

## HEALTH SCIENCES RESEARCH CAPSTONE (Spring 2025)

**50:499:490**

**Professor: Jamie Price, PhD**

**Contact: jamie.dunaev@gmail.com**

**Meeting time/place: Thursdays 2:00-3:20, Armitage 106**

### **Course Description**

The goal of this class is to provide students with direct experience and focused reflection to increase knowledge, develop skills, and utilize theory in applied research. Students will be trained on survey building and data collection, data cleaning and analysis, and data presentation. At the end of this course, students will present their research in the form of a poster presentation session open to faculty and fellow Health Sciences students.

### **Learning Goals**

1. Students will apply the skills learned in other courses (Statistics, Research Methods) and apply them in this course.
2. Students will produce a final project that includes a paper and presentation to serve as a synthesis of their experience and research.
3. Students will reflect on the research process and their experience collecting, analyzing, and presenting data.

### **Course Requirements**

1. Students will need to have access to certain software (Excel, SPSS, R, etc.). These programs can be accessed via the computer labs on campus, via the Rutgers Portal, or students may purchase their programs for their own devices.

2. There is no required textbook for this course. All materials needed will be provided through the Canvas course site.
3. Students will benefit from having access to a laptop/computer during class. Students should contact the professor if they need help accessing a device.

### **Experiential Learning**

Health Sciences Research Capstone is designated as an Experiential Learning course (XPL) for your General Education requirement because the process of designing, conducting, and presenting a research project serves as a ‘hands on’ experience that mirrors how research in healthcare settings may be conducted. The learning outcomes required for an XPL courses are reflected in tangible outcomes (i.e., the conference style abstract and poster presentation) and active reflection via a research journal and final reflection.

**Below is a list of topics to be covered in class. Each topic will be covered over the span of 2- 4 classes.**

<b>Learning Objective</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1,2	Review topic: Formulating a research question and hypotheses
1,2	Review topic: How to do a literature review
1,2	Review topic: Developing and validating scales
1,2	Survey Building
1,2	Data Cleaning
1,2	Data Analysis
1,2	Summarizing Data
1,2	Creating a Research Poster Presentation

**Attendance Policy:** Students will be allowed two missed classes before they start to count against the student. These are your "excused absences." After that, even with 'excuses,' the absences still stand. So make sure to save your absences for real sickness or issues. If there is an ongoing health or family issue, please talk to me about it ASAP so that I can be aware and we can make special arrangements. Because many classes are workshop style, students who miss a class lesson that is vital for their project will need to arrange a make up meeting with the professor to get the material.

**Late Policy:** Unless late work is approved by the professor, all late assignments will be docked 3 points per day late. Late work will not be accepted after the end of the course.

**AI Policy:** Students should not be using AI (assistance from ChatGPT or other online bots) to guide their work. If it is suspected that you used AI, your work will be submitted to the academic integrity committee for evaluation. Students found to be using AI will be given a 0 for the assignment.

## **Academic Integrity**

I take violations of academic integrity (cheating, plagiarizing) very seriously. You are responsible for reading and understanding our policy on academic integrity policy, available from the [Rutgers Academic Integrity website](#). Academic integrity means, among other things, that all Rutgers students are required to:

- properly acknowledge and cite all use of the ideas, results, or words of others
- properly acknowledge all contributors to a given piece of work
- make sure that all work submitted as his or her own in a course or other academic activity is produced without the aid of unsanctioned materials or unsanctioned collaboration
- treat all other students in an ethical manner, respecting their integrity and right to pursue their educational goals without interference. This requires that a student neither facilitate academic dishonesty by others nor obstruct their academic progress

## **Inclusivity**

I am committed to diversity and inclusion in this course and want to include all perspectives. Please let me know if you perceive any bias in any form in this course, whether it is happening to you or to someone else. I'll be asking for your pronouns in the first module, and will ask all class members to respect the pronoun and name choices of

each individual in this class. Rutgers does allow students to request a preferred name change on official university documents and systems, [which can be submitted](#) at this link if you're interested. However, I understand that all students may not have the ability to have their preferred name displayed officially, and I will use the preferred name you submit informally in this course.

**This course is a safe space for everyone, no matter your gender, age, race/ethnicity, political affiliation, sexuality, class, religion, or any other characteristic. Everyone is welcome and will be treated with respect.**

### **Food/Housing Security**

When students face challenges securing food and/or housing, making learning a priority can be difficult. If you're in this situation, please reach out to the [Dean of Students](#). If you feel comfortable, please also let me know, and I will do what I am able to connect you to appropriate resources offered by our campus—you are not alone in dealing with these issues.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Students who have a diagnosed disability on file with the [Office of Disability Services](#) are eligible for accommodations, as specified by the University. Please contact the Office of Disability Services at 856-225-6442 if you need to begin the process of receiving accommodations.

Students who do not have a letter of accommodation from the university will not be eligible to receive accommodations in this course.

**Activities and Assignments:**

<b>Activity/ Assignments</b>	<b>Descriptions</b>	<b>Learning Objectives</b>	<b>% of Grade</b>
In-class discussions	Class attendance and project progress will be monitored via an ongoing research journal where students track their progress, accomplishments, and struggles.	1,2,3	10
Research Question/ Hypotheses	Students will submit research questions and hypotheses for their project and then subsequently edit those research questions and hypotheses based on instructor feedback.	1,2	5
Research Proposal	Students will submit their final research questions and hypotheses along with a short (1 page) literature review.	1,2	10
Survey	Students will submit a link to their survey and then make edits based on instructor feedback (until the survey is ready to be administered)	1,2	10
Survey administration	Students will administer their survey to a convenience sample	1,2	5

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In-class discussions	Class attendance and project progress will be monitored via an ongoing research journal where students track their progress, accomplishments, and struggles.	1,2,3	10
Data cleaning	Students will clean their data	1,2	5
Data analysis	Students will create variables, check interitem reliability, and run basic analysis to test their hypotheses	1,2	5
Abstract	Students will write a 1000 word conference style abstract based on the results of their data analysis	1,2	20
Poster presentation	Students will create, print, and present a poster based on their results (to the class or in another space)	1,2	20
Final reflection	Students will write up a final reflection about their project, what they learned, and the experience of doing research overall	1,2,3	5
Homeworks	Mini-lectures or readings (with small quiz) intended to prepare students for the topic of the day	1	
<b>Total</b>			<b>100</b>