Course Syllabus
Spring 2014 – ModMester 2

Course Title: Research Methods in Health Science
Course Prefix/Number: HSA 3702
Credit Hours: 3
Instructor: Jill Moore RDH, BSDH, MHA
Email: Moore.Jill@SPCollege.edu
Phone: Off-Campus; Please email within ANGEL for phone appointment
Office/Virtual Hours: By appointment via e-mail
Instructor Web Page: www.spcollege.edu/instructors/id/moore.jill

Program Administration
Dean, College of Health Sciences: Rebecca Ludwig, PhD
Administrative Services Specialist: Annee Bell
Administrative Services Specialist Phone: 727-341-3771
Office Location: HEC 179
Course Mentor: Teri Trede, PhD, MPH
Course Mentor Email: Trede.Teri@spcollege.edu

Important Course Dates:
- Last date to drop with a full refund: March 21, 2014
- Last date to withdraw with a “W”: April 17, 2014

Please save this Course Syllabus for future reference. You will be required to reference this syllabus during your final Capstone Experience.

Course Time Commitment: This BASHSA online course is organized into 8 weekly Modules and requires your active participation. Expect to spend about 8-12 hours of time per week for each course. This would be equivalent to classroom time and studying/completing assignments in a traditional course.

Course Meeting Times: This is an online, eight (8) week course. Module/weekly pages will generally open at least by Monday morning at 8 a.m. Please check the course snapshot for complete details on beginning and ending dates of modules/weeks. Due to its shortened timeframe Module/week 8 may have different open and close dates. As such, all dates are posted in the course snapshot and are non-negotiable. This course is not self-paced.

Required Textbooks:
Attendance: For this class, active participation/attendance is defined as logging into the course throughout the week, participating in online discussion forums and completing and submitting required assignments, quizzes & posting forums by the posted due dates each week of the course. Thus, simply logging in does not constitute attendance. Please see the link to the college syllabus addendum below for additional details.

Holidays: Because of the shortened nature of this course, holidays that occur during this course are not considered days off. All due dates are posted in the course snapshot. Please plan ahead for all religious and personal holidays so that your work is not considered late.

Assignments/Discussion Postings: Each week you will be required to complete assignments and/or discussion postings. The assignments may consist of chapter questions, weekly case reviews, knowledge assessments (quizzes), reaction papers, weekly summaries, PowerPoint presentations, worksheets, and other written assignments as assigned. All weekly assignments are due by Sunday night at midnight EST or as stated in the course snapshot. All first original discussion postings are due by Thursday night at midnight EST. All discussion replies are due by Sunday at midnight EST. Due to the pace of this course and the eight (8) week format, it is easy to get behind. I strongly urge you to communicate with me in the event of an emergency or unexpected situation. All assignments must be submitted to the dropbox as an attachment.

Contacting the Instructor: The best way to contact me is via ANGEL email within this course. If ANGEL is unavailable please contact me using your @live.spccollege.edu at the address above. You may expect a response from me within 24-48 hours. Your Live@edu student email is the college’s official way to communicate with you outside of your ANGEL courses. It is important that you use your SPC student email account for any electronic correspondence with SPC, as your personal email may get sent to spam and/or be deleted. You will periodically be receiving important updates, notices, or official communication from SPC that will only be sent to your school account, thus be sure to regularly check your Live@edu email. Your student email account includes features other than just communication that you may find useful in planning and managing your college experience. For more information on the full capabilities of the system, watch a short video tutorial here, or go to MYSPC and click on Technical Support/Support Center. If needed, I am available via phone, contact me first by email to arrange contact.

Course Description:
Prerequisite: HSA 3104 with a minimum grade of C and admission to the Health Services Administration Program. This course is an overview of the role and scope of research as it relates to the support of decision making. This course develops the basic skill of critically analyzing research findings. Research methods are introduced with emphasis placed on analyzing key elements of research reports as a basis for determining the appropriateness of the research results for evidence-based health service’s practice. 47 contact hours or equivalent.

