

University of Florida
College of Public Health & Health Professions Syllabus
Course Number: PHC 6937
Introduction to Mixed Methods Research (3 credits)
Semester: Spring 2021
Delivery Format: Online Via Zoom
Schedule: 8.30-11.30am Monday

Instructor Name: Deepthi S. Varma, PhD, MSW, MPhil
Department of Epidemiology
Room Number: CTRB 4238
College of Public Health & Health Professions
College of Medicine
Clinical and Translational Research Building
2004 Mowry Road, PO Box 100231
University of Florida
Phone Number: 352 394 5941
Email Address: dvarma@ufl.edu
Office Hours: By appointment
Teaching Assistants: None
Preferred Course Communications (e.g. email, office phone): e mail

Pre requisites: Principles of Epidemiology and Epidemiologic Methods I (or equivalent research methods coursework). Students with no prior instruction in epidemiology but with methodological coursework from another related discipline may be admitted with permission from the instructor.

PURPOSE AND OUTCOME

Course Overview: This course focuses on techniques to design and implement research studies that combine qualitative and quantitative data collection. Students will complete assignments that increase their understanding of appropriate use of mixed methods research design and how to effectively avoid pitfalls in mixing methods while designing a research proposal.

Relation to Program Outcomes

1. Illustrate a thorough understanding of epidemiology concepts. (PhD in Epidemiology Student Learning Outcome 3)
 - a. Articulate the goal of using mixed methods research designs in epidemiological research studies
 - b. Compare and understand the differences between qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods research designs
 - c. Identify the various types of mixed methods designs, and strategies to analyze mixed methods data
2. Design epidemiologic research studies and analyze data to answer health-related research questions that are currently relevant to the population. (PhD in Epidemiology Student Learning Outcome 1)
 - a. Develop a mixed methods study protocol including strategies for analysis

Course Objectives and/or Goals:

Upon completion of the course, you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of key paradigmatic debates about mixed methods research methodology.
2. Identify the distinguishing characteristics of major mixed methods research designs.
3. Distinguish between qualitative, quantitative, and mixed method research questions.

4. Identify the variety of ways that qualitative and quantitative data and analytical procedures can be mixed.
5. Write effective mixed methods manuscripts and grant proposals.
6. Understand different viewpoints about major areas of controversy that concern mixed methods methodologists.

Instructional Methods

- 1) **Lectures:** There will be didactic lectures by the instructor for general orientation to concepts and issues related to mixed methods research.
- 2) **Readings and Resources:** Readings and resources will be posted on the course website by the beginning of each week. Students are expected to read the article before class, and critically discuss various sections of the article. All students are expected to participate in article review discussions.
- 3) **Case Studies:** To better illustrate the concepts of mixed methods research design, the course instructor and guest speakers will present research studies led by them or others in the United States or in other countries.
- 4) **Assessments:** Students will be graded on homework, in-class presentations, discussions and participation in class, and attendance.

What is expected of you?

You are expected to actively engage in the course throughout the semester. Your participation fosters a rich course experience for you and your peers that facilitate overall mastery of the course objectives.

Week	Topic(s)	Readings & Assignments
1 01/11	Introduction to the course Mixed methods research: Definition and its evolution	Reading: Will be provided on Canvas
2 01/18	Holiday	
3 01/25	Purpose, goals and theoretical framework in mixed methods research with examples from research studies.	Reading: Will be provided on Canvas Assignment 1 Due: Identify ONE article in your area of interest (published in 2017–2019 only) that uses mixed methods design and critically evaluate the suitability of the design (maximum 10 slides).
4 02/01	Overview of Qualitative research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition • How is it different from quantitative research? • When do you use qualitative research? • Different types of qualitative research approaches • Advantages and challenges of qualitative research methods 	Reading: Will be provided on Canvas
5 02/08	Designing a qualitative research study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sampling • Data collection methods • Data analysis • Interpretation 	In class activity: Coding a qualitative data set. The instructor will provide the data set.
6 02/15	Mixed methods procedures: Theory and application	Reading: Will be provided on Canvas Assignment Due: None

