

# HSP 4350 Research Methods

Fall 2021



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## **Instructor: Dinah Cummings, PhD**

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**Phone:** 325-486-6885

**Office:** Reidy Building

**Office Hours:** M 9-12

## **Recommended Use of Masks/Facial Coverings by Students in Class At ASU**

As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University strongly recommends the use of masks/facial coverings to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, we strongly recommend that students in this class wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Faculty members will also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom.

## **Course Information**

### **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.

### **Course Credits**

Three Semester Credit Hours (3-0-0)

### **Prerequisite and Co-requisite Courses**

HSP 4337 – Healthcare Statistics

### **Prerequisite Skills**

### **Program Outcomes**

#### **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

<b>Student Learning Outcome</b> By completing all course requirements, students will be able to:	<b>Assignment(s) or activity(ies) validating outcome achievement:</b>
1. Identify health research questions and specific research objectives.	Lectures, Research Project
2. Find relevant abstracts and access full-text articles using online resources/ critically read public health journal articles.	Lectures, Quizzes, Exams, Research Project
3. Select appropriate epidemiological study designs for health research.	Lectures, Quizzes, Exams, Research Project
4. Identify common challenges encountered during health research and discuss ways to address them.	Lectures, Quizzes, Exams
5. Describe the process for conducting ethical health research.	Lectures, Quizzes, Exams
6. Develop professional communication, teamwork and leadership skills.	Lectures, Quizzes, Exams

## Course Delivery

This course is an blended course offering with roughly 75% of the content being delivered IN the classroom. Most content will be delivered via class Lecture/Video, 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

- Jacobsen, K. (2017) Introduction to Health Research Methods: A Practical Guide (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition). Jones & Bartlett.
- Additional reading assignments noted in the syllabus or that are required for homework assignments will be posted to the course site in Blackboard.

## Technology Requirements

- **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.

To participate in one of ASU's distance education programs, you need this technology:

- A computer capable of running Windows 7 or later, or Mac OSX 10.8 or later
- The latest version of one of these web browsers: internet Explorer, Firefox, or Safari
- Microsoft Office Suite or a compatible Open Office Suite
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- High Speed Internet Access
- Ethernet adapter cable required (wireless connections can drop during tests and Collaborate sessions)
- Webcam

## 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

## 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) 6<sup>th</sup> edition (2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## Grading

### Evaluation and Grades

Course grades will be determined as indicated in the table below.

Assessment	Percent/Points of Total Grade
Quizzes/Weekly Assignments	150 points
Exams	150 points
Research Project (Steps 1-5)	300 points (Total)
• Step 1. Lit Review	50 points
• Step 2. Study Approach	50 points
• Step 3. Study Design and Collection	50 points
• Step 4. Data Analysis	50 points
• Step 5. Final Presentation	100 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>600 points</b>

### 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.**)

### Teaching Strategies

Students are expected to be “active learners.” It is a basic assumption of the instructor that students will be involved (**beyond the materials and lectures presented in the course**) discovering, processing, and applying the course information using peer-review journal articles, researching additional information and examples on the Internet, and discussing course material and clinical experiences with their peers.

### Assignment and Activity Descriptions

**\*Please note: Rubrics for all assignments and activities are located at the end of this syllabus.**

**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

## Assignment Submission

All assignments MUST be submitted through the Assignments link in the Blackboard site. This is for grading, documenting, and archiving 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](mailto:Dinah.harriger@angelo.edu) and attach a copy of what you are trying to submit. Please contact the IT Service Center at (325) 942-2911 or go to your Technology Support tab to report the issue. 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 on weekly modules. The week begins on Monday and ends on Sunday. 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.

## General Policies Related to This Course

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- [Angelo State University Student Handbook<sup>i</sup>](#)
- [Angelo State University Catalog<sup>ii</sup>](#)

## Student Responsibility and 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.

## **Academic Integrity**

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

The College of Health and Human Services adheres to the university's [Statement of Academic Integrity](#).<sup>iii</sup>

## **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

ASU 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 of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at [ADA@angelo.edu](mailto:ADA@angelo.edu). For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the [Student Disability Services website](#).<sup>iv</sup> The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dallas Swafford  
Director of Student Disability Services  
Office of Student Affairs  
325-942-2047  
[dallas.swafford@angelo.edu](mailto:dallas.swafford@angelo.edu)  
Houston Harte University Center, Room 112

## **Incomplete Grade Policy**

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. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 [Grading Procedures](#)<sup>v</sup> for more information.

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's [Academic Integrity policy](#)<sup>vi</sup> in the Student Handbook. 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. 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. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the [ASU Writing Center](#).<sup>vii</sup>

## 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. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for [Observance of Religious Holy Day](#)<sup>viii</sup> for more information.

