Course Syllabus

Class location: Armitage 108

Mondays: 3:30 -5:55

Welcome to Introduction to Prevention Science!

This course provides an overview of prevention science and work in related disciplines and supports your development of the skills necessary to contribute as a prevention scientist. As you know, you are a member of the third cohort of students in the brand-new prevention science program at Rutgers-Camden. Together, we'll shape the future of prevention science at Rutgers.

The goals of the course are to:

1. Provide you with a sense of prevention science;

2. Foster your development of the skills essential for success as a prevention scientist;

3. Orient you to possible topics for research and careers.

Quizzes. There will be a quiz at the beginning of each week. Each quiz will focus on the reading assigned for class, the podcast for the week, and questions from previous quizzes. Repeated quizzing is one of the best ways to learn new information (https://knowledgeplus.nejm.org/blog/what-is-the-testing-effect-and-how-does-it-affect-learning-knowledge-and-retention/

Links to an external site.).

Presentations. Each student will make two to four presentations over the course of the semester, both as a member of a group and as solo efforts. Each presentation will follow the *pecha kucha* format (this format will be discussed in the first class). Basically, each presentation will consist of 20 Powerpoint slides, each slide lasting for 20 seconds (precisely). The group presentation will focus on a proposed intervention, while the others will provide an overview of the important points in articles. Please aspire to professional-quality presentations. This means well-prepared, smoothly-presented slides. Avoid hesitations, apologies, animations, and so on. The presentations are an opportunity for you to develop your own style for making presentations.

Team Projects. Towards the beginning of the semester, you will be placed in teams, review funding priorities for foundations, and then make brief presentations (sales pitches) to current or former foundation executives.

Final Project. Your final project will be a 10-page concept paper for an intervention in an area of research you intend to pursue. You will need a literature review, logic model, and plan of analysis. You may use ChatGPT for this and all other projects.

Let's tentatively plan for each of these kinds of assignments contributing 25% to your final grade.

Mutual Expectations

You should expect class to begin on time with a clear organization; your questions should be answered respectfully; and that you will be treated as professionals who want to understand what prevention research can offer.

You should act professionally--from arriving to class on time, completing assignments responsibly, respecting your fellow students--and to understand that I care deeply about the subject matter of this course.

Contact

My office is located on the third floor of Armitage Hall. You may send me an email to set up an appointment. I work in New Brunswick three days a week, but am happy to meet on those days via Zoom or Teams.

My e-mail address is hart@camden.rutgers.edu.

Required Texts

Mastering 'Metrics: The Path from Cause to Effect. Joshua Angrist and Jorn-Steffen Pischke.

The Voltage Effect: How to Make Good Ideas Great and Great Ideas Scale. John A. List.

Both books can be purchased in electronic form from Amazon.

Create a Zotero account (Zotero.org). Zotero is a reference manager and will be useful for writing papers and sharing references. Send me your username for Zotero. This will allow me to share class articles and references with you.

Consider adding Rutgers' VPN software to your computer. This will allow you to access many articles in the library from home.

https://it.rutgers.edu/guides/remote-access-with-anyconnect-virtual-private-network/

Begin reading the abstracts in Kevin Lewis' blog found here. https://www.nationalaffairs.com/authors/detail/kevin-lewis