
Psychology 331, Spring 2017:
Laboratory in Community and Prevention Research

Time: Mondays & Wednesdays, 9 to 10:50a.m.
Location: Behavioral Sciences Building, Room 2057
Instructor: Kristine M. Molina, Ph.D.
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Office Hrs: Mondays & Wednesdays, 11:00a.m. to 12:00p.m.; or by appointment

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Office Hrs.:	Thursdays, 12:00p.m. to 1:00p.m.	Thursdays, 10:00a.m. to 11:00p.m.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to give students hands-on experience conducting critical community psychology research, with a specific focus on a social issue impacting the city of Chicago and that has clear practical and policy implications. The main objective is to learn how to do *catalytic research*—that is, research for social change. The main format of this course is workshop-discussion in order to facilitate active and collaborative learning. Students will develop research skills by working in dyads to design and execute a small-scale quantitative study, analyze data (using SPSS Software), and interpret findings from an ecological perspective; as well as lay communication skills by writing a policy brief and oral presentation based on their research study findings. Together, these skills should facilitate students' ability to conduct critical scientific research to cultivate change locally and for society at large. Most activities will be done together during class time so that students have the opportunity to problem solve by having ample time to ask questions, obtain feedback, and practice required tasks for course assignments.

Course Material

All readings, handouts and any other documents needed for class and course assignments will be available on the course Blackboard site.

Directions for Assignments

You will be provided with specific directions for each of your assignment, along with their grading rubric. Each member of student dyads is expected to turn in their own assignments, although it is expected that you will consult with each other as collaborative partners in the research process. **All writing assignments must be typed, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, and conform to APA formatting.**

You are required to submit hard copies of writing assignments during class the day on which they are due. You are also required to upload these assignments to **SafeAssign on Blackboard before 9am of the due date.**

Course Requirements

Participation (10%)

While the format of our course will vary depending on the topic or activity for the day, constructive class and group participation, as well as consistent and engaged reading of assigned texts, and completion of in-class activities are required from all registered students. Openness, a willingness to listen to others respectfully, and sharing of ideas are essential elements for developing a lively and respectful course environment and discussion for all. I recognize that people have very different styles of participation and different levels of comfort with speaking in class. Your participation grade will reflect not how many times you speak in the course, but how you integrate comments that reflect critical thinking of course material and activities. **If you miss a class section, you will receive no participation grade for that day.**

Completion of Institutional Review Board (IRB) Online Training (2%)

It is required that anyone at UIC conducting human subjects research complete the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) online training (<https://www.citiprogram.org/>) for "Group 2: Social/Behavioral Research Investigators and Key Personnel." Although data collected will only be used for educational purposes, completion of IRB training ensures that you are aware of the ethical guidelines mandated by UIC when conducting human subjects research. You are expected to complete the online training and turn in the certificate of completion.

Quantitative Research Project (8%)

Student pairs will conduct a small quantitative research study focused on a social issue impacting Chicago that is policy-relevant. Student dyads will work collaboratively to come up with a research question and hypotheses that will be tested empirically by designing a research survey and analyzing the data from it. Although students will work in dyads, each member is required to collect questionnaires from a minimum of 20 research participants. **Bringing in completed questionnaires is mandatory, as lab research activities depend on having these data.** Students will enter their data and conduct statistical analyses on them during class time, guided by the instructor and teaching assistants.

Final Research Paper (45%)

Throughout the semester you are expected to complete multiple sections of your final writing assignment standard of a scientific research paper. The following are the assignments you are required to turn in:

- Writing Assignment 1: Statement of Research & Hypotheses
- Writing Assignment 2: Summary of 2 Quantitative Articles
- Writing Assignment 3: Full Literature Review (Summary of 5 Quantitative Articles)
- Writing Assignment 4: Method Section
- Writing Assignment 5: Results Section
- Writing Assignment 6: Discussion Section
- Writing Assignment 7: Final Research Paper

Policy Brief (25%)

A major tenant of community psychology research is to translate research into action for social change. As such, you are required to complete a 3- to 4-page policy brief directed to a specific audience (e.g., state agency, community organization, practitioners). The policy brief is meant to summarize and evaluate the findings of your research study for a non-scientific audience in order to help inform policy at any level. The objective of this assignment is to develop practical application on how to put data to use in the real world.

Final Oral Presentation (10%)

Each student pair is required to give an in-class oral presentation that condenses their research study's information even further. Each student dyad will have 10 minutes to present their policy briefs orally, as if the class was the community organization, legislative group, or any other stakeholder group (e.g., City Council) of particular focus to your project. The breakdown of the 10-minute presentation will be 6 minutes for presentation and 4 minutes for questions from the audience.

Extra Credit (2%)

There will be an opportunity to receive extra credit by collecting an additional 5 completed surveys for use in your research study. These surveys should be collected by April 11th. Extra credit will be given to the individual member, not the dyad, who collected an additional 5 surveys to their required 20. If both members of the dyad each collect 5 additional surveys, you each will earn an additional 1% toward the extra credit percentage.

