

CURRENT TOPICS IN PREVENTION SCIENCE (56:792:503)
SPRING, 2025

COURSE INFORMATION

Time: Thursday, 4:45-5:45pm

Location: BSB 118*

**Some meetings will occur virtually. The meeting location, including any location changes, will be communicated via Canvas announcements and will also appear on the course schedule on the Canvas homepage.*

INSTRUCTOR

Kristin August, Ph.D.

Email: kristin.august@rutgers.edu

Office: 413 Armitage; Phone: (856) 225-6431

Office hours: By appointment (virtual or in person)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, you will complete readings, attend presentations, and discuss current topics in prevention science. The course involves presentations from Rutgers-Camden graduate students and faculty as well as speakers from local, national, and international universities, research centers, health care organizations, and businesses. 2nd year students are required to present their “seminar in action research” project (spring semester) and students in their last semester of the course are required to help organize the speaker series. The course also involves reading and discussing relevant articles related to prevention science.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- Retain advanced knowledge in key areas of content related to prevention science.
- Critically evaluate research findings and associated information related to prevention science.

REQUIRED READINGS

- You will be required to complete a reading each week we have a speaker or journal club (thus, there will not be readings *every* week). These readings will be available on the Canvas course webpage and will be posted/updated at least one week in advance.

GRADING

Grades will be determined as follows:

Attendance/class participation	85 points
Weekly questions	<u>15 points</u>
	100 TOTAL POINTS

Letter grades:

A:	90-100 points
B+:	85-89 points
B:	80-84 points
C+:	75-79 points
C:	70-74 points
F:	Less than 70 points (“D” is not a grade in the graduate program)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

CLASS ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION: To promote engagement in learning the course material, you are expected to attend and actively participate in class. You will be graded on active and high-quality participation. If you must miss class, please inform me if and why you plan to miss (if you miss more than 1 class, you will lose points from your grade). Class attendance and participation will account for 85% of your overall grade.

WEEKLY QUESTIONS: To enhance critical thinking about prevention science, for each assigned reading, you will be required to submit at least 2 questions for class discussion. This requires that you complete the assigned reading *before* each class. These questions must be uploaded to Canvas (under the appropriate “discussion” date) by 12pm the day of class. *Note:* You can miss 1 week of questions with no penalty. Also, there may be some weeks that no readings/questions are due, reflected in the schedule. These weekly questions will account for 15% of your overall grade.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The course schedule is available on Canvas and will be updated on an ongoing basis.

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

- Course web page: All the materials you will need for the course will be 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 on 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, as they will contain important information about the course.
 - **Email:** You may contact me by email. **Please use your Rutgers email to contact me, as emails from non-Rutgers’ accounts are sometimes filtered as spam.** Please do not submit your assignments via email. If you email us and do not receive a response within 24 hours during the week, I did not receive your email. Please note that I will not 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. If you do not have a *valid* reason for missing class or turning in an assignment when it is due, you will lose 10% of your assignment grade for each day it is late. Valid reasons for missing class include serious/highly contagious illnesses, deaths in the family, 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).

Rutgers University–Camden seeks a community that is free from violence, threats, and intimidation; is respectful of the rights, opportunities, and welfare of students, faculty, staff, and guests of the University; and does not threaten the physical or mental health or safety of members of the University community, including in classroom space, and a community in which students respect academic integrity and the integrity of your own and others' work. See below for information about Academic Integrity and Code of Conduct.

- 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 and 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. **Academic dishonesty also includes using artificial intelligence (AI) to complete a majority of your work (e.g., ChatGPT).**
- 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 unless you are asked to. *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.*
- Office of Disability Services (ODS)- Students with Disabilities: If you need academic support for your courses, accommodations can be provided once you share a Letter of Accommodation issued by the Office of Disability Services (ODS) that specifies your accommodations indicated. If you have already registered with ODS and have your Letter of Accommodation, please share this with me the first week of the course. If you have not registered with ODS and you have or think you have a disability (learning, sensory, physical, chronic health, mental health or attentional), please visit the [ODS website](#), [email](#), or call [\(856\) 225-6954](#). *Please Note: Accommodations will be provided only for students with a Letter of Accommodation from ODS. Accommodation Letters only provide information about the accommodation, not about the disability or diagnosis.*
- Dropping the course/incompletes: The last date to drop this course *without* a W grade is **Thursday, January 30**; the last date to drop *with* a W grade is **Wednesday, April 21**. (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. Incompletes will not be given in this course except under extremely rare circumstances that require documentation and adherence to university policies.
- Additional resources: Please see the Canvas page for additional resources available.