

RESEARCH METHODS IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
EDHD 306 (0101)—Fall 2016
University of Maryland

Instructor: Dr. Jennie Lee-Kim
Office: 1109 Benjamin Bldg
Office hours: Wed., 11:15am-12:00pm
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course addresses the scientific concepts and principles central to the study of human development and learning. Students will learn about basic research methods for studying human behavior in developmental contexts, with a particular focus on educational contexts. Major themes include goals of developmental and educational research, fundamental research designs, types of measurement, elements of good scientific writing, and ethical issues in the study of human development.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to demonstrate:

- An understanding of the fundamental principles and theories that guide developmental and educational research
- Knowledge of all phases of the research process in the study of human development, including development of research questions and hypotheses, study design, ethical considerations, data collection, measurement, data analysis, and presentation of results
- Ability to critically evaluate research presented in professional journals and in the popular press
- Ability to formulate and plan for the investigation of a research question related to human development or education, and ability to write about the proposed investigation using the principles of good scientific writing

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Methods in Behavioral Research, 12th Edition by Cozby and Bates (ISBN: 978-0-07-786189-6)

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

1. Be on time to class and be prepared.
2. Be respectful to the instructor and to fellow students.
3. Be attentive and participate in class.

COURSE ASSESSMENTS

- **IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS (50 PTS)**
There will be both scheduled and spontaneous in-class activities throughout the semester, which may include small-group or individual activities requiring handwritten responses due in class. More details will be provided in class. If you have a legitimate reason for missing class and proper documentation (see attendance policy below), you will be given an opportunity to make up in-class work. If you do not have a legitimate reason for missing class and proper documentation, you will not be given an opportunity to make up in-class work.
- **EXAMS* (200 PTS)**
There will be 2 exams: Midterm (covering first half of the course) and Final (covering second half of the course), each worth 100 points. Exams will be primarily non-cumulative with some exceptions.
- **MINI-ASSIGNMENTS FOR RESEARCH PROPOSAL (100 PTS)**
Students will complete four brief mini-assignments designed to help them prepare their proposal. Each proposal mini-assignment will be worth 25 points.

***INDICATES MAJOR SCHEDULED GRADING EVENT (MSGE)**

- **PEER PRESENTATIONS (25 PTS) + PEER EDITING (25 PTS)**
Students will give a presentation to a group of their peers for feedback on their research proposal. Students will also participate in a peer-editing day to give and receive feedback on their research proposal drafts.
- **RESEARCH PROPOSAL* (100 POINTS)**
The research proposal gives students an opportunity to take what they have learned in class and design their own study on a selection of topics in human development.

COURSE GRADES

Grades will be based on the following:

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Exams* | 200 points |
| Research Proposal* | 100 points |
| Mini-Assignments | 100 points |
| In-Class Assignments | 50 points |
| Peer Presentation/Review | 50 points |
| Total | 500 points |

Final course grades will be calculated based on the total number of points earned for all assessments in the course. Unless a calculation error has been made, final grades will not be changed. There are no exceptions to this policy. Letter grades will be assigned based on the following total point accumulation:

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| A+ = 487.5–500 | A = 462.5–487 | A- = 447.5–462 |
| B+ = 437.5–447 | B = 412.5–437 | B- = 397.5–412 |
| C+ = 387.5–397 | C = 362.5–387 | C- = 347.5–362 |
| D+ = 337.5–347 | D = 312.5–337 | D- = 297.5–312 |
| <297.5 = F | | |

COURSE POLICIES

PLEASE SEE THE UNIVERSITY'S WEBSITE FOR ALL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE-RELATED POLICIES AT [HTTP://WWW.UGST.UMD.EDU/COURSERELATEDPOLICIES.HTML](http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html). BELOW ARE HIGHLIGHTED POLICIES.

- **CLASS ATTENDANCE, CLIMATE & ELECTRONICS POLICY**

Students are expected to attend and actively participate in each class except in the case of illness or an extenuating circumstance. If missing class, students are responsible for obtaining additional notes from a classmate. Once class begins, students are expected to conduct themselves professionally.

Cell phones must be turned off and put away during class unless there is an extenuating circumstance. Laptops and tablets must also be put away except for on days when needed for class (e.g., in-class activities). Although this may pose a challenge for students who depend on their devices for note-taking, due to the nature of this course, students are often better engaged in the course and take better notes when doing so by hand. One suggestion for note-taking is to print out lecture outlines in advance of class and take notes. Lecture outlines will be posted by the evening prior to class.

- **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

The University of Maryland, College Park has a student-administered Honor Code & 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>. 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. 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). It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. Any form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated, and any sign of academic dishonesty will be reported immediately to the appropriate University officials.

*INDICATES MAJOR SCHEDULED GRADING EVENT (MSGE)

To avoid any misunderstanding, all written papers and exams must include the following pledge statement handwritten or typed and signed by the student: *"I hereby declare that I am the sole author of this paper and everything presented is my own unless otherwise cited"*. I will not accept any papers without a signed honor pledge.

