EDHD 780 Research Methods

Syllabus Spring 2018
Wednesday 4:15 – 7 pm
Benjamin Building Room 3233

Instructor: Richard Prather
Office Hours: By appointment
Email: prather1@umd.edu


Major Grading:
Final Paper and presentation: 50%
Midterm Paper: 20% Due: 3/7/18
Participation including weekly presentations: 30%

Course Overview. EDHD 780 is a required course for Human Development Graduate students. The goal of the course is to introduce students to common methodological approaches to the study of human development. This includes conceptualization, problem definition, measurement, sampling and design. The focus of lectures and class discussions will be on applying principles of research design and measurement to issues relevant to developmental and educational psychology. Students’ research interests will provide focus for assignments and class discussion. This is a doctoral level course designed for majors in EDHD.

Course Objectives. To help students:
• Gain an understanding about research methodology in human development.
• Understand the scientific method and acquire the ability to formulate research questions. Develop critical reading, writing, and presentational skills through reading assignments, writing assignments, group discussions of theoretical material, and class presentations of current research findings

Course Requirements
1. Preparation for class and class participation (50%). As part of class activities, students will be called on to discuss/comment on readings and to present their work on weekly homework assignments. The class participation grade is based, in part, on presentations of measurement and design projects.
3. Proposal paper (50%): Guidelines will be distributed in class

Topic Schedule by Week (15 total)

1. 1/24/18
Introduction
Introduction discussion. Presentations and discussion of student research areas.

2. 1/31
Scientific Thinking in Psychology
Textbook: Chapter 1

3. 2/7/18
Approaches to the study of Human Development.
- Longitudinal Analysis
- Cross sectional
- Individual differences vs. group comparisons


4. 2/14/18
Approaches to the study of Human Development II


5. 2/21/18
Levels of analysis
- Group data (dyads)
- Individual Behavior
- Population data

Textbook Chapters 6 & 7


Discuss Midterm Paper Assignment

6. **2/28/18**  
**Demographic characteristic data analysis**


7. **3/7/18**  
**Building Constructs & Psychometric Properties of measurements**

Textbook: chapter 5  
DUE: Midterm paper

8. **3/14/18**  
**Mathematical Models and Quantitative Methodology**


9. **3/28/18**  
**Biological Data and Human Development**


**10. 4/4/18**

**How to: Publishing and Reviewing**


**11. 4/11/18**

**Meta-Science: Replications, pre-registration, OpenScience**


http://www.psychologicalscience.org/publications/psychological_science/preregistration

http://www.apa.org/science/about/psa/2015/08/pre-registration.aspx


**12. 4/18/18**

**Big Data and Technology**

-MIT Media lab Language study

[https://www.ted.com/talks/deb_roy_the_birth_of_a_word](https://www.ted.com/talks/deb_roy_the_birth_of_a_word)


https://babieslearninglanguage.blogspot.com/2015/12/the-manybabies-project.html
http://manybabies.stanford.edu/

https://www.databrary.org/access/guide.html

13. 4/25/18
**Useful Tools for Developmental Research**
Computing Tools: R/MATLAB/Python
https://www.scipy.org/
https://www.statmethods.net/index.html

Paper organization: Mendeley, Zotero, Papers

Participant recruitment: Infant Database

14. 5/2/18
**Small N Designs. Replicability and Generalization.**
Textbook Chapters 13, 14.

15. 5/9/18
Presentations

**Further Reading**

http://elevanth.org/blog/2017/08/24/multilevel-regression-as-default/


**BLACKBOARD**
We will be using the University’s Blackboard, https://elms.umd.edu. The syllabus, additional readings, and announcements will be posted on Blackboard. Students can login to the website using your University ID and Password. Please let the instructor know if you have trouble accessing the course website.
CLASS POLICIES

**Academic integrity:** The University of Maryland, College Park has a student-administered Honor Code and Honor Pledge. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit [http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/whatis.html](http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/whatis.html). This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. The code prohibits students from cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism. Instances of this include submitting someone else’s work as your own, submitting your own work completed for another class without permission, or failing to properly cite information other than your own (found in journals, books, online, or otherwise). Any form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated, and any sign of academic dishonesty will be reported to the appropriate University officials.

**Special needs:** If you have a registered disability that will require accommodation, please see the instructor so necessary arrangements can be made. If you have a disability and have not yet registered with the University, please contact Disability Support Services in the Shoemaker Building (301.314.7682, or 301.405.7683 TTD) as soon as possible.

**Religious observances:** The University of Maryland policy on religious observances states that students not be penalized in any way for participation in religious observances. Students shall be allowed, whenever possible, to make up academic assignments that are missed due to such absences. However, the student must contact the instructor before the absence with a written notification of the projected absence, and arrangements will be made for make-up work or examinations.

**Course evaluations:** As a member of our academic community, students have a number of important responsibilities. One of these responsibilities is to submit course evaluations each term through CourseEvalUM in order to help faculty and administrators improve teaching and learning at Maryland. All information submitted to CourseEvalUM is confidential. Campus will notify you when CourseEvalUM is open for you to complete your evaluations for fall semester courses. Please go directly to the website ([www.courseevalum.umd.edu](http://www.courseevalum.umd.edu)) to complete your evaluations. By completing all of your evaluations each semester, you will have the privilege of accessing online, at Testudo, the evaluation reports for the thousands of courses for which 70% or more students submitted their evaluations.

**Missed single class due to illness:** Once during a semester, a student’s self-authored note will be accepted as an excuse for missing a minor scheduled grading event in a single class session if the note documents the date of the illness, acknowledgement from the student that information provided in the note is correct, and a statement that the student understands that providing false information is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct. Students are expected to attempt to inform the instructor of the illness prior to the date of the missed class.*
**Major scheduled grading events:** Major Scheduled Grading Events (MSGE) are indicated on the syllabus. The conditions for accepting a self-signed note do not apply to these events. Written, signed documentation by a health care professional, or other professional in the case of non-medical reasons (see below) of a University-approved excuse for the student’s absence must be supplied. This documentation must include verification of treatment dates and the time period for which the student was unable to meet course requirements. Providers should not include diagnostic information. Without this documentation, opportunities to make up missed assignments or assessments will not be provided.

**Non-consecutive, medically necessitated absences from multiple class sessions:** Students who throughout the semester miss multiple, non-consecutive class sessions due to medical problems must provide written documentation from a health care professional that their attendance on those days was prohibited for medical reasons.

**Non-medical excused absences:** According to University policy, non-medical excused absences for missed assignments or assessments may include illness of a dependent, religious observance, involvement in University activities at the request of University officials, or circumstances that are beyond the control of the student. Students asking for excused absence for any of those reasons must also supply appropriate written documentation of the cause and make every attempt to inform the instructor prior to the date of the missed class.