

College of Public Health & Health Professions
PHC 6722
Environmental and Global Health Research Methodologies Rotation
(up to) 4 hrs credit

Instructor Information

Department of Environmental and Global Health faculty will serve as instructors for this course and are responsible for assignment of a final grade. Choice of instructor should be based on the area of focus the student wishes to pursue, defined research methods in which the student needs further training and should be determined in close consultation with the students Supervisory Chair.

Course Description

The Environmental and Global Health Research Methodologies course is designed to provide opportunities for PhD students to gain first-hand experience observing the implementation of research methods that they will need to employ during the course of their dissertation research. The objective of this course is to provide the student with one-on-one instruction at the hands of department faculty in the application of research methods that the instructors are currently using in their own research. The execution of this course will be accomplished through a collaborative effort of the student, the students Supervisory Chair and departmental faculty members (Instructors) willing to host a student. The time period spent under the instruction of a given faculty member (the Rotation) will be established prior to the onset of instruction. The length of the Rotation will be such as deemed sufficient to attain the goals of the experience set by the student and Supervisory Chair in consultation with the hosting faculty member and the students supervisory committee. The level of credit awarded for a Rotation will be prorated per the amount of time spent at that Rotation based on the formula: 1 semester hour of credit = 48 contact hours. The thrust of any Rotation will be method driven with the overall goal being to instill in the student expertise with specific research methodologies as defined prior to entering instruction with a faculty member. Upon completion of a Rotation, students will be required to write a detailed report of the experience with emphasis on the background, implementation, choice of appropriate controls, advantages and limitations of the methods learned. The goal of the written report is to give students experience communicating technical details relevant to their area of research focus. This course could be used to address specific minor deficiencies identified during qualifying exams.

Course Objectives and/or Goals

At the completion of the Environmental and Global Health Research Methodology Rotation the student will be able to:

- Identify research methodologies appropriate for his/her chosen area of focus.
- Independently carry out the specific research methods detailed during the Rotation.

- Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the background and purpose behind the research methods covered in the Rotation.
- Understand and explain the scientific basis behind the experimental methodologies
- Understand and explain the appropriate controls needed to collect meaningful data using the methods.
- Understand and explain the advantages and limitations of these methods.
- Prepare a concise written report detailing the background, implementation, choice of appropriate controls where necessary, as well as the advantages and limitations of the research methodologies learned during the instruction period.

Course Materials

No textbook is required for this course. Any necessary reading can be obtained from available current literature or will be provided by the specific faculty instructor upon initiation of instruction under their guidance.

Course Requirements

Prior to the start of the Research Methodologies Rotation:

- Students should discuss the need for further methods based instruction with their Supervisory Chair and if necessary Supervisory Committee prior to approaching potential instructors.
- Potential instructors should be contacted several weeks prior to anticipated start of when the Research Methodologies Rotation will be conducted so that availability of the instructor and the specific methods to be covered during the Rotation can be arranged. Discussion with potential Instructors should involve the student, the students Supervisory Chair and if necessary the Students Supervisory Committee.
- All laboratory safety training deemed necessary by UF Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) must be completed by the student prior to the start of the semester in which the Research Methodologies Rotation is to be conducted. **For students wishing to work in a laboratory in the Emerging Pathogens Institute this includes completing any required background checks to allow building and laboratory access, which can take several weeks.**

During the Laboratory Rotation:

- Students will be expected to commit an average of 48 hours/semester credit effort requirement for this course. A total of 192 hours are required to receive all four credits.
- Students will schedule meeting times with the Instructor to accomplish the goals of the Rotation in the predetermined time frame.
- Students cannot receive monetary compensation for time spent performing any activity associated with the Rotation if they will be receiving academic credit.
- The Final Paper for each rotation is due to the Instructor at the beginning of week 15 of Fall and Spring Semester and week 11 of Summer C semester of the

respective semester in which the Rotation is conducted to receive course credit for that semester. Final Papers may be completed and turned in to Instructors any time following the completion of the Rotation and prior to this deadline.

Evaluation and Grading

Students will be graded on a standard letter scale of A to E by the Instructor. In determining the grade, the Instructor will consider all aspects of the students performance during the Rotation, as well as their proficiency gained with the experimental concepts (40%), the student's written report (60

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|---|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Percentage or points earned in class | 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 equivalent | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D+ | D | D- | F |

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|---------------------|-----|------|------|-----|------|------|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 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 grades and university policies related to them, see the Registrar's Grade Policy regulations at <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

Credits

This course is offered as a 4 credits where one credit = a minimum of 48 course effort hours.

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, the Graduate Student Handbook and these web sites for more details:

<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php>

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studenthandbook/studentrights.php>

<http://gradschool.ufl.edu/students/introduction.html>

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory.

Expected Student Demeanor

Students are expected to conduct laboratory work during normal working hours Monday - Friday when Instructor supervision is available unless special arrangements have been made with the Instructor in advance.

Policy Related to Make-up Work

Attendance and Make-up Work – Students are expected to attend and be prepared to complete all required contact hours in a single semester. Personal issues with respect to attendance or fulfillment of course requirements will be handled on an individual basis.

Statement Related to Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities- If you require accommodations because of a disability, you must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/>). 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

Students may occasionally have personal issues that arise in the course of pursuing higher education or that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing problems affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and to seek confidential assistance at the UF Counseling & Wellness Center, 352-392-1575. Visit their web site for more information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/>.

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, including primary care, women's health care, immunizations, mental health care, and pharmacy 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: www.health.ufl.edu/shcc

Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from:

Alachua County Crisis Center: (352) 264-6789.

<http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx>

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.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. 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>.