

**ASSESSMENT AND SURVEILLANCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**PHC 6251 (section 4248)**

**Spring - 2009**  
**Monday – 10:40 a.m. to 1:40 p.m.**

**HPNP Building**  
**Room – G210**

**Instructor:** Dennis L. Thombs, PhD, FAAHB  
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**Office:** HPNP - 4162  
**Office Hours:** Tuesdays: 9:00 – Noon and Wednesdays: 1:40 - 4:00 p.m.  
 (appointments are welcome!)

**Graduate Teaching Assistant:** Ms. Fahima Sharker  
**Telephone:** (352) 215-0374  
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**Catalog Description:** Knowledge, skills, and methods for conducting community assessments and surveillance to inform design of social and behavioral interventions.

**Instructor Description:** The aim of the course is to learn about community assessment and public health surveillance through in-class and community-based work.

**Course Objectives**

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

- 1) create a work plan for conducting a community assessment;
- 2) develop collaborative partnerships with community members, organizations, and stakeholders;
- 3) obtain human subjects approval from an IRB;
- 4) develop instruments for collecting data;
- 5) employ qualitative methods for data collection;
- 6) analyze quantitative data using appropriate statistical procedures;
- 7) engage community members in data interpretation; and
- 8) effectively communicate findings to community organizations and stakeholders.

**Texts**

Petersen, D.J. & Alexander, G.R. (2001). Needs Assessment in Public Health: A Practical Guide for Students and Professionals. New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers.

**Required Online Training in Human Participants Protections Education**

Students are required to complete the free online training program entitled “Protecting Human Research Participants” provided by the Office of Extramural Research at the National Institutes

of Health. The program takes about 3 hours to complete. It can be found at:

<http://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php>

Evidence of student training will be demonstrated by sending an electronic or paper copy of the Certificate of Completion - bearing your name – to Ms. Fahima Sharker. Ms. Sharker must receive the Certificate no later than March 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Course Outline**

- January 7th ..... Overview of Course.  
Presentation by UF Student Safety Research Colloquium.  
Discuss options for community assessment projects.  
Reading: Chapter 1.
- January 14th ..... The Context for Needs Assessment.  
IRB application and process.  
Discuss and choose community assessment projects and teams.  
Reading: Chapter 2.
- January 21st ..... The Process of Needs Assessment.  
Q & A with former PHC 6112 students.  
Development of IRB applications, review of instruments and methods, and development of work plans for community assessment projects.  
Reading: Chapter 3.
- January 28th ..... Data Sources for Public Health Needs Assessment.  
Nancy Schaefer, Health Sciences Library.  
Development of IRB applications, review of instruments and methods, and development of work plans for community assessment projects.  
Reading: Chapter 4.
- February 4th ..... Communicating Needs for Community Action.  
The Community-Based Participatory Research Paradigm.  
Submission of IRB applications and development of work plans for community assessment projects.  
Reading: Chapter 5.
- February 11th ..... The Selection and Use of Indicators.  
Introduction to statistical software.  
Development of work plans for community assessment projects.  
Reading: Chapter 6.
- February 18th..... Determining and Developing Solutions.

Development of work plans for community assessment projects.  
 Reading: Chapter 8.

February 25th ..... The Needs Assessment Team.  
 Development of work plans for community assessment projects.  
 Reading: Chapter 9.

March 4th ..... Exam One: Chapters 1 to 6, 8, 9, and class material.

March 6th ..... Certificate of Completion of Human Research Participants  
 Training needs to be submitted to Ms. Fahima Sharker.

**March 11th..... Spring Break – NO CLASS**

March 18th..... Team data collection in field.

March 25th..... Team data collection in field.

April 1st ..... Team data analysis and interpretation.

April 8th ..... Team data analysis and interpretation.

April 22nd ..... Team Presentations.

**Student Evaluation**

Final grades will be based on (1) your performance on Exam One (multiple choice & true-false questions), (2) your contribution to your team’s community assessment project, and (3) the quality of your team’s presentation at the end of the semester (details about the presentation will be discussed in class). Exam One will represent 30% of your final grade, with 35% based on your team members’ mean rating of your contribution to the community assessment project, and 35% based on your team’s presentation score (determined by Thombs and Sharker). There will be no opportunities for “extra-credit.”

If you find yourself having difficulty with your team, the course content, the readings, or my lectures, please see me early in the semester. It is important to me that you succeed and have a positive experience in the course.

**Attendance**

Missed classes will increase the burden of the course. Graduate students should attend every scheduled class unless they have another pressing professional responsibility or emergency. If you must miss a class, it will be your responsibility to obtain notes and materials from a student in the class.

**Assistance Outside of Class**

Students are expected to frequently seek my assistance outside of class (beginning early in the

semester). If your team is having difficulty, let me know right away. Please do not procrastinate or wait until the end of the course to ask for help.

**Obtaining Human Subjects Approval for Your Community Assessment Project**

Any research project that proposes to collect data from humans must be approved by the University of Florida IRB before the project can begin. The IRB approval process is reviewed at: <http://www.irb.ufl.edu>. The University requires that several documents be read by all applicants (click on “required reading” at the IRB home page). Your application should be completed by following the instructions provided by IRB-02 - “UF Campus/Non-Medical.”