## Copyright Policy

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

## 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.

## Title IX at Angelo State University

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

Online: [www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form)

Face to face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

Phone: 325-942-2022

Email: [michelle.boone@angelo.edu](mailto:michelle.boone@angelo.edu)

*Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).*

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit: [www.angelo.edu/title-ix](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix).

# Course Schedule

Week/Date	Topic/Assignments/Assessments DUE
August 25 <sup>th</sup>	Course Overview and Selecting a General Topic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jacobsen Chapters 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>• Lecture Video</li> </ul> Weekly Quiz (due Sept 1)
September 1 <sup>st</sup>	Reviewing the Literature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jacobsen Chapter 3</li> <li>• Lecture Video</li> </ul> Weekly Quiz (Due Sept 8)
September 8 <sup>th</sup>	Focusing the Research Question & Collaborating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jacobsen Chapters 4-6</li> <li>• Lecture Video</li> <li>• Weekly Quiz (Due Sept 15)</li> </ul> <b>Step 1. Lit Review Matrix (DUE Sept 15<sup>th</sup>)</b>
September 15 <sup>th</sup>	Overview of Study Approaches Study Designs: Case Series, Case-control, Cross Sectional, and Cohort Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jacobsen Chapters 7 – 11</li> <li>• Lecture Video</li> </ul> Weekly Quiz (Due Sept 22)
September 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Experimental and Qualitative Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jacobsen Chapters 12 &amp; 13</li> <li>• Lecture Video</li> </ul> Weekly Quiz (Due Sept 29)
September 29 <sup>th</sup>	Correlational Studies and Synthesis Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jacobsen Chapters 14 &amp; 15</li> <li>• Lecture Video</li> <li>• Weekly Quiz (Due Oct 6)</li> </ul> <b>Step 2. Study Design (DUE October 6<sup>th</sup>)</b>
October 6 <sup>th</sup>	Research Protocols, Ethical Considerations and Ethical Review Approval, Population Sampling, Sample Size and Power <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jacobsen Chapters 16 – 20</li> <li>• Lecture Video</li> </ul> Weekly Quiz (Due October 13)
October 13 <sup>th</sup>	Questionnaire Development, Collecting Quantitative Data, Collecting Qualitative Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jacobsen Chapters 21-23</li> <li>• Lecture Video</li> </ul> Weekly Quiz (Due October 20)



Week/Date	Topic/Assignments/Assessments DUE
October 20 <sup>th</sup>	Additional Assessments, Secondary Analyses, Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses, Writing Grant Proposals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Midterm Exam</b></li> <li>• Jacobsen Chapters 24-27</li> <li>• Lecture Video</li> <li>• Weekly Quiz (Due October 27)</li> </ul> <b>Step 3. Study Design and Collection (Due October 27<sup>th</sup>)</b>
October 27 <sup>th</sup>	Data Management and Descriptive Statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jacobsen Chapters 28-29</li> <li>• Lecture Video</li> </ul> Weekly Quiz (Due Nov 3)
November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Comparative Statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jacobsen Chapters 30</li> <li>• Lecture Video</li> </ul> Weekly Quiz (Due Nov 10)
November 10 <sup>th</sup>	Regression, Qualitative Analysis and Additional Tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jacobsen Chapters 31-33</li> <li>• Lecture Video</li> <li>• Weekly Quiz (Due Nov 17)</li> </ul> <b>Step 4. Data Analysis Due (November 17<sup>th</sup>)</b>
November 17 <sup>th</sup>	Posters and Presentations, Article Structure and Citing, Revising, Writing Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jacobsen Chapters 34-38</li> <li>• Lecture Video</li> </ul> Weekly Quiz (Nov 24)
November 24 <sup>th</sup>	Reasons to Publish, Selecting Journals, Manuscript Submission, Peer Review and Publication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jacobsen Chapters 39-42</li> <li>• Lecture Video</li> </ul> Weekly Quiz (Dec 1)
December 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Step 5. Research Project Presentation (December 1)</b>
December 8 <sup>th</sup>	FINAL EXAM

## Grading Rubrics

Notes/Recommendations about adding rubrics to your syllabus:

To view grading rubrics for (add assessments here: i.e. assignments and discussions), please go to the “My Grades” link in your Blackboard course, and select View Rubric under each graded item.

## Student Evaluation of Faculty and Course

Students in all programs are given the opportunity to evaluate their courses and the faculty who teach them. Evaluations are most helpful when they are honest, fair, constructive, and pertinent to the class, clinical experience, or course. Faculty value student evaluations, and use student suggestions in making modifications in courses, labs and clinical experiences.

Angelo State University uses the IDEA (Individual Development and Educational Assessment) system administered through Kansas State University for all course evaluations. The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment administers IDEA for the entire university, online and has established a policy whereby students can complete course evaluations free from coercion.

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**

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/>

<sup>v</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures>

<sup>vi</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>

<sup>vii</sup> [https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing\\_center/academic\\_honesty.php](https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php)

<sup>viii</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of>