COURSE POLICIES

E-mail Communication: If you have any question related to the course or grading, please first e-mail the course TAs. Any issues that the TAs cannot resolve will be forwarded to me. On most occasions, you will receive a response within 48 hours during normal business days. Questions or concerns regarding your grades will only be answered in person during office hours or by appointment.

Extensions and Late Assignment Policy: Assignments are to be turned in at the start of the class period the day on which they are due. Only on rare occasions will an extension be granted. Arrangements for an extension must be made with the instructor a minimum of *48 hours prior* to the assignment's due date. If you miss a course requirement without my permission, you will receive none of the total points allocated for that assignment.

Attendance Policy: Because this is a lab-based course, attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be taken at every class. Please notify me in advance if you need to miss class. In case of a medical issue, a documented note from a doctor is required for an excused absence. Showing up more than 15 minutes late to class will count as non-attendance and your assignment will be considered late.

Classroom Climate Policy: This class needs to be an inclusive, respectful and supportive environment for all students regardless of social background. Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. If you have specific needs or concerns related to the classroom environment, please see me as soon as possible.

Academic Integrity Policy: All students are required to abide by the UIC Student Disciplinary Policy. No form of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) will be tolerated. If you are ever unsure about what constitutes plagiarism, attend office hours and ask for guidance. Importantly, when turning in interview and questionnaire data, it must have been collected from real research participants. Fabrication of data is a major ethical violation in our field, and is taken very seriously. All infractions will be reported to the University Judiciary Committee and the student may be subject to various disciplinary actions including a failing grade on the particular assignment, failure of the entire course, and possible expulsion from the University.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with UIC's Disability Resource Center. Please notify me within the first week of the course of any accommodations needed, as I would like us to discuss ways to ensure that every student has equitable access to participate fully and succeed in this course.

Tentative Course Outline

Week	Day and Date	Class Focus/Activity	Assignment Due
1	Monday 1/9	Introduction/Course Overview	
	Wednesday 1/11	Ethical Principles: Research Ethics in Community Research; IRB Online Training	
2	Monday: 1/16	NO CLASS	
	Wednesday 1/18	Grounding the Research: Critical Community Psychology Research and Theory	IRB Completion Certificate Due
3	Monday 1/23	Preparing & Planning: Identifying a Research Question Literature Search	
	Wednesday 1/25	Preparing & Planning: Creating a Literature Matrix	
4	Monday 1/30	Preparing & Planning: Statement of Research Hypothesis Formulation	Writing Assignment #1 Summary of 2 articles from literature review
	Wednesday 2/1	Preparing & Planning: Selecting Measures	
5	Monday 2/6	Preparing & Planning: Creating Your Research Survey	Writing Assignment #2 Statement of Research/Hypotheses
	Wednesday 2/8	Preparing & Planning: Finalize Survey	Begin Data Collection
6	Monday 2/13	Doing the Research: SPSS Data Entry Workshop	At least 10 completed questionnaires
	Wednesday 2/15	Doing the Research: Data Entry Cont'd	Last 10 completed questionnaires completed
7	Monday 2/20	Doing the Research: Data Entry Cont'd	Extra Credit: Additional 5 completed questionnaires
	Wednesday 2/22	Doing the Research: Data Transformation	Writing Assignment #3 Full Literature Review (5 total empirical articles)
	Monday	Doing the Research:	

8	2/27	Method Section Workshop	
	Wednesday 3/1	Doing the Research: Method Section Cont'd Data Analysis Workshop	
9	Monday 3/6	Doing the Research: Data Analysis Workshop Cont'd Writing Up Results	Writing Assignment #4 Method Section
	Wednesday 3/8	Doing the Research: Writing Up Results Cont'd	
10	Monday 3/13	Interpreting Research: Discussion Workshop	Writing Assignment #5 Results Section
	Wednesday 3/15	Interpreting Research: Discussion Workshop Cont'd	
11	Monday: 3/20	SPRING BREAK	
	Wednesday: 3/22	SPRING BREAK	
12	Monday 3/27	Doing Research: Incorporating Community Voices	
	Wednesday 3/29	Research Dissemination: Translating Science and Engaging Stakeholders	Writing Assignment #6 Discussion Section
13	Monday: 4/3	Out-of-Class Assignment (Tentative)	
	Wednesday 4/5	Research Dissemination: Policy Brief Workshop	
14	Monday 4/10	Research Dissemination: Policy Partner Reviews	
	Wednesday 4/12	Communicating Research: Final Presentation Workshop	
15	Monday 4/17	Academic Research Writing: Final Paper Workshop	Policy Brief Due
	Wednesday 4/19	Communicating Research: Final Oral Presentations (Groups 1-5)	
16	Monday 4/24	Communicating Research: Final Oral Presentations (Groups 6-10)	
	Wednesday 4/26	Finalizing Final Paper In-Class Course Evaluation Completion	Writing Assignment #7 Final Research Paper Due by Friday 4/28

Please note: The class schedule and readings are subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class or through e-mail. Please be sure to check your e-mail for notification regarding any postings on Blackboard or changes to course assignments.