



**Department of Environmental Health**

**I. Course Information:**

**Title: Research Methods for Human Population Studies**

**Course #: BE 8082 and PH 8082**

**Credit Hours: 3**

**Term: Fall 2019**

**Prerequisites: N/A**

**II. Instructor Information:**

**Name:** Dr. Susan Pinney

**Title:** Professor, PhD, FACE

**Office Information:** 208 Kettering

**Office:** (513)558-0684

**Email:** susan.pinney@uc.edu

**Office Hours:** Dr. Pinney, Monday, 6-7 pm or by appointment

Teaching Assistant (Banan Alamoudi, Wednesday 12-1pm, Room 208)

**Communication Policy:** Students are encouraged to contact me or Banan Alamoudi ([alamoubm@mail.uc.edu](mailto:alamoubm@mail.uc.edu)) at anytime via email. A response will be given within 36-48 hours except on weekends.

**Please use only my UC email addresses (not CCHMC email address). In your email correspondence to me, please use your UC email address.**

**Please make sure you are registered under the correct course number.**

- **ONLY MPH program matriculated students should be registered under PH 8082.**
- **All other students should be registered under BE 8082.**
- **You can change this in ONE STOP.**

**III. Course Materials**

**Required:** Packet of readings obtained from medical center duplicating. Occasional additional readings posted on Blackboard.

**IV. Course Description:** This course provides the student with an understanding of the methods for undertaking health research conducted in human populations. The course is structured around the selection and appropriate implementation of methods of sampling, participant recruitment and retention, data collection (such as questionnaires and interviews), measurements, biospecimen procurement and initial processing, and information dissemination.

**V. Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the learner will be able to:	How is this outcome assessed?
Develop a conceptual framework for a study and generate testable hypotheses.	Assignment A1 and A2, written research questions, hypotheses and specific aims.
Select a study design that is compatible with the research question, the population	Assignment A2, description of study vignette

Upon successful completion of this course, the learner will be able to:	How is this outcome assessed?
available, the appropriateness of the methods, and the funds available	
Understand various research methods and their appropriate application to a selected study design.	Assignment A2, description of study vignette; Assignment D1 and D2, questionnaire and interview methods; Assignment E, focus group methodology and question set for focus group.
Develop a sampling plan for conducting research, including the key elements for sample size and basic power calculations.	Assignment B, written sampling plan
Design and implement recruitment and retention plans suitable to the study population of interest.	Assignment C, written recruitment plan and flyer or brochure for recruitment;
Describe the basic issues related to measurement of variables and identify problems with measurement reliability and validity.	Assignment G – biomarker selection, collection and processing; Assignment F, written protocol for study methodology;
Understand the processes of data collection and potential problems, including ethical issues.	Assignment H, data processing (code book for data); Final Exam, identification of human subject in research considerations and protections.
Be able to share research findings in appropriate venues.	Assignment I1, written abstract; Assignment I2, poster; Assignment I3, Oral presentation.

## VI. Instructional Methods (Including Description about Bb):

This course uses the Blackboard (Bb) Learning Management System to provide student-centered online learning that will enhance the teaching and learning process. If you are not familiar with these tools, please visit [IT@UC's Knowledge Base for Blackboard](#).

## VII. Course Communication:

University policy requires that the email address set up in Blackboard is the primary means of communication between instructor and student. **Please use only my UC email addresses (not CCHMC email address). In your email correspondence to me, please use your UC email address.** Please check your UC email frequently as I send out “Announcements” through BlackBoard which you also will receive as emails.

## VIII. Course and Grading Policies:

**Course Contract:** Upon officially registering for the course, the student assumes responsibility for understanding and complying with the entire contents of the course syllabus. It is the student’s responsibility to raise questions or concerns directly with the instructor. The course instructor reserves the right to change, modify, add or delete any class assignment, reading, or activity at any time. Such changes will be made at the earliest possible time

- 1. Academic Code of Conduct:** Academic misconduct or dishonesty is defined in the University of Cincinnati Student Code of Conduct. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to: acts of cheating, plagiarism, falsification, and misappropriation of credit. The

Student Code of Conduct defines behavior expected of all University of Cincinnati students. It is each student's responsibility to know and comply with the University's Student Code of Conduct. Disciplinary procedures are explained in a step-by-step manner, and the procedures for appeal of decisions are stated. (see: [UC's Student Code of Conduct](#))

**Plagiarism is defined as:**

- Submitting another's published or unpublished work in whole, in part, or in paraphrase, as one's own without fully and properly crediting the author with footnotes, quotation marks, citations, or bibliographic reference.
- Submitting as one's own original work, material obtained from an individual, agency, or the internet without reference to the person, agency or webpage as the source of the material.
- Submitting as one's own original work material that has been produced through unacknowledged collaboration with others without release in writing from collaborators.
- Submitting one's own previously written or oral work without modification and instructor permission.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated and according to the Student Code of Conduct ([https://www.uc.edu/conduct/Code\\_of\\_Conduct.html](https://www.uc.edu/conduct/Code_of_Conduct.html)), may result in the following consequences:

