Instructor: Michael McFarland, Ph.D. 
E-mail: mmcfarland@fsu.edu
Class Hours: M 12:30–3:15 (Bellamy 635) 
Office: Bellamy 619
Office Hours: Wednesday 12:00-1:00 (or by appointment)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The purpose of this course is to provide students with the basic data management and analytical skills necessary for carrying out quantitative analysis and presenting the results to both lay and professional audiences in public health. The basic components of research design required for secondary data analysis will also be covered.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Determine appropriate data statistical methods and research design for specific public health needs and projects.

2. Apply appropriate statistical techniques to summarize and interpret data relevant to public health research and practice.

3. Evaluate the quality of public health research.

4. Locate, access, and comprehend relevant public health research.

REQUIRED TEXTS


Other readings will be made available on Canvas.

IN-CLASS AND HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS: In-class and homework assignments will be required periodically throughout the semester, without prior notification. If you miss class, you run the risk of missing an in-class assignment. There are no make-up opportunities for in-class assignments but those with excused absences (see below) will not be penalized. These assignments are equally weighted and graded as: Satisfactory, Unsatisfactory, and No credit.

PAPER PROPOSALS: Students are required to write a brief (no more than 3 double-spaced pages) proposal to introduce and describe the focus of the course paper. This proposal should clearly state the research problem and/or research questions that define the specific aims of the project. The proposal should include a working title and at least three references (with full citations) to relevant scholarly research.

RESEARCH PAPERS: Students are required to write a quantitative research paper. Final research papers should be no more than 25 pages in length (including references, and tables) and word-processed, with double-spacing, 12-point fonts, and 1-inch margins. Please follow ASA, APA or AMA style guidelines. All articles cited in the paper should appear in the reference section.

RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATION: Students are required to create a brief (10-15 minute) power-point presentation to share the results of their research projects. To aid in the presentation of results, students are encouraged to provide copies of relevant tables and figures.
ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION: Students are expected to attend class and participate knowledgeably in class discussions. Please make an effort to attend every class. Excused absences require prior notification or, if notification is impossible, written explanation after the fact. If you are unable to attend class, it is your responsibility to approach me or other classmates to find out about what you have missed. Provided that you attend class, participation is also very important. Participation indicates to the instructor that students are actively engaged in the learning process in general and class discussions in particular. I strongly encourage questions, comments, and the sharing of ideas as they relate to course material.

UNIVERSITY ATTENDANCE POLICY: Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

COURSE GRADING:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Class and Homework Assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper Proposal</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation of Research Project</td>
<td>10%</td>
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GRADING SCALE:

Grading will be according to a standard scale and plus/minus grading will be used for final grades. FSU does not allow a final grade of “A+.” The specific ranges are below.

- A = 93-100
- A- = 90-92
- B+ = 87-89
- B = 83-86
- B- = 80-82
- C+ = 77-79
- C = 73-76
- C- = 70-72
- D+ = 67-69
- D = 63-66
- D- = 60-62
- F = < 59

Americans With Disabilities Act:
Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:
1. register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and
2. bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Student Disability Resource Center
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu
http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/

Academic Honor Policy:
The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University’s expectations for the integrity of students’ academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to “. . . be honest and truthful and . . . [to] strive for
personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University.” (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at [http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy.](http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy.)

**Food and Drink Policy**
Food and drink are prohibited in the classroom.

**Syllabus Change Policy**
"Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/28</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9/4</td>
<td>No Class (Labor Day)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/11</td>
<td>Elements of Research Design and Survey Methods</td>
<td>Dillman 2006; Babbie Chapters 7 and 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/18</td>
<td>Measurement Issues</td>
<td>Babbie Chapter 5</td>
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<td>9/25</td>
<td>Data Processing</td>
<td>SPSS introduction</td>
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<td>10/2</td>
<td>Univariate Analysis</td>
<td>Gravetter Chapters 1-4</td>
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<td>10/9</td>
<td>Univariate Analysis</td>
<td>Gavetter Chapters 8-9</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/16</td>
<td>Bivariate Analysis</td>
<td>Gravetter pgs. 450-480</td>
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<td>10/23</td>
<td>Evaluating Research</td>
<td>White 2005</td>
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<td>10/30</td>
<td>Multivariate Analysis</td>
<td>Gravetter pgs. 481-496; Babbie pgs. 467-475</td>
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<td>11/6</td>
<td>Multivariate Analysis</td>
<td>DeMaris 1995</td>
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<td>11/13</td>
<td>Regression Diagnostics</td>
<td>Osborne and Waters 2002</td>
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<td>11/20</td>
<td>Individual Meetings</td>
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<td>11/27</td>
<td>Catch Up</td>
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<td>12/4</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/13</td>
<td>Final Paper Due by 5pm</td>
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**Note:** Schedule is subject to change.

**OTHER READINGS**