Major Learning Outcomes:
1. The student will identify aspects of the research process.
2. The student will foster the value of health research supporting evidence based practice for optimal patient care.

3. The student will determine the quality of health research in supporting evidence based decision making for optimal patient care.

4. The student will understand the importance of standards for protecting human subjects in all research projects.

5. The student will determine valid and reliable research results and utilize these results to affect health promotion and disease prevention.

**Course Objectives Stated in Performance Terms:**

1. The student will identify aspects of the research process by:
   a. stating research roles expected at the baccalaureate level, versus at the graduate level.
   b. distinguishing between qualitative and quantitative approaches to research.
   c. defining empirical data.
   d. distinguishing between experimental and non-experimental research.
   e. discussing the major sources of researchable problems.
   f. choosing the features of a research problem statement.
   g. proposing a purpose statement when given a problem statement.
   h. accessing a full-text experimental research article from a refereed journal.
   i. citing a research article using American Psychological Association (APA) format.
   j. suggesting data collection methods that are used in health care settings.
   k. defending the purpose of a hypothesis in a research study.
   l. selecting the criteria necessary for a research study to be published.

2. The student will foster the value of health research supporting evidence based practice for optimal patient care by:
   a. defending the importance of Evidence Based Decision Making (EBDM)
   b. defending the role that research plays in evidence.
c. discussing the difference between evidence and research.

d. defining primary and secondary research sources.

e. stating the criteria and purpose of a credible literature review.

f. demonstrating the ability to critically analyze specific aspects of a research study.

g. identifying the value and methods of disseminating research results.

3. The student will determine the quality of health research in supporting evidence based decision making for optimal patient care by:

a. identifying independent and dependent variables.

b. assembling and interpreting p-values.

c. identifying key features of simple, complex, directional, non-directional and null hypotheses.

d. distinguishing among various non-experimental design studies.

e. suggesting methods to help assure internal validity in a research study.

f. assessing the adequacy of sample size in quantitative research.

g. identifying the validity and reliability in quantitative research methods.

h. describing the characteristics of major quantitative data-collection instruments and techniques.

i. classifying and determining the levels of measurement.

j. differentiating and comparing descriptive and inferential statistics.

k. discussing the differences between random, stratified random, systematic and convenience sampling techniques.

l. defining and differentiating populations, eligibility criteria and samples.

4. The student will understand the importance of protecting human subjects in all research projects by:

a. assessing the purpose of Institutional Review Boards (IRB).

b. identifying the components of appropriate methods for informed consent.
c. appraising the historical development of practice codes for the protection of human subjects.

5. The student will determine valid and reliable research results and utilize these results to affect health promotion and disease prevention by:
   a. relating the importance of careful interpretation of research findings.
   b. assessing the relationship between conducting research and the utilization of research.
   c. defending the rationale for replication of research.
   d. discussing shared responsibility for Evidence Based Decision Making (EBDM).
   e. evaluating the purpose and steps of research utilization.

Criteria Performance Standard:
Upon successful completion of this course the student will, with a minimum of 70% accuracy, demonstrate mastery of each of the above stated objectives through classroom measures developed by the individual course instructor.

Additional Information for This Course: Be certain to check your e-mail in Angel and to read any announcements posted in Angel for course updates and reminders during the course. Students frequently have similar questions related to the course, please post questions directly into the "Ask A Question" discussion area so that all students can benefit from answers. However, personal questions should be e-mailed to your instructor directly. Be certain to read the late policy in this syllabus (see below) and understand that the late policy pertains to all students and is strictly enforced. Please note that ALL assignments must officially be submitted for grading through the drop box in Angel, assignments submitted via e-mail cannot be accepted. Please be sure to read instructor feedback in discussion boards and in returned assignments.

