Course objectives:

When you enter this class the first week, I imagine you do so primarily because this is a required course for your major. My goal is to transform your outlook on Research Methods. I want you to come to view it not as a “requirement”, but rather as one of the more useful courses you will complete at Rutgers. By the end of the session, I want you to have:

1) Discussed the essential relationship between theory and research.
2) Understood the nature, principles, and methods of conducting research (be it social, policy, public health research or others).
3) Experienced social (and public health) research firsthand.
4) Developed the ability to critically evaluate other social and public health research.
5) Acquired skills to explore and understand the world around you.
6) Grappled with some of the ethical implications of studying human beings.
7) Acquired a greater knowledge and understanding of the discipline involved.
8) Come to a greater understanding of who you are as a person.
9) Successfully fulfilled a degree requirement.

In our attempt to accomplish such feats, you will be required to read (your class) text as well as other reading materials provided in the field of research methods and engage in many different exercises that, taken together, will comprise a final research project proposal. There are prerequisites and previous work in methodology from Epidemiology and Statistics classes. **Mathematical ability matters less than logical thinking and common sense.** So, don’t be scared. Each one of you has the ability to do this. This will be much easier than getting into college and what you learn here will take far in your careers.

Textbook: TBD (Please come to the first class for details)

Course Materials on Sakai: *(Everything you ever need for this course)*
- Class lectures, homework assignments and examination dates
- Assignments and Midterm
- Resources: ~ Assignments and Answers (Resources tab), ~ Readings~ Webcasts and extra resources

Class Rules: **ALL STUDENTS MUST FOLLOW, NO EXCEPTIONS.**

1. **NO PHONES IN THE CLASS ROOM:** You must turn off your phone when you come to class. I do not want to see phones on your desk they must be put away in your bags (pockets). Student whose phone ring during class or found texting in class will have to leave that class and will not be allowed in till the next class period. **SO NO PHONES PLEASE!**
2. **NO COMPUTERS:** Lectures are posted in advance on sakai, you can print and bring them to class; taking notes (i.e. typing) during lecture is not allowed so do not bring your computers if you do please do not turn them on.
3. Examinations require simple calculators and are scheduled on Sakai. They consist of randomly assigned questions from a question pool, and must be taken in one sitting. Plan your time accordingly.
4. No student who misses more than one summer session will earn a passing grade.
Grading Policy:

There are NO extra credit opportunities for this class. Instead there are multiple ways to maximize your performance. Grading is based on attendance, the timely/correct submission of assignments, as well as grades attained on quizzes and examination. Late assignments will be given up to 1/2 credit if completed within one week only; No credit is give after that time.

The grading rubric for this class is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/participation/including Lab</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework (Lab and in Class)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>20% (Chapters see schedule)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>20% (Chapters see schedule)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper (Proposal)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Class exams will take about an hour and involve calculations and is also given in class (Refer to class schedule for details). Detailed requirement and expectations for the final paper will be discussed in class at length. Exams are based on the text, lecture notes, in-class discussions and readings, and are a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and calculation questions.

Final Grades/Class Grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93 or higher</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88-92</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-87</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78-82</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-77</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63-72</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Guidelines for Assignments:

1. Assignments without names will be given a grade of 0.
2. Assignments that are more than one page must have the pages paper clipped or stapled together. Do not fold the edges over in lieu of a paper clip or staple, as we will not accept these. Assignments that are not clipped or stapled appropriately will be given a grade of 0.
3. Assignments that involve calculations should be completed in pencil. To receive full credit, you must show the formula and calculations, not just the answers.
   - **Full Credit** is given for assignments that are complete, correct, and submitted on time (“on time” means the assignment is turned in before or during the class period when it is due). We will not accept faxed or e-mailed homework assignments.
   - **Half Credit** will be given for homework that is complete, correct, and submitted within one week of the due date (including that which is turned to our office on the due date but received after the class period has begun).
   - **No Credit** will be given for homework that does not comply with the assignment guidelines or which is submitted more than 3 days after the due date.

Academic Integrity:

Honesty and integrity are an essential part of the educational experience. It is expected that students will abide by Rutgers University’s academic rules and regulations. See [http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml).

Taking information from an Internet site and placing it into text without proper citation is plagiarism and students are subject to the same consequences, as they would face for copying information from a text or journal article without proper citation. If you are unsure of the rules of citation, please ask or visit the following website from the Rutgers Writing
COURSE Topics (Detail schedule to follow)

Chapter 1 Overview of the Research Process
Chapter 2 Research Goals (in Epidemiology)
Chapter 3 Overview of Epidemiologic Study Designs
Chapter 4 Research Ethics
Chapter 5 Formulating the Research Question
Chapter 6 Reviewing the Literature
Chapter 7 Obtaining Subjects
Chapter 8 Measuring Concepts
Chapter 9 Analyzing Data
Chapter 10 Interpreting Results
Chapter 11 Reporting Results
Chapter 12 Getting Accepted: Funding, Presentation, Publication

A WORD TO THE WISE

1. If you are having problems, please seek out help early. Come in prepared, having gone over the lectures, text, homework assignments, and problems in the text. Please keep appointments that you make to see me. If your plans change and you can’t make the appointment, please notify me as soon as possible (before the meeting).

2. If you have missed any classes, make sure you get the missed notes from classmates. In cases like this, it usually pays to get the notes from at least two of your classmates. Please don’t ask me to give you a condensed version of lectures you have missed.

3. Please note that the readings are not substitutes for the lectures nor are the lectures a substitute for the readings. Not all the material in the lectures appears in the readings, nor is all the material in the readings covered in the lectures. You are responsible for the material in the texts and in the lectures. I make every effort to have class attendance a necessary (though not sufficient) factor in performing well on examinations.

4. Make it a habit to read a national newspaper daily. A good exercise is to pick up the newspaper and apply concepts we’ve learned to pertinent news stories.

5. Do not wait until after I have lectured on something to read the material work. Come to class prepared!