Week	Topic(s)	Readings & Assignments
7 02/22	Sampling procedures in mixed methods research	Reading: Will be provided on Canvas Assignment Due: None
8 03/01	Formulating questions in mixed methods research Student presentations and discussion	Reading: Reading materials will be provided Assignment 2 Due: Identify and present on a topic on which you will develop and present a mixed methods research study during this course. The presentation must include: a) topic with rationale, b) objectives of the study) Sampling and d) expected outcomes (maximum 10 slides).
9 03/08	Data collection procedures in mixed methods research	Reading: Will be provided on Canvas Assignment Due: None
10 03/15	Strategies of data integration Mixed Methods analytical Procedures Student Presentations and Discussions	Readings: Will be provided on Canvas Assignment 3 Due: Based on your Week 8 presentation design, develop and present a study flowchart, data collection methods and the strategies for mixing the methods prior to the analysis (maximum 10 slides).
11 03/22	Application of mixed methods design in large scale program evaluation Student presentations and discussion	Reading: Will be provided on Canvas
12 03/29	Writing effective mixed methods manuscripts and grant proposals	Reading: Will be provided on Canvas
13 04/05	Final research proposal presentations and discussion Final research protocol is expected to be of maximum 5 pages including Background, Aims, Methods including study flowchart, Analysis and Study Timeline.	Reading: None Assignment 4 Due: Compile your previous 3 presentations and present a complete study proposal (maximum 10 slides, excluding reference section).

Points to Note

1. All presentations will be in groups of 3-4 students. Group allocation will occur on the first day of the class. All group members will actively participate in the preparation and presentation of all assignments in the class.
2. Several lectures will be accompanied by in-class activities for a better understanding of the topic discussed that day.

Course Materials and Technology

Reading materials will be provided each week. It is strongly recommended that you bring a laptop computer to class during the Week 5 class meeting for the in-class activity.

Recommended Readings

1. Creamer, E. G. (2018). *An Introduction to Fully Integrated Mixed Methods Research*. Los Angeles: SAGE.
2. Creswell, J. W. (2014). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. Los Angeles: SAGE Publications.

For technical support for this class, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- Learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Grading

Grades are assigned based on the following criteria (see below). We will take every effort to grade all submitted assignments within seven days of the due date. A full explanation of content, discussion questions, assignments, and other course components are completely described in the appropriate weekly pages of this syllabus. All grades will be posted on the course website. If a student notices a discrepancy in any grade as it appears online, s/he must contact the course instructor within one week of the posting date in order to have the problem addressed. Students may not wait until the end of the semester to contest a grade.

Assignments & Grading			
List	Topics	Due	Points
1	Identify one article in your area of interest that uses mixed methods design & critically evaluate the suitability of the design (maximum 5 slides). Your presentation must include: a) Topic of article b) Summary of research design c) What were the research questions and study objectives? d) Do they lend themselves to a mixed methods research design? e) What made it better than a purely quantitative or qualitative approach? f) Benefits and limitations of using mixed methods design	01/25	15%
2	Identify and present on a topic on which you will develop and present a mixed methods research study during this course. The presentation must include: a) topic with rationale, b) objectives of the study c) Sampling and d) Expected outcomes (maximum 10 slides)	03/01	15%
3	Based on your 03/09 presentation design, develop and present a study flowchart, data collection methods and the strategies for mixing the methods prior to the analysis (maximum 10 slides).	03/15	15%
4	Compile your previous 3 presentations and present a complete study proposal (maximum 10 slides, excluding reference section).	04/05	15%
5	Submit the final proposal (Maximum 5 pages).	04/12	30%
6	Attendance and class interactions	Weekly	10%
Total			100%

Rubrics will be provided in class for specifics of grading for each assignment.

Tentative due dates for all grade components are listed on the course schedule above and additional information and specific instructions will be posted on the course website, under the *Assignments* tool. All assignments need to be submitted through course website on Canvas. Please check Canvas regularly for updates to the syllabus that may affect due dates.

Point system used (i.e., how do course points translate into letter grades).

Points earned	93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	65-62	Below 60
Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E

Please be aware that a C- is not an acceptable grade for graduate students. A grade of C counts toward a graduate degree only if an equal number of credits in courses numbered 5000 or higher have been earned with an A. In addition, the Bachelor of Health Science Program does not use C- grades.

You must include the letter grade to grade point conversion table below. Letter grade to grade point conversions are fixed by UF and cannot be changed.

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E	WF	I	NG	S-U
Grade Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

For greater detail on the meaning of letter grades and university policies related to them, see the Registrar's Grade Policy regulations at: <http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Exam Policy

There are no exams for this course.

Policy Related to Make up Assignments or Class Presentations

The instructor must be informed via email of any requests to make-up assignments or class presentations that were missed due to personal/ family emergencies or technical difficulties within 24 hours. Late submission of assignments without prior permission will result in deduction of 2% from the overall grade. Approved makeup assignments should be submitted via email to the instructor.