Academic Integrity: All academic work submitted to satisfy course requirements is expected to be the student’s OWN work. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please remember that plagiarism is not restricted to copying someone else’s work, but also includes paraphrasing another’s work without proper attribution. This includes “cutting and pasting” from Internet sources and the use of photos, figures, tables or clip art that is not classified as free ware. Academic dishonesty also includes, but is not limited to, using unauthorized materials without permission to complete quizzes and exams, collaborating with another student during an exam, submitting assigned material that has been completed by someone other than the enrolled student, or resubmission of the student’s own work (self-plagiarism).
- The College of Health Sciences follows a progressive discipline procedure with regard to academic honesty violations. Sanctions may range from a point deduction on an assignment to expulsion from St. Petersburg College, and are determined based on the severity of the offense. All instances of plagiarism, whether suspected intentional or unintentional, will be forwarded to the Dean’s Office for the College of Health Sciences.
• Academic dishonesty and plagiarism are serious matters in academia. Please see SPC’s Academic Honesty page, to learn more about how to avoid them: http://www.spcollege.edu/academichonesty

Resubmission of Work: All work that is submitted for grading in an HSA course must be original to that course attempt. When a student attempts an HSA course for a second or third time no previously submitted assignments, discussion forums, or quizzes may be submitted for grading. If work is resubmitted in a subsequent attempt at a course, this is considered self-plagiarism and is as serious as other forms of plagiarism. Please make sure to carefully read the assignment or discussion forum directions, and complete a new original assignment. This includes references and citations; new source material must also be used. All forms of plagiarism will be reported to the Curriculum Director.

Health Services Administration Department Late Policy – Please Read Carefully!

A. Late Assignments (Examples: Papers, PowerPoints, Projects, Worksheets, etc.):
• Assignments submitted within 24 hours of due date - will be worth 80% of their graded value (grade achieved, minus 20%).
• Assignments submitted after 24 hours and within 1 week of due date - will be worth 50% of their graded value.
• Failure to submit any assignment within seven days past the due date in this course will result in a zero for the assignment. No assignments will be accepted seven days beyond the due date.
• All final papers/assignments/quizzes/discussion postings are due by the posted date set forth by the instructor and will not be accepted after that date.
• Multiple late assignments: After two late assignments, your final grade will be lowered by one letter grade for each additional late assignment.

B. Late policy for Quizzes and Discussion Forums:
• Quizzes may not be made up; the due date is in Course Snapshot.
• Discussion postings made after the midnight Sunday deadline for any module will not receive credit and cannot be made up.

C. Assignments from Module 7 and Module 8 will not be accepted past their stated due dates in the Course Snapshot.

Course Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Points Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>156 – 174</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>139 – 155</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>121 – 138</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>104 – 120</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 103</td>
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Important Information to Remember: Faculty and students are responsible for maintaining a positive learning environment. This is facilitated by respecting self and others. As a future health
care professional, it is your responsibility to conduct yourself in a professional manner. Individuals that demonstrate professionalism are consistent in their values, attitudes, and behaviors.

Unprofessional behavior will not be tolerated in this or any HSA course. This includes but is not limited to:

- Using offensive or aggressive language
- Not maintaining confidentiality of all discussions regarding individuals, their families and workplace affiliates
- Breaching academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, etc.)
- Not supporting statements with credible research sources that are referenced in standard APA 6th edition format.

Student Survey of Instruction: The student survey of instruction is administered in courses each semester. It is designed to improve the quality of instruction at St. Petersburg College. All student responses are confidential and anonymous and will be used solely for the purpose of performance improvement.

Internet Caution: Students must understand that this course requires the use the Internet for some assignments and activities. Students are required to have discussions of class assignments and share papers and other class materials with instructors and classmates via chat rooms and other mechanisms. Please note that other Internet users may be able to access students’ works whether the access is secured or unsecured. The College cannot protect against the type of materials on the Internet, piracy of students’ materials or assure the privacy of materials.

