

Applied Prevention Science

56:792:604

Fall 2024

Instructor:

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Course information:

Th 6-8:40pm

Room ARM 120

(Plan to meet in person each Thursday. Depending on students' progress on their projects, some weeks may include one-on-one meetings in place of class and some weeks it may make sense to meet over Zoom. If the meeting room on the 4th floor of ARM is available, we'll likely meet there.)

Course description:

In this course (and its sequence course, Seminar in Action Research), graduate students will complete an applied research project in cooperation with a community organization. We will discuss relevant research and work on developing skills conducive to consulting and community-engaged prevention science research. By the end of the semester, students will share a final report and presentation of the background (Introduction) guiding their work, the methodology, and the analytic strategy.

Course objectives:

The learning objectives of this course are consistent with the goals of the Prevention Science Graduate Program. Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Communicate and establish working parameters with a community/organizational partner
- Submit a proposal for your research project to the IRB and present this proposal to the class
- Work on data collection and/or data analyses with your partner organization
- Effectively communicate ideas about your research in writing and in an accessible presentation, including a report at the end of the semester.

Course requirements:

This is the first part in a two-part course sequence. Thus, many of the deadlines this semester must be met in order to earn your grade in the course this fall and also to stay on track to complete your project during spring semester.

1) Contract (due 9/25):

In order to prevent any confusion and to establish appropriate expectations for work with your organization partner, you will draft a contract for both you and a leader/representative of the organization to sign. A sample contract will be available on Canvas. This is an appropriate early step in working with any external group should you engage in consulting or community-engaged research in the future.

This assignment is worth 20 points.

2) Institutional Review Board submission (due 10/9):

Even if you do not need to submit a proposal to the IRB for whatever reason (e.g., the organization you are working with has completed data collection and has an IRB approval that can be revised to include you as an investigator/collaborator), you are required to gain practice submitting a proposal to the Rutgers IRB as a requirement of this class.

This assignment is worth 30 points.

3) Institutional Review Board completion (due 11/27):

Inevitably, after you submit your IRB proposal, there will be revisions that will be asked of you. You will be expected to follow-up with revisions and get IRB approval for your proposal. (It is understood that sometimes the IRB takes a lot longer than expected to process proposals and revisions, so stay in touch with the instructor if you have concerns about the deadline for this assignment).

This assignment is worth 10 points.

4) In class discussion facilitator (2x during the semester):

Each class, starting the second week of class, 1-2 students will be asked to lead the discussion of some of the assigned readings. Please confer with the instructor about the readings as she may have plans for activities or discussions focused on certain readings. Some weeks, you may be asked to select a relevant reading to discuss.

This assignment is worth 5 points for each time, for a total of 10 points.

5) Short practice presentation (due 11/7):

Pick a published journal article written by your advisor or an article of particular interest to you or relevant to the work you'll be doing this semester (not a book chapter, not a review article; an article that reports on one study will be easiest). Present the Introduction and Methods sections of this article as if it were your own as a "practice presentation." Your presentation should be no more than 10 minutes long and approximately 10-15 PowerPoint slides. Your classmates and the instructor will provide feedback on your presentation.

This assignment is worth 15 points.

6) Short project presentation (due 12/5):

During the last month or so of the semester, you will be expected to do a short presentation that is essentially an Introduction and Method section for your work with your organization partner. You should rehearse this ahead of time and have your presentation timed to be 10 minutes. You should prepare PowerPoint slides (10-20 slides max). Your classmates and the instructor will provide feedback on your presentation.

This is worth 25 points.

7) Community partner work update (due 12/7):

By the end of the semester, you will write a report (approximately 4 pages long), detailing your project work, what has gone according to plan (and what hasn't), and what work remains to be completed during the spring semester to meet the goals outlined in your contract with your organization partner. Your reflections on your work so far are encouraged, but your contact at your cooperating organization will receive a copy of this report and thus this document should be professionally written. You should (loosely) write in APA style.

This assignment is worth 65 points (because it is not only a paper but represents your work on your entire project).

8) Class participation

To promote engagement in learning the course material, you are expected to attend and actively participate in class. You should come to class prepared by reading the assigned readings *beforehand* and participate regularly in class discussions. You will be graded on active and high-quality participation. If you must miss class, please inform the instructor if and why you plan to miss (if you miss more than 1 class, you will lose points from your grade).

Class attendance is worth 25 points.

Optional:

Submit your work to a conference. We'll discuss possible conferences where you can present your research for this class (and other research you are involved in).

Total class points = 200

180 points to earn an A in the course, 160 to earn a B, 140 to earn a C, etc.

Course policies:

- **Course webpage:** Additional information about this class, a copy of the syllabus, assignment details, and required readings will be available on the [Canvas course webpage](#). It is your responsibility to keep informed of any updates made to the syllabus and other assignments.
- **Course communication:**
Announcements: Announcements will be posted in Canvas on a regular basis.

They will appear on your Canvas dashboard when you log in and/or will be sent to you directly from Canvas via your preferred method of contact. Please make sure the “announcements” feature is activated in Canvas (under “course notifications”) and be certain to check them regularly.

Email: You may contact me by email. Please do not submit your assignments via email. If you email me and do not receive a response within 48 hours during the week, I did not receive your email. Please note that I will not promise that I can respond to emails after 9pm, on weekends, during holidays, or during university breaks.

Office hours: I am available to meet in person, by phone, or via Zoom. Please email me for an appointment.

- **Missed class/assignments:** Please contact me as soon as possible if you experience an event that affects your ability to attend class or complete an assignment on time. Valid reasons for missing class include serious/highly contagious illnesses, deaths in the family, academic interviews, and conference presentations; valid reasons for not being able to complete an assignment on time are determined by me on a case-by-case basis (and do NOT include insufficient planning/time management). There is limited flexibility in rescheduling presentations.
- **Academic Integrity:** As a student at the University, you are expected to adhere to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#). Academic Integrity is critical to the success of our students and the community. It is everyone’s responsibility to take their education seriously and follow the requirements to ensure that you are doing your own work and following the guidelines of the course and professor and program. Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to): cheating; plagiarism; aiding others in committing a violation or allowing others to use your work; failure to cite sources correctly; fabrication; using another person’s ideas or words without attribution; re-using a previous assignment; unauthorized collaboration; and sabotaging another student’s work. The introduction of new AI technology will be discussed in class and appropriate uses for our class will be considered.
- **Code of Conduct:** You are also expected to adhere to the [Student Code of Conduct](#). The conduct code specifically addresses disruptive classroom conduct, which means “engaging in behavior that substantially or repeatedly interrupts either the instructor’s ability to teach or student learning. The classroom extends to any setting where a student is engaged in work toward academic credit or satisfaction of program-based requirements or related activities.” Please be aware of in-classroom and out-of-classroom expectations by making yourself familiar with and by following the Student Code of Conduct. For this class, please be courteous to others and arrive to class on time, stay the entire time, and do not use electronic devices during class, including laptops. If you engage in any disruptive, offensive, or disrespectful behaviors, you may be asked to leave class and will lose points from your attendance grade.

- **Dropping the course/incompletes:** The last date to drop this course *without* a W grade is **Thursday, September 14**; the last date to drop *with* a W grade is **Monday, October 28**. (Please note that this is a required course that graduate students must take to fulfill the requirements of their degree.) Please consult the academic calendar for additional dates related to dropping the course without tuition penalties.