Policy Related to Required Class Attendance

All students are expected to attend all classes. Late arrival and/or early departures require prior permission from the instructor. Students are also expected to inform the instructor via email if they are going to be absent from the class any particular day.

Please note all faculty members are bound by the UF policy for excused absences. For information regarding the UF Attendance Policy see the Registrar website for additional details:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Policy Related to Guests Attending Class

Only registered students are permitted to attend class. However, we recognize that students who are caretakers may face occasional unexpected challenges creating attendance barriers. Therefore, by exception, a department chair or his or her designee (e.g., instructors) may grant a student permission to bring a guest(s) for a total of two class sessions per semester. This is two sessions total across all courses. No further extensions will be granted. Please note that guests are **not** permitted to attend either cadaver or wet labs. Students are responsible for course material regardless of attendance. For additional information, please review the Classroom Guests of Students policy in its entirety. Link to full policy: <http://facstaff.php.ufl.edu/services/resourceguide/getstarted.htm>

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS, ROLES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

Expectations Regarding Course Behavior

Electronics such as cell phones, and other recording devices are not permitted during the class hours. Laptops are allowed for note taking, if needed.

Please be sure to print this syllabus and plan adequate time each week to view your lectures, read, complete your assignments. Please plan your time accordingly and ask questions if you are not clear on a lecture or assignment before they are due, versus after it is due. Please submit all assignments on time. Please verify that you submitted (1) the right assignment paper, and (2) that you submitted ANY attachment to your assignment.

Communication Guidelines

If you have questions, please feel free to email me through the *Mail* function of Canvas. Also, **remember to check the checkbox with the cc option that reads “send a copy of this message to recipients' email address(es)”**; this will ensure a timely response to your question. Please contact the UF HelpDesk if you have access questions or technical issues with the course: (352) 392-HELP (4357) or helpdesk@ufl.edu or in the HUB, room 132. Please keep a copy of all assignments and work submitted. Canvas will issue an email receipt when assignments are submitted. Please check your submission to be sure it was properly submitted and that you attached the correct file. Print the syllabus for your reference. It is your responsibility to be aware of all assignments, due dates and guidelines. All assignments must be submitted through Turnitin.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity. As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge:

“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”

You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For additional information regarding Academic Integrity, please see Student Conduct and Honor Code or the Graduate Student Website for additional details:

<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

<http://gradschool.ufl.edu/students/introduction.html>

Please remember cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

Online Faculty Course Evaluation Process

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

Inclusive Learning Environment

Public health and health professions are based on the belief in human dignity and on respect for the individual. As we share our personal beliefs inside or outside of the classroom, it is always with the understanding that we value and respect diversity of background, experience, and opinion, where every individual feels valued. We believe in, and promote, openness and tolerance of differences in ethnicity and culture, and we respect differing personal, spiritual, religious and political values. We further believe that celebrating such diversity enriches the quality of the educational experiences we provide our students and enhances our own personal and professional relationships. We embrace The University of Florida's Non-Discrimination Policy, which reads, "The University shall actively promote equal opportunity policies and practices conforming to laws against discrimination. The University is committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act." If you have questions or concerns about your rights and responsibilities for inclusive learning environment, please see your instructor or refer to the Office of Multicultural & Diversity Affairs website: www.multicultural.ufl.edu

SUPPORT SERVICES

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, it is strongly recommended you register with the Dean of Students Office <http://www.dso.ufl.edu> within the first week of class or as soon as you believe you might be eligible for accommodations. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation of accommodations to you, which you must then give to me as the instructor of the course to receive accommodations. Please do this as soon as possible after you receive the letter. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

Counseling and Student Health

Students sometimes experience stress from academic expectations and/or personal and interpersonal issues that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing issues that have the potential to or are already negatively affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and/or seek help through University resources available to you.

- The Counseling and Wellness Center 352-392-1575 offers a variety of support services such as psychological assessment and intervention and assistance for math and test anxiety. Visit their web site for more information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu>. On line and in person assistance is available.
- You Matter We Care website: <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>. If you are feeling overwhelmed or stressed, you can reach out for help through the You Matter We Care website, which is staffed by Dean of Students and Counseling Center personnel.
- The Student Health Care Center at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 392-0627 or check out the web site at: <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>
- Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from: Alachua County Crisis Center (352) 264-6789. <http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx>

Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone; so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.