Technology Skill Requirements: Students must be comfortable using ANGEL, SPC email, the Internet, and have basic word processing skills (typing assignments, sending emails, documents, files and attachments), as well as PowerPoint skills. You will be developing PowerPoint projects throughout the HSA Program as part of your assigned coursework.

Student Resources

Learning Resource Specialist: A Learning Resource Specialist is available to any student who desires help and direction with writing skills. This includes students who live away from the St. Petersburg area. This service is provided at no cost and is administered through the New Initiative Program (NIP). Students can call the NIP Center for further information at 727-341-3724. When using the resource specialists’ services of Leo Johnson or Tiffany Schuyler, please provide the name of your instructor as well as the course you are taking. While these services are provided to you by the college, the responsibility to contact the learning resource specialist lies with the student. Have your assignment completed and ready for the learning resource specialist by Thursday at 5PM of the week in which the assignment is due. It is not the responsibility of the learning resource specialists to correct your work and return for your submission, but rather, to help you improve your writing skills and critical thinking abilities. The current learning resource specialists for the HSA program are:

- Leo Johnson: johnson.leo@spcollege.edu
- Suraj Wagh: Wagh.Suraj@spcollege.edu
• Tiffany Schuyler: tiffanyschuyler@gmail.com
• Smarthinking: This service is available to all students through the ANGEL homepage. Once you have signed into the ANGEL homepage, please look in the box titled Institutional Resources. Here you will see a link for Smarthinking Student Tutoring. You may be asked to import an old account for Smarthinking, please click cancel and you will be directed to the homepage. Here you will use the drop down box for Submit Your Writing; Essay Center.

**Computer Assistance:** If you experience problems accessing the course online, accessing materials, posting assignments or any other hardware or software issues, please contact the “HELPDESK” at 727-341-4357 or email onlinehelp@spcollege.edu. The HELPDESK is staffed daily from 7:00 a.m. to midnight.

**Computer Issues:** Personal computer issues can happen from time to time. It is your responsibility to contact your instructor should a problem arise. Additionally, any computer issues will not extend the due date for assignments, discussions, or quizzes. All due dates are listed in the course snapshot.

**Online Library:** To logon to the Online Library through the SPC homepage, use your Student ID number and the last 4 numbers of your Social Security Number.
• For library help you may contact the Health Education Center library for assistance. The library staff can provide you with immediate assistance during the hours they are open.
  o Joshua Brown, brown.josh@spcollege.edu. (724) 341-3657
• Check here for the library’s hours and location: www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/location/health_education.html

**Accommodations:** St. Petersburg College recognizes the importance of equal access for all students. Disability Resources (DR) is the campus office that works with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations. Instructors may not grant accommodations without proper documentation from the DR Office. Students registered with DR, who have a letter requesting accommodations, are encouraged to contact the instructor early in the semester. Students who have, or think they may have, a disability (e.g. learning disability, ADD/ADHD, psychiatric, medical/orthopedic, vision, and/or hearing), are invited to contact DR for a confidential discussion at 727-341-3721 (V/TTY) or at silvers.stefanie@spcollege.edu. Additional information is available at the college-wide Disability Resource website: http://www.spcollege.edu/central/ossd/index.htm and/or HEC Disability website: http://www.spcollege.edu/HEC/ossd.htm. (Adapted from University of Minnesota).

**Please note:** All materials provided via ANGEL are copyrighted, unless explicitly indicated otherwise. As such, the ANGEL materials are for personal, educational use only during the course of this semester and may not be reproduced or distributed.

