

Applied Public Health Research (POPM 6950)

Master of Public Health, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph
Winter 2012

Professor	Andrew Papadopoulos
Time	TBD
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Course Description

This course explores advanced research approaches to the analysis of public health problems, incorporating knowledge synthesis and translational methods. The final course submission will help policymakers and practitioners understand emerging public health issues.

Course Focus and Scope

This course will have students undertake a knowledge synthesis project that will summarize an emerging public health issue in Canada. These issues are becoming a concern to the public health community and a summary of the literature with recommendations for future is required. Each student may take a different knowledge synthesis approach to summarize the body of literature that is available. Each report will conclude with potential directions that the public health community may wish to take to address this issue. It is expected that the final articles will be formatted and submitted for publication in a peer reviewed journal as well.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Describe the different methods of knowledge synthesis and be able to choose the appropriate method for their research project.
2. Effectively conduct an evidence review listing search terms and inclusive and exclusive criteria.
3. Conduct a knowledge synthesis search and summarize the data.
4. Identify the gaps in the research.
5. Develop recommendations that the public health community may take to move forward on this issue.
6. Effectively use reference management software.
7. Identify a peer reviewed journal and format an article for submission.

Teaching Methods

The teaching methods to be used in the course include discussion as well as supervision and guidance of independent study.

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Required Reading

Weed M. "Meta interpretation": a method for the interpretive synthesis of qualitative research. Forum: Qualitative Social Research. 2005;6(1).

For All Projects

All individual knowledge translation documents will be 3-5 pages of text and will include these attachments:

- Methodology – search terms, databases, criteria for inclusion
- Reference management file

Instructions to authors:

1. Style

- Keep the style simple, preferably without formatting;
- Use Arial font – 12pt for body;
- Use 10pt Arial for tables;
- No section breaks.

2. References/Bibliography

- Use **reference management software** to create the bibliography and in-text citations Endnote software is preferred or Reference Manager. If another software package is used such as RefWorks or Zotero, please ensure that the library for the Evidence Review can be exported in an Endnote-compatible format (e.g., BibTeX, Endnote/Refer/BibIX, Medline, RIS);
- Include as much citation field information as possible when inputting the citation to Endnote, including URLs for access (or DOIs – Digital Object Identifiers) and PDF attachments;
- Use Vancouver style formatting for all parts of the review (e.g., in-text citations, footnotes, figures, tables, bibliography);
- Send the Endnote library as a compressed library or send library files (.enl and .data) in a zip folder (with PDFs included where possible);
- Obtain permission for all reproductions of figures/tables published elsewhere. Include permission for French translation.
- Contact Michele Wiens (Michele.wiens@bccdc.ca) if you have any questions regarding these criteria or if you require general assistance with preparing a software library for export.

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Course Schedule

TBD

Assessment

Assignment	Date Due	Grade (% of course)
Literature Search	February 13, 2012	20%
Draft knowledge synthesis report	March 5, 2012	20%
Final knowledge synthesis report	March 26, 2012	40%
Final submission formatted for publication	April 16, 2012	20%

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Rules and Regulations

All policies of the University of Guelph, the Ontario Veterinary College and the Department of Population Medicine apply. It is the responsibility of each student to be familiar with these policies.

In-Class Behaviour

Students are expected to come to lectures prepared for the class. Questions are encouraged at any time during lecture provided that they do not interfere with the other students' ability to take in the material presented. Students are expected to treat each other with the utmost respect; disruptions to the class will not be permitted.

Environmental Policy

We would like to minimize the use of paper in this course and therefore, encourage you to hand in assignments electronically.

Deadlines

Late assignments will be penalized at 5% of the value of the assignment each day late, weekends included. Extensions will *only* be granted with appropriate documentation (i.e. for medical reasons supported by a medical note or upon the written recommendation of Counseling Services).

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty, which includes plagiarism and cheating, is an extremely serious academic offence and carries penalties varying from a zero (0) grade on an assignment to expulsion from the University. Definitions, penalties, and procedures for dealing with plagiarism and cheating are set out in University of Guelph's *Academic Integrity Policy*. You have a responsibility to educate yourself – unfamiliarity with the policy is not an excuse. You are strongly encouraged to visit to learn more <http://www.academicintegrity.uoguelph.ca/> to learn more.

Referencing Policy

Written work that is not properly referenced will be considered to be below the standard expected in this course and will be returned to the student with no mark. The student will be expected to re-submit the paper during the next class, fully and properly referenced in order to have the paper accepted for grading. Failure to re-submit the paper will result in a grade of zero (0) on the assignment. Among other things, proper referencing involves the consistent use of a single referencing style.

Access to Instruction

It is the University of Guelph's intent to create an inclusive learning environment. If a student has a disability and/or health consideration and feels that he/she may need

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accommodations to succeed in this course, the student should contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities (CSD) <http://www.csd.uoguelph.ca/csd/> CSD offers specialized programs and services to students with disabilities registered at the University of Guelph (full-time or part-time undergraduate and graduate).

Counselling Services

<http://www.counselling.uoguelph.ca/counselling/>

Counselling Services offer individual counselling sessions to help support students as they work through the personal challenges that impair their ability to succeed at school and in other areas of their lives.

Student Health Services

<http://www.studenthealth.uoguelph.ca/index2.shtml>

Student Health Services offers a variety of health care services, including primary health care, a walk-in clinic and on-site laboratory testing.

The Learning Commons

<http://www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca/>

The Learning Commons brings together services that support students in their learning, writing, research, numeracy and the use of technology. In addition, they provide expertise and resources for faculty, staff and teaching assistants to support and enhance learning in their courses and across the curricula.

Health and Performance Centre

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/hpc/>

Health and Performance Centre specializes in the diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of acute and chronic orthopedic, musculoskeletal, sport and activity related injuries. The Centre also provides a variety of health promotion services including fitness and nutrition expertise and professional bicycle fitting.

University of Guelph Maps

Map of Campus

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/campus/map/>

Parking Map

http://www.parking.uoguelph.ca/images/Parking_Map_2008-09.pdf