



The University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley
UTRGV.edu

**Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences
College of Health Affairs
SPRING 2017**

**BMED 3122 – 3BR & 4BR
Independent Research II (Sophomore Spring) –
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

Section 3BR: T 8.00-8.50am &

Section 4BR: 9.25am-10.15am

SABAL HALL 2.110

WELCOME ABOARD!

Contact Information:

Instructor: Dr. Seratna Guadarrama-Beltran

Office: BRHP 1.115

Phone: (956)882-7667

Email: seratna.guadarrama@utrgv.edu

Office Hours: M 10am-12pm; T 1pm-3pm; & W 2pm-4pm or by appointment.

Course Description

This course will introduce you to the research methodology behind a research investigation. Different research-based approaches will be studied, as well as how to use the resources and tools available to publish scientific work.

Essential Course Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course, students will be able to

1. Read, discuss, and analyze material related to Biomedical and any other scientific discipline.
2. Identify, discuss, and employ adequate vocabulary relevant to the subject area.

3. Demonstrate competency in basic concepts.
4. Apply course material in practical situations.
5. Explain scientific.
6. Take advanced courses pertaining to the subject matter.

Text:

No text necessary for this course.

Important information:

- Reading all pertinent material ahead of time is essential.
- Students are expected to attend all sessions.
- Participation is strongly encouraged!!
- I expect you to be courteous to your fellow students and myself during the lecture.
- Please refrain from engaging in distracting conversations with people around you, texting, or any activity that will distract you or your classmates from the lecture.
- Check Blackboard regularly for important announcements/assignments/lecture slides.
- Do not hesitate to set up an appointment with me if you have any comments, questions, or concerns regarding the class or the material.
- The lecture doesn't cover everything in the chapter. That does not mean that what wasn't said during class won't be on the exam.
- Reading about current research in scientific papers and sharing it with the class (upon instructor's approval) is particularly encouraged.

Assessment

Team Base Learning (TBL)	25%
Attendance and class participation	25%
Dissecting a research paper	25%
Final exam	25%
Total	100%

Grading policy: A= 90-100 B= 80-89 C= 70-79 D= 60-69 F= 0-59

Topics	Week #*
Course Introduction	1
Research design (Dissecting Research Paper) Cross sectional vs. longitudinal studies Hypothesis and research question Specific aims and objectives Different types of research (human subject, animal, cell)	2 & 3
	4 & 5
Based research (TBL) Evidence-based research/medicine Community-based research Inter-professional research Discovery-based research	6 & 7
	8 & 9
	10 & 11
Literature review Search engines/Databases (i.e., Pubmed, Google scholar) How to cite references (In-text citation, Endnote)	12
IRB, IACUC, IBC What are they? How to submit IRB/IACUC/IBC protocols for approval?	13
	14
Final Exam	15

*Subject to change depending on dynamics of semester.

Exam requirements:

1. Scantrons may be needed, be sure to buy some before coming to an exam, (Form 882-E). Exams may be composed of multiple choice and essay questions or, debate presentations or open book essay questions.
2. Unless otherwise stated, your work area should be clear. No cellphones and no water bottles on your workspace, keep them inside your purse or your backpack.
3. NO MAKEUP EXAM WITHOUT A LEGITIMATE EXCUSE. In the event of a legitimate and documented absence from an in-class exam (e.g. serious illness on the day of the exam with a doctor's note, proof of being hospitalized) you must consult the Instructor within 24 hours of your absence for an in-class exam. Absences without a valid reason will result in a grade of zero for the missed exam.
4. When exams are administered, as soon as the first student is finished with his/her exam, no one will be admitted into the testing room.

5. If you arrive late for an examination, you will not be given any additional time to complete the exam.

6. At the end of the exam, you must return your copy of the exam when you turn in your scantron.

Extra Credit

Please make sure you come to class as there may be extra credit activities. Remember extra credit points may come in handy by the end of the semester.

Calendar of Activities

The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at <http://my.utrgv.edu> prior to login.

UTRGV policies:

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with Student Accessibility Services, University Center Room 108 - telephone (956) 665-7005 (Edinburg); or Cortez 129 - telephone (956) 882-7374 (Brownsville).

MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:

Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (<http://my.utrgv.edu>); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Online evaluations will be available mid April – early May, 2017. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.

ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV's attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:

As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all

students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:

In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

COURSE DROPS:

According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

Study Tips

You can use your own notes, flash cards, videos and/or other visual aids. Additionally, you might find it useful to read ahead of time, and after every lecture again skim through the book chapter. Lecture slides will be uploaded regularly to assist you in your learning process. Please be warned, do not use lecture slides as your sole source of learning material but rather, as a guide. You are welcome to come and see me during office hours to clear any doubts. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the student to find other materials to help her/him in their learning process.

Enjoy the journey! ☺

Dr S