- Formal report of academic misconduct.
  - Reduced or failing grade on the exercise.
  - Reduced or failing grade for the course.
  - Recommendation to the College Hearing Panel/Dean/Provost for probation, suspension, or dismissal.
3. **Disability:** Students with disabilities who need academic accommodations or other specialized services while attending the University of Cincinnati will receive reasonable accommodations to meet their individual needs as well as advocacy assistance on disability-related issues. Students requiring special accommodation must register with the Disability Services Office. [UC's Disability Services Office](#).
  4. **Counseling Services, Clifton Campus:** Students have access to counseling and mental health care through the University Health Services (UHS), which can provide both psychotherapy and psychiatric services. In addition, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can provide professional counseling upon request; students may receive five free counseling sessions through CAPS without insurance. Students are encouraged to seek assistance for anxiety, depression, trauma/assault, adjustment to college life, interpersonal/relational difficulty, sexuality, family conflict, grief and loss, disordered eating and body image, alcohol and substance abuse, anger management, identity development and issues related to diversity, concerns associated with sexual orientation and spirituality concerns, as well as any other issue of concerns. After hours, students may call UHS at 513-556-2564 or CAPS Cares at 513-556-0648. For urgent physician consultation after-hours students may call 513-584-7777.
  5. **Title IX:** Title IX is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of your actual or perceived sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation. Title IX also covers sexual violence, dating or domestic violence, and stalking. If you disclose a Title IX issue to me, I am required forward that information to the Title IX Office. They will follow up with you about how the University can take steps to address the impact

on you and the community and make you aware of your rights and resources. Their priority is to make sure you are safe and successful here. You are not required to talk with the Title IX Office. If you would like to make a report of sex or gender-based discrimination, harassment or violence, or if you would like to know more about your rights and resources on campus, you can consult [UC's webpage for Title IX](#) or contact the office at 556-3349.

6. **Missed and/or late examinations, quizzes, and graded exercises:** This class meets only one time per week for 13 weeks. Therefore students are permitted to miss only 2 classes without impacting their final grade. Please let me know by email if you are going to miss a class. **Please use your excused absences wisely.**
7. **Late assignments** (including the final examination) will receive a deduction of 5% of the total possible points for each day that the assignment is late.
8. **Weather Related Protocol:** When inclement weather threatens the safety of the University of Cincinnati community, the Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance may invoke University Rule [3361: 10-55-01](#) and declare an emergency closing.  
 College of Medicine Students: Graduate Students – follow all University snow policies and procedures. All classes and exams are canceled when the university has closed. On days when the University delays opening, classes and exams will resume at the hour that the University reopens if this is at or before 3 pm.

**9. Criteria for letter grades:**

There are a number of small assignments in this course, worth a total 400 possible points.

Assignment		Team or Individual	Points
Assignment A1	Three research questions, specific aims, and hypotheses	Individual	20
Assignment A2	Description of team vignette, including study design	Team	10
Assignment B	Sampling plan	Individual	30
Assignment C	Recruitment plan / flyer or brochure	Individual	20
Assignment D1	Questionnaire items and code set	Individual	40
Assignment D2	Interview form and QxQ	Individual	50
Assignment E	Using qualitative research methods	Individual	20
Assignment F	Measurement protocol	Individual	30
Assignment G	Biospecimen in study design	Individual	20

Assignment		Team or Individual	Points
Assignment H	Questionnaire code set	Individual	10
Assignment I1	Abstract	Individual	20
Assignment I2	Poster	Team	25
Assignment I3	Presentation	Individual	20
Final Exam	Human subjects issues.	Individual	40
	Class attendance and participation	Individual	45
	<b>Total points</b>		<b>400</b>

**Grading Scale**

Overall Percentage / Points

Letter Grade

93% and above	A
90%	A-
87%	B+
83%	B
80%	B-
77%	C+
73%	C
70%	C-
Below 70%	F

**IX. Course Schedule:** See separate document.

**X. Rubrics:** Each assignment contains a grading rubric.

General assignment grading Rubric	
Points	Criteria
100% of possible points	<p><b>Consistently does all or almost all of the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides exactly the information requested and in the format requested.</li> <li>• Follows principles/methods presented in class and readings.</li> <li>• Demonstrates high level of understanding of the logic/rationale behind research methods</li> <li>• Presents polished final documents (especially recruitment plan, questionnaires, interview schedules, questionnaire item code book,</li> </ul>

<b>General assignment grading Rubric</b>	
	<p>abstract, poster, oral presentation and identification of considerations for human subjects protection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses reference citations whenever appropriate</li> </ul>
<b>75% of points</b>	<p>Consistently does most of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides almost all the information requested and in the format requested.</li> <li>• Usually follows principles/methods presented in class and readings.</li> <li>• Demonstrates very good level of understanding of the logic/rationale behind research methods</li> <li>• Presents well-developed final documents (especially recruitment plan, questionnaires, interview schedules, questionnaire item code book, abstract, poster, oral presentation and identification of considerations for human subjects protection).</li> <li>• Uses reference citations whenever appropriate</li> </ul>
<b>50% of points</b>	<p>Does most or many of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides some of the information requested and sometimes in the format requested.</li> <li>• Sometimes follows principles/methods presented in class and readings.</li> <li>• Demonstrates some understanding of the logic/rationale behind research methods</li> <li>• Presents underdeveloped final documents (especially recruitment plan, questionnaires, interview schedules, questionnaire item code book, abstract, poster, oral presentation and identification of considerations for human subjects protection).</li> <li>• Sometimes includes reference citations whenever appropriate</li> </ul>
<b>25% of points or less</b>	<p>Consistently does all or almost all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides little of the information requested and sometimes in the format requested.</li> <li>• Often does not follow principles/methods presented in class and readings.</li> <li>• Demonstrates little understanding of the logic/rationale behind research methods</li> <li>• Presents poorly developed final documents (especially recruitment plan, questionnaires, interview schedules, questionnaire item code book, abstract, poster, oral presentation and identification of considerations for human subjects protection).</li> <li>• Rarely includes reference citations whenever appropriate</li> </ul>