

POPLHLTH 701

Research Methods in Health

15 Points
Semesters 1 & 2, 2014

Course Prescription

A comprehensive overview, in relation to health, of theoretical underpinnings of research; the asking of research questions; literature reviews; the design, implementation and appraisal of qualitative and quantitative research; and the writing up and dissemination of research.

Goals of the Course

The course aims to provide students with the basic knowledge and skills needed to critically review, use and conduct research in health.

Learning Outcomes

At the successful completion of this course, the students should be able to:

- Understand basic elements of the language, philosophy and ethics of research;
- Formulate an appropriate research question;
- Further develop a justifiable research question through searching and reviewing literature;
- Describe, apply and evaluate quantitative and qualitative study designs to address the research question; and
- Develop a strategy to disseminate knowledge and understanding generated by the research.

Content Outline

The course covers:

An overview of the course workbook, and an introduction to the e-learning management system, called Cecil, and e-learning community, called the HIVE

Research frameworks, theory and ethics

Study questions

Literature reviews

Quantitative study designs, study measures, critical appraisal, and introductory statistics

Case studies of two quantitative designs: cross-sectional surveys and randomised controlled trials

Qualitative study designs, sampling, data gathering and data analysis

Diagnostic tests, dissemination and research proposals.

Learning and Teaching

This is a 15 point Masters level course offered in Semester 1 and Semester 2 in two streams: (1) face to face and (2) distance (within New Zealand). Students are asked to select one of these streams.

Designed for individuals who have no previous or recent training in health research methods, the course provides a foundation (or floor) to knowledge of these methods. It provides entry to other, specialist research courses.

Lessons are taught as eight three-hour sessions for the face to face stream, and individual sets of PowerPoint slides with narration added (on Articulate) for the distance stream. All sessions require previewing of slides, and pre-reading of required texts.

Distance students who are new to study at the School of Population Health are encouraged to visit this website to familiarise themselves with the technologies used as part of our flexible teaching:

"E-Learning at the School of Population Health" http://flexiblelearning.auckland.ac.nz/soph/online_study/

POPLHLTH 701 Research Methods in Health

Teaching Staff

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Programme Administrator

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Campus Teaching Dates in 2014

This course is offered both semesters and students enrol in either an **online** class or **8 three hour** classes at the Tāmaki Campus on these dates. Distance class students are welcome to attend any of these sessions if they wish – note that the first all-day session is particularly beneficial.

Semester 1:

Wednesdays 9:30am-4:30pm on March 5, then mornings 9:30-12:30 March 19, March 26, April 9, May 7, May 13 (lab session 10-12 – note this is a Tuesday), May 21, June 4.

Semester 2:

Wednesdays 9:30am-4:30pm on July 23, then mornings 9:30-12:30 August 6, August 13, September 17, October 1, October 3 (lab session 10-12 – note this is a Friday), October 8, October 22.

Please see your timetable on SSO or Building 730 Reception noticeboard on the day for the room details.

Learning Resources

All the materials are available on the course webpage which is accessible through CECIL as soon as the semester has started.

Assessment

100% coursework:

Assessment 1 – Including your own world view (5 marks)

Assessment 2 – Review of literature (30 marks)

Assessment 3 – Quantitative methods (15 marks)

Assessment 4 – Qualitative methods: analysing focus group transcripts (15 marks)

Assessment 5 – Developing a research proposal (30 marks)

Assessment 6 – Participation in the online learning community called the POPLHLTH 701 NETWORK (5 marks).

Programme and Course Advice

This is a foundational research course, designed for postgraduate students who have not taken a research course towards an UG degree recently.

Students taking POPLHLTH 701 are restricted from taking NURSING 768.