- **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

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 (301.314.7682, or 301.405.7683 TTD) as soon as possible. **You must provide official documentation.**

- **RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES**

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

- **LATE ASSIGNMENT AND MAKE-UP EXAM POLICY**

All assignments are due on the assigned date and **DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS**. Emailed assignments will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made. Late assignments will automatically drop **1** full letter grade for each **day** the paper is turned in late. Students submitting late assignments must submit a hard copy to my mailbox, located in 3304 Benjamin Bldg (EDHD). You must ask the receptionist for a date/time stamp for your paper to document when you submitted your paper, before placement in my mailbox. Please **do not** submit papers to my office. Likewise, students are expected to take *exams* on the assigned dates and times of the exam. Missed exams will result in zero credit for the exam.

Late Assignments and Make-up exams **will be considered** if students give prior notice of absence and provide required documentation for excused absences as outlined in the undergraduate catalog. Please see below for specific guidelines for missed classes and grading events. Students claiming an excused absence must notify me as soon as possible via email and furnish proper documentation supporting their absence. *Make-up exams must be taken within 1 week of the original exam date.*

1. 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.

2. Major scheduled grading events: Major Scheduled Grading Events (MSGE) are indicated on the syllabus with an asterisk. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

- **COURSE EVALUATION**

Your participation in the evaluation of courses through CourseEvalUM is a responsibility you hold as a student member of our academic community. Your feedback is confidential and important to the improvement of teaching & learning at the University as well as to the tenure and promotion process. Campus will notify you when CourseEvalUM is open for you to complete your evaluations for the current semester. Please go to the website (www.courseevalum.umd.edu) to complete your evaluations. By completing all of your evaluations each semester, you will have the privilege of accessing the summary reports of thousands of courses online at Testudo for which 70% or more students submitted their evaluations.

- **COPYRIGHT NOTICE**

Class meetings and course materials, including instructions, presentations, assessments, content outlines, and similar materials are the intellectual property of the course instructor and protected by legal copyright. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own personal use. You may not, nor may you allow others to, distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly whether or not a fee is charged without the express written consent of the instructor. Similarly, you own copyright in any work products that you create for this course. Copyright violations may result in referrals to the Office of Student Conduct and/or civil penalties under State and Federal law (www.copyright.gov/title17).

COURSE COMMUNICATION

- **COURSE EMAIL**

Emails (via canvas) will be sent out to the class in the event of possible class cancellations and/or important announcements relating to the class. Please check for emails prior to our class meeting time, particularly during inclement weather. Email is the best way to contact the instructor. Students are encouraged to email any questions related to the course.

- **CANVAS (MYELMS.UMD.EDU)**

Important announcements, abbreviated lecture outlines (pdf format), class handouts, and grades will be accessible to students via Canvas. It is the student's responsibility to check regularly for updates.

SYLLABUS DISCLAIMER

As the instructor, I reserve the right to alter, modify, amend, or otherwise change this syllabus; however, I will try my best not to do so. If changes must be made, you will be notified of the changes in advance if possible.

COURSE SCHEDULE & ASSIGNMENTS

Please note: *Topics & Readings assignments are subject to change.*

| Date | Topic/Agenda | Reading Assignments | Due Today |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 8/30 | Introduction | Syllabus | |
| 9/1 | Scientific understanding | Chapter 1 | |
| 9/6 | Where to start | Chapter 2 | |
| 9/8 | Ethical research | Chapter 3 | |
| 9/13 | APA style | Appendix A | |
| 9/15 | Fundamental research issues I | Chapter 4 | MINI-ASSIGNMENT 1: TOPIC DUE |
| 9/20 | Fundamental research issues II | | |
| 9/22 | Measurement concepts I | Chapter 5 | |
| 9/27 | Measurement concepts II | | |
| 9/29 | Observational methods | Chapter 6 | |
| 10/4 | Survey research | Chapter 7 (p. 132-147) | MINI-ASSIGNMENT 2: MEASUREMENT PLAN DUE |
| 10/6 | Sampling | Chapter 7 (p. 147-157) | |
| 10/11 | <i>In-class activity:</i> Reading Research | Assigned Journal Article | |
| 10/13 | MIDTERM EXAM* | | |
| 10/18 | Experimental design | Chapter 8 | |
| 10/20 | Conducting experiments | Chapter 9 | |
| 10/25 | Complex experimental designs | Chapter 10 | MINI-ASSIGNMENT 3: SAMPLING PLAN DUE |
| 10/27 | Other research designs | Chapter 11 | |
| 11/1 | <i>In-class activity:</i> Reading Research | Assigned Journal Article | |
| 11/3 | Results: Description | Chapter 12 | |
| 11/8 | Results: Inference I | Chapter 13 | |
| 11/10 | Writing Day (NO CLASS) | | MINI-ASSIGNMENT 4: STUDY DESIGN PLAN DUE |
| 11/15 | Generalizing results | Chapter 14 | |
| 11/17 | Discussing results | | |
| 11/22 | <i>In-class activity:</i> Reading Research | Assigned Journal Article | |
| 11/24 | NO CLASS—Happy Thanksgiving! | | |
| 11/29 | Peer presentations | | Bring Handouts |
| 12/1 | Peer Editing | | Bring Research proposal draft |
| 12/6 | Cross-cultural research | | RESEARCH PROPOSAL* DUE |
| 12/8 | Wrap-up, Final Exam Review | | |
| ***FINAL EXAM*: Thursday, December 15th, 8:00am-10:00am*** | | | |

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