Research Methods in Gerontology
GMS6099
Course Syllabus

Instructor Information:
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Course Goals:
The goals of the course are to: (1) provide a foundation of the fundamental concepts related to research in aging and geriatric research, (2) develop an understanding of research methodologies commonly utilized to address aging-related research questions, and (3) to promote the ability to find and critically analyze research findings in this area.

Learner Outcomes:
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of the basic components of the research process;
2. Be able to find and critically interpret peer-reviewed research findings;
3. Discuss prominent research topics relevant to the field of geriatrics;
4. Summarize methodologies commonly utilized to address aging-related research questions across the spectrum of translation

Course website:
The course will be delivered entirely via the UF Canvas system at http://lss.at.ufl.edu. Weekly homework assignments will be distributed via Canvas, and should be submitted by the student through the Canvas site as instructed.

Course Communications:
The online discussion board can be used to comment on the readings and assignments, ask thoughtful questions, and explore related concepts. You may also use the online discussion board to ask specific questions about course content.

However, questions regarding your individual performance in the class should be sent via email to the Course Instructor via email at rxiao@ufl.edu. All emails will be returned as soon as possible, but please allow 24 hours for a response.

Technical Assistance:
Please contact the helpdesk between 8 AM and 5 PM ET for assistance with the course web site. For a list of additional student support services links and information please visit: http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-services.

Learning Resources:
1. Topic articles will be placed on the course website. The information in these articles is coordinated with online lecture materials and serves as the required text for the course.
2. Other multimedia materials, e.g. videos, PowerPoint slides; will also be provided as appropriate for each module.

Prerequisite:
Students must be registered students in good standing at the University of Florida. The course is open to individuals from all disciplines.

Course Outline and Assignments:
The course is divided into 15 modules. Each module consists of selected chapters with specific reading assignments. For each module students will: (1) review the learning objectives, (2) read or view the corresponding learning resources, and (3) complete the corresponding assignment(s).

Students will also be expected to complete a semester project in the form of a term paper. This term paper will focus on developing a study based on a research question related to aging that is of interest to you. The term paper will include a literature review of the topic, central hypothesis, study design, and expected outcomes etc. More detailed information about the term paper will be provided to you over the duration of the course and modules #7 and #12 will be dedicated to providing students with time to develop the term paper.

Final Evaluation:
The final evaluation of the course will entail the review of another classmate's term paper. This will consist of a brief synopsis of the research study, as well as a general critique of the study design, experiments proposed etc. More information will be provided to you during the duration of the course.

Course Requirements/Grading
Each week, students will be required to read a set of materials posted on the course Canvas site. The weekly modules also include videos posted on the course Canvas site that each student will be required to watch. Readings will be taken from relevant journal articles, web sites, and other sources that will be freely accessible to all registered UF students.

Weekly assignments:
Each week, students will be expected to submit a project or assignment related to that week's course topic. Point values for each week's assignment will vary but will be stated with each assignment. Assignments will be posted on the course Canvas site. Some assignments will involve discussions among the all students in the class; other assignments will be more individual.

Grades in this class are earned on the basis of points and then converted to letter grades (as shown in this chart). Letter-grade GPA equivalents are shown in the second table below.

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%	Be-low 60%				
Letter Grade equivalent	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E	**WF**	**I**	**NG**	**S-U**
	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 letter grades and university policies related to them, see the Registrar's Grade Policy regulations at http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html

Course Evaluations
At the end of the course, students will be asked to complete the anonymous UF course evaluation. You will receive information about how to complete the course evaluation later in the semester.

Make-Up Policy:
All assignments/projects must be submitted via the deadline provided on the course web site. Late work will not be accepted without prior approval from the Course Instructor. In the event of an emergency where prior approval could not be sought, contact the Course Instructor as soon as possible.

Copyright Information
Please review the University policy regarding the use of copyrighted materials, which can be found on the Health Science Center Library's web page: http://www.library.health.ufl.edu/services/copyright.htm.

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities:
Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the Course Instructor when requesting accommodation. The student must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive; therefore, students should contact the Dean of Students Office as soon as possible in the term in which they are seeking accommodation. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct:
Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students/php.

Students are expected to abide by the University's Academic Honesty Policy, and to adhere to the following pledge:

"We, the member of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity."

On all work submitted for credit by students 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."

According to the UF Student Guide, Academic dishonesty includes the following:

Cheating - copying another's work for academic gain.

Plagiarism - representing another's work as your own.

Bribery - offering, giving, soliciting, or receiving goods or services of value for academic gain.

Misrepresentation - altering facts (e.g., signing an absent classmate's name to an attendance sheet).

Conspiracy - planning with others to commit academic dishonesty.

Fabrication - making up information to avoid punishment or other difficulty.

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 University of Florida Counseling Center, 352-392-1575, or Student Mental Health Services, 352-392-1171. Visit their web sites for more information: http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/ or http://www.health.ufl.edu/shcc/smhs/index.htm#urgent

Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from:
Alachua County Crisis Center: (352) 264-6789.