**Important Links**

**Syllabus Addendum:** Please open and print the addendum http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/policies.htm
Online Student Conduct: Please visit
https://www.spcollege.ed/ecampus/help/conduct.htm

Facilitator and Student Expectations: Please visit
http://www.spcollege.edu/ecampus/help/expectations.htm

Financial Aid Information: Please visit
http://www.spcollege.edu/pages/dynamic.aspx?id=800

Computer Requirements: Please visit
http://www.spcollege.edu/ecampus/help/technical/index.htm

Incomplete Grade Information: Please visit and scroll to the bottom of the page
http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/catalog/current/grading.htm

Students are responsible for all information in the course syllabus. Please print this
syllabus and have available for your ease of reference. The syllabus will be available
during all modules and is referenced in the Syllabus Tab on the course homepage.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Topic</th>
<th>Discussion Posting Forums (points)</th>
<th>Assignments (points)/Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Module 1</strong></td>
<td>Course Introductions (0)</td>
<td>1. Review Syllabus, Snapshot, and Course Materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction to Research</strong></td>
<td>Introduction to Research (5)</td>
<td>2. Assigned Readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open/Close Dates</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>a. Textbook Chapter 1,2,3,4,9,10,13,19</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>March 17, 2014 – March 23, 2014</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. APA Challenge (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Module 2</strong></td>
<td>My EBDM (5)</td>
<td>4. Quiz 1 (8)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Evidence and Literature Review</strong></td>
<td>Systematic Review (5)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Open/Close Dates</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1. Assigned Readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Module 3</strong></td>
<td>IV, DV, EV (5)</td>
<td>2. Select a Study (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Variables, Hypotheses &amp; Designs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Quiz 2 (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open/Close Dates</strong></td>
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<td><strong>March 31, 2014 – April 6, 2014</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Module 4</strong></td>
<td>Data Collection in my health care setting (5)</td>
<td>1. Assigned Readings</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Populations, Sampling and Data Collection</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>a. Textbook Chapter 5,6,7,8,37, 38, 39,40, 41,42, Review 3, 4,</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Open/Close Dates</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Research Analysis #1 (announcement)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>April 7, 2014 – April 13, 2014</strong></td>
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<td>3. Quiz 3 (9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Module 5</strong></td>
<td>Statistics in the Media (5)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Data</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1. Assigned Readings</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Open/Close Dates</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>a. Textbook Chapter 43, 45, 47, 50, 51, 53, 54, 55, 56, Appendix D, p. 189</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>April 14, 2014 – April 20, 2014</strong></td>
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<td>2. Research Analysis #2 (announcement)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Module 6</strong></td>
<td>Applying research findings (5)</td>
<td>3. Quiz 5 (8) (Calculator)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hypothesis testing, conclusions, reporting finding</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1. Assigned Readings</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Open/Close Dates</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>a. Textbook Chapter 44, 57,71,75, 76, Appendix D, p. 189 reviewed</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>April 21, 2014 – April 27, 2014</strong></td>
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<td>2. Research Analysis #2 (20)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3. Quiz 6 (8)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>4. Access instructions and research article for Final Quiz</td>
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## Module 7
### Ethical considerations

- **April 28, 2014 – May 4, 2014**
- *Check Week 8 Closing Dates – Week 8 is Short*

| Protection of Human Subjects (5) | 1. Assigned Readings  
a. Textbook Chapter Review 12  
2. Final Quiz (20) |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|

## Module 8
### Moving Forward

- **May 2, 2014 – May 7, 2014**
- *Short Week – Check Closing Dates*

| Applying My Knowledge Forum (5) | 1. Assigned Readings  
a. None  
Once the final posting for this course is completed your coursework is complete and you may leave the course. |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|

Total Points 174

- Discussion Forum 45
- Written Assignment 60
- Weekly Quizzes 49
- Final Quiz on Application of Content 20

### Important Course Dates:
- Last date to drop with a full refund: March 21, 2014
- Last date to withdraw with a “W”: April 17, 2014

### Important Course Information:
- All module assignments are due by Sunday night at midnight EST or as stated in the course snapshot.
- All first original discussion postings are due by Thursday night at midnight EST. All discussion replies are due by Sunday at midnight EST.