

# Syllabus

## Environmental Health Research Discussions PHC 7935.001 (ref# 84850)

Fall 2007

- Course Description:** Interaction of faculty and students on environmental health research. Emphasis is given to activities that enhance student research progress, including tools development, research presentations, and journal club.
- Objectives:** Upon completion of this course, the student should have gained:
- 1) Knowledge and experience with research presentation
  - 2) Breadth of knowledge on environmental health research topics
  - 3) Confidence and experiences with interactive research discussions
  - 4) Understanding of the research process
  - 5) Understanding of their responsibilities in pursuing a research degree
  - 6) Tools for improved research (research writing, literature review, library resources)
- Credit Hours:** 1 unit
- Dates and Times:** Thursdays, 12:00 – 12:50 pm. August 30 – December 6.
- Location:** COPH, Room 1108
- Enrollment Restrictions:** Restricted to research students in Environmental and Occupational Health. Others may enroll with special permission of the instructor.
- Delivery Format:** Face-to-face classroom instruction.
- Attendance Requirement:** Students are expected to regularly participate in the class through asking and answering questions. If you do not attend, it is not possible to participate.
- Grading Scale:** Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory grading only.
- Instructor Information:**
- Instructor Name: Amy Stuart, PhD  
Office: COPH 1116  
Office Hours: M, Th 4:00 – 5:30 PM. Office hours are by sign-up or walk-in. Sign-up sheets for office hour slots will be posted on the door of COPH 1116.  
Phone: 974-6632  
Email address: [astuart@hsc.usf.edu](mailto:astuart@hsc.usf.edu)  
Preferred method of contact: The instructor's preferred method of contact is face-to-face during office hours. I will also respond to email and phone messages on a limited basis. Reply times may vary up to several days.

## Course Outline and Requirements:

**Session Format:** Each 50 minute session will feature a discussion or presentation on an environmental health research topic or on a general research tools topic. Discussions will be led by the instructor, other faculty, outside speakers, and students (as discussed below).

Sign-ups for presentation slots will occur during the first class meeting.

**Student Presentations:** All students are required to lead class discussion 2-3 times (depending on enrollment) during the semester.

One of these sessions must be a presentation on the student's research. Students are encouraged to use the time in a manner most beneficial to their research progress, including:

- 1) giving a practice talk for a conference presentation,
- 2) giving a practice poster for a conference presentation,
- 3) giving a practice job or defense talk,
- 4) presenting (in a formal manner) hurdles to research progress,
- 5) presentation of a paper in preparation for publication, or
- 6) presentation of a study topic relevant to the student's research for which the student has done a literature review.

Each of the other 1-2 sessions led by each student can be used for a different research presentation of the type above, or for leading the discussion about 1 - 2 journal articles (journal club). A few slides should be prepared to facilitate the discussion.

**Research Tools Topics**  
*(Potential):*

- 1) Research degree planning
- 2) Effective methods for reading research papers and literature review
- 3) Introduction to library tools
- 4) Technical writing
- 5) Introduction to useful internet-based library tools
- 6) Laboratory tour

Other Suggestions?

The number of research tools sessions will depend on the number of available sessions remaining after all students have signed up for their slots.

**Participation:** During and subsequent to each session, students are strongly encouraged to ask questions and provide input to the presenter.

**Schedule:**  
*(Tentative)*

August 30	Overview of Course Course Planning Sign-ups for presentation slots
Sept 6 – Dec 6	Research tools development, student presentations, or journal club
Nov 22	<i>Thanksgiving, No Class</i>

## **Classroom and University Policies:**

Academic Dishonesty and Disruption of the Academic Process:	Academic dishonesty or disruption of the academic process in any form, including plagiarism, will not be tolerated. See the following for a discussion of forms and consequences, at <a href="http://www.sa.usf.edu/handbook/academics/ImportantAcademicPolicies.htm">http://www.sa.usf.edu/handbook/academics/ImportantAcademicPolicies.htm</a> or <a href="http://catalog.grad.usf.edu/currentpdf/USF_Graduate_Catalog_2005_2006_section6.pdf">http://catalog.grad.usf.edu/currentpdf/USF_Graduate_Catalog_2005_2006_section6.pdf</a>
Permission to Use Lectures:	Materials generated for this class may be copyrighted. You may make single copies for your personal scholastic use, in accordance with U.S. copyright law. Any other reproduction or dissemination is forbidden without prior express permission from the copyright holder. Lectures may not be recorded without prior permission of the instructor.
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):	The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, you should contact the USF Office of Academic Support and Accommodations for Students with Disabilities to apply for services. Services offered are discussed at <a href="http://www.asasd.usf.edu/index.htm">http://www.asasd.usf.edu/index.htm</a>
Student Handbook:	<a href="http://www.sa.usf.edu/handbook/">http://www.sa.usf.edu/handbook/</a>
Student Conduct:	USF Student Rights/Responsibilities: <a href="http://www.sa.usf.edu/handbook/rights/StudentRightsResponsibilities.htm">http://www.sa.usf.edu/handbook/rights/StudentRightsResponsibilities.htm</a> USF Student Code of Conduct: <a href="http://www.sa.usf.edu/handbook/rights/StudentCodeofConduct.htm">http://www.sa.usf.edu/handbook/rights/StudentCodeofConduct.htm</a>
Holidays and Religious Observances:	<a href="http://www.sa.usf.edu/handbook/policies/ReligiousPracticesPolicy.htm">http://www.sa.usf.edu/handbook/policies/ReligiousPracticesPolicy.htm</a>

## **Additional Resources for Students:**

Library Resources:	‘How to Find a Journal Article’: <a href="http://itt.usf.edu/publichealth/library/tutorial/index.html">http://itt.usf.edu/publichealth/library/tutorial/index.html</a> USF Library Resources and Services: <a href="http://www.lib.usf.edu/">http://www.lib.usf.edu/</a> Shimberg Health Sciences Library: <a href="http://hsc.usf.edu/library/">http://hsc.usf.edu/library/</a>
Plagiarism:	Tutorial on Plagiarism for Students: <a href="http://www.cte.usf.edu/plagiarism/plag.html">http://www.cte.usf.edu/plagiarism/plag.html</a>
Creating Citations:	<a href="http://web.lib.usf.edu/usflibraries/help-styleguides.html">http://web.lib.usf.edu/usflibraries/help-styleguides.html</a>
Using Bibliographic Management Software:	<a href="http://itt.usf.edu/publichealth/library/bms/bms_v5_interface.html">http://itt.usf.edu/publichealth/library/bms/bms_v5_interface.html</a>