills giving appropriate credit to the source for your ideas. Follow APA (2010) 6th edition (2nd Printing or higher only) guidelines for referencing.

*Written communication via email:* All private communication will be done exclusively through your ASU email address. Check frequently for announcements and policy changes.

*Virtual communication:* Office hours and/or advising may be done with the assistance of the telephone, Skype, Join.me, Google Hangouts, etc.

**PRE-REQUISITE SKILLS**

Accessing internet web sites, use of ASU Library resources, and proficiency with Microsoft Word and/or PowerPoint are expectations of the Health Science Professions Program. Computer access requirements are further delineated in the Undergraduate Handbook. Tutorials for ASU Library and for Blackboard are available through RamPort. The ASU Undergraduate/Graduate Student Handbook should be reviewed before taking this course.

**BROWSER COMPATIBILITY CHECK**

It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that the browser used to access course material on his/her computer is compatible with ASU’s Blackboard Learning System. The faculty reserve the right to deny additional access to course assignments lost due to compatibility issues. Students are responsible for reviewing the guidelines posted in this course regarding accessing Blackboard assignments. Problems in this area need to be discussed with faculty at the time of occurrence, either via a phone call (preferred) during posted acceptable hours for calling, or via email notification during times outside those posted for calls.

Be sure to perform a browser test. Select the “Support” tab from the Blackboard homepage (http://www.blackboard.angelo.edu) Select “Test your Browser” option.

**ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION**

In this class, all assignments need to be submitted through the Assignments link in the Blackboard course site. This is for grading purposes. Issues with technology use arise from time to time. If a technology issue does occur regarding an assignment submission, email me at Dinah.harriger@angelo.edu and attach a copy of what you are trying to submit. This lets your faculty know you completed the assignment on time and are just having problems with the online submission feature in Blackboard. Once the problem is resolved, submit your assignment through the appropriate link. This process will document the problem and establish a timeline. Be sure to keep a backup of all work.

**LATE WORK OR MISSED ASSIGNMENTS POLICY**

The course is set up in weekly modules. The week begins on Tuesday and ends on Monday. Assignment due dates are shown on the calendar/schedule or posted within Blackboard. Late assignments are not accepted without prior
approval of faculty. Faculty reserve the right to deduct points for late assignments that are accepted past the original due date.

ACADEMIC HONESTY
Academic honesty is expected on all work. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their online experiences. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject to disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The Department of Physical Therapy adheres to the academic honesty statement as set forth in the Angelo State University Student Handbook (2011-2012) [http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/code-of-student-conduct/misconduct.php](http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/code-of-student-conduct/misconduct.php). The University "faculty expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experience both in and out of the classroom setting and may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials."

PLAGIARISM
Plagiarism at ASU is a serious topic. The Angelo State University’s Honor Code gives specific details on plagiarism and what it encompasses. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else’s work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one’s own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word for word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. We use the [APA Style Manual of the American Psychological Association](http://www.apa.org/pubs/books/apastyle6th-edition-book/index.aspx) as a guide for all writing assignments. Quotes should be used sparingly. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list. Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Bb Safe Assignment or Turnitin. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center [http://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php](http://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php).

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
1. “Angelo State University is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.”

2. The Office of Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Office of Student Affairs, University Center, Room 112 at (325) 942-2047 or (325) 942-2211(TDD/FAX) or by e-mail at studentservices@angelo.edu to begin the process. The Office of Student Affairs will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities.

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students determined to be disabled or who have documented disabilities.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY (OP 10.11 Grading Procedures)
It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required.

STUDENT ABSENCE FOR OBSERVANCE OF RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS
“A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence.” Please see ASU Operating Policy 10.19.

COPYRIGHT POLICY
Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You
SYLLABUS CHANGES
The faculty member reserves the option to make changes as necessary to this syllabus and the course content. If changes become necessary during this course, the faculty will notify students of such changes by email, course announcements and/or via a discussion board announcement. It is the student’s responsibility to look for such communications about the course on a daily basis.

COURSE EVALUATION
Students are provided the opportunity, and are strongly encouraged to participate in a course evaluation at the end of the semester. Areas on the IDEA evaluation include:

1. Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends). **Important**
2. Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories. **Important**
3. Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions). **Essential**
4. Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course. **Important**
5. Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view. **Essential**