Research Methods for Human Population Studies  
Course No. BE 8082 and PH 8082  

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Please use only my UC email addresses (not CCHMC 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.

Class: Monday 3:00 – 5:50 pm  
Room G17 Kettering building

Office Hours: Arranged individually

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.

Course Learning Objectives:
At the end of the course, students will be able to achieve the following goals/competencies:

1. Develop a conceptual framework for a study and generate testable hypotheses.

2. Select a study design that is compatible with the research question, the population available, the appropriateness of the methods, and the funds available.

3. Understand various research methods and their appropriate application to a selected study design.

4. Describe and evaluate various study designs used to conduct research, including their inherent threats to internal and external validity.

5. Develop a sampling plan for conducting research, including the key elements for sample size and basic power calculations.

6. Design and implement recruitment and retention plans suitable to the study population of interest.

7. Describe the basic issues related to measurement of variables and identify problems with measurement reliability and validity.
8. Understand the processes of data collection and potential problems, including ethical issues.

9. Be able to share research findings in appropriate venues.

**Pre-requisites:**
None. Graduate Standing.

**Course Requirements:**
1. Weekly reading assignments, class attendance, and class participation. Much of the subtle finer points of research methods development will come from the oral exchange in class. Your learning will be proportional to your participation. If you are on call please put phone/pagers on vibrate. You are permitted two class absences with no impact on your final grade. Reserve these absences for illnesses or planned or unplanned out of town trips or other conflicts. If you are going to miss a class due to another commitment, please inform Dr. Pinney at least one day prior to the class. You must attend class on the day of the group presentations, regardless of how many classes you have missed previously.

2. Active participation with your study group.

3. Submission of homework assignments. Homework is designed to provide you with ongoing feedback.

4. Possible quizzes.

5. Final project.

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

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Team or Individual</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assign A1</td>
<td>Three research questions, specific aims, and hypotheses</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assign A2</td>
<td>Description of team vignette, including study design</td>
<td>Team</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assign B</td>
<td>Sampling plan</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assign C</td>
<td>Recruitment plan / flyer or brochure</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assign D1</td>
<td>Questionnaire items and code set</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assign D2</td>
<td>Interview form and QxQ</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assign E</td>
<td>Using qualitative research</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>Team or Individual</td>
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<td>Assign F</td>
<td>Individual</td>
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<td>Assign G</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assign I1</td>
<td>Individual</td>
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<td>Assign I2</td>
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<td>Assign I3</td>
<td>Individual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class attendance and participation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total points</strong></td>
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<td><strong>400</strong></td>
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**Grading:**
[http://www.uc.edu/registrar/faculty_resources/grading_scales.html](http://www.uc.edu/registrar/faculty_resources/grading_scales.html)

**Learning approach:**
The instructor will facilitate learning through lectures, discussion, case studies, and other interactive classroom or online activities. Students will be required to complete skill-building assignments, participate in class discussions and activities, read the assigned textbook and published papers and a final project.

**Academic Ethics:** The faculty of the Department of Environmental Health believe that the conduct of a student taking a course in the Department should be consistent with that of a professional individual. All students in this course will be expected to conduct themselves with complete integrity. All work by the student will be the work of that student, unless otherwise referenced. New research ideas presented during the class are the intellectual property of the faculty member or student who presented them.

**Course policies and procedures:**

1. If you have any special needs related to your participation in this course, including identified visual impairment, hearing impairment, physical impairment, communication disorder, and/or specific learning disability that may influence your performance in this course, you should meet with the instructor to arrange for reasonable provisions to ensure an equitable opportunity to meet all the requirements of this course. At the discretion of the instructor, some accommodations may require prior approval of Disability Services.

2. Make-up assignments are strongly discouraged – Only in exceptional cases such as a serious medical emergency (authenticated by written note from a physician) will the instructor discuss such possibilities and decide on a case-by-case basis.
3. All enrolled students have access to online BlackBoard site of the course. The syllabus will be posted in the Course Information section of the Black Board. The students must check the Announcements section regularly.

4. With prior notice through the Announcements section some of the classes may be taught asynchronously on BlackBoard and the students will be required to complete assigned tasks and participate in online Discussion Forum during that week.

5. Attendance will be taken. You are allowed two excused class absences.

6. The university rules, including the Student Code of Conduct, and other documented policies of the department, college, and university related to academic integrity will be enforced. Any violation of these regulations including acts of plagiarism or cheating will be dealt with on an individual basis according to the severity of the misconduct.

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.

Counseling Services, Blue Ash Campus

UC Blue Ash Counseling Services provides high quality integrated health, counseling, and wellness services. Mental Health and personal counseling services are free of charge to students who are matriculated as UC Blue Ash College students. Services address student needs such as self esteem, family conflict, loss and grief issues, adjusting to life’s challenges, relationship problems, eating disorders, physical and/or emotional abuse, and domestic violence. Students who want an initial meeting with a counselor can call (513) 745-5670 or stop by Room 140 Muntz Hall to schedule an appointment. If after hours, please call CAPS Cares (main campus) using the 24 Hour Phone Consultation Line at 513-556-0648.

Counseling Services, Clermont Campus

The Compass Counseling Center provides students assistance in helping to deal with life’s stressors and adjustment to college life. All services provided to UC Clermont students are free and confidential. Some of the most common issues addressed at the center include transition to college life, stress from home, classroom performance, depression, anxiety, relationship problems, grief and loss, and substance abuse. Students are welcome and encouraged to walk into the Compass Counseling Center
located in the Student Services Building, Room 201. Students may contact the office by calling (513) 732-5263. If after hours, please call CAPS Cares (main campus) using the 24 Hour Phone Consultation Line at 513-556-0648.

**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 the website www.uc.edu/titleix or contact the office at 556-3349.*