

HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH METHODS (HS 237A)

Fall 2007

Prof. Alex Ortega

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Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00-3:50pm

Room 41-235 CHS

COURSE SYLLABUS

Description

This course covers health services research conceptualization, modeling, literature review, study design, sampling, surveys, data collection, measurement, and research ethics. It is the first of a three quarter sequence on health services research. The second course (HS 237B) is a first-level applied data analysis course that focuses on the application of regression analysis to health services models. The third course (HS 237C) is a second-level data analysis course that provides more exposure to more advanced statistical and econometric techniques applied to health services research.

Objectives

Upon completion of HS 237A, student should:

- Understand the process of writing a research proposal
- Be able to explicate what health services research is and its relationship to the various social sciences
- Comprehend, formulate, and employ theory, models, hypotheses, and variables in the conceptualization of a health services research problem
- Understand how to conduct literature reviews and critically review the literature
- Appreciate the basic research designs used in health services research as well as their relative strengths and weaknesses
- Understand the rudiments of designing a survey
- Be familiar with basic sampling techniques
- Have a grasp of the different data and funding sources available in the field of health services
- Understand the major ethical issues in conducting health services research, and begin to formulate one's own ethical research standards
- Complete UCLA's on-line certification courses titled, "Protection of Human Research Subjects" and "HIPAA Clinical Research Training Course"

Required Reading (all reading should be done in advance of class)


- Singleton, R.A., Jr., *Approaches to Social Research*, Fourth Edition, Oxford University Press, 2004 (available from UCLA Health Sciences bookstore)
- Hulley, S.B., S.R. Cummings, W.S. Browner, & D.G. Grady (eds.), *Designing Clinical Research: An Epidemiological Approach*, Third Edition, Baltimore:

Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2006 (available from UCLA Health Sciences Bookstore)

- A reader of selected articles available from UCLA Academic Publishing

Assignments/Grading

- Literature review (10%; due 11/1)
- Development of conceptual model (10%; due 11/8)
- Critique of published research study (10%; due 12/4)
- Completion of UCLA OPRS IRB HS-1 application (20%; 11/29)
- Research proposal (50%, based on revised literature review; due 12/11, 5pm)

Lecture	Date	
1	9/27/07	Introduction to Research Methods
2	10/2/07	Defining the Problem: Research Objectives and Hypotheses
3	10/4/07	Conceptual Modeling I (Research proposal assigned)
4	10/09/07	Conceptual Modeling II
5	10/11/07	Study Design: Observational Studies
6	10/16/07	Surveys I (Linda Bourque, guest lecturer)
7	10/18/07	Surveys II (Linda Bourque, guest lecturer)
8	10/23/07	Literature Review I (Cheryl Bartel & Andrea Lynch, guest lecturers)
9	10/25/07	Literature Review II (Cheryl Bartel & Andrea Lynch, guest lecturers)
10	10/30/07	Study Design: Experimental Studies
11	11/1/07	Conceptual Model Critiques (Literature review due)
12	11/6/07	APHA no class
13	11/8/07	Sampling Strategy (Conceptual models due)
14	11/13/07	Sample Size and Power
15	11/15/07	Measurement Issues and Variable Selection I
16	11/20/07	Research Ethics and Human Subjects (Alice Kuo, guest lecturer)
17	11/22/07	
18	11/27/07	Measurement Issues and Variable Selection II
19	11/29/07	Writing and Critiquing a Scientific Article (UCLA OPRS IRB HS-1 application due)
20	12/4/07	Sources of Data (Libbie Stephenson, guest lecturer) (Article critique due)
21	12/6/07	Conclusions and Implications of Research

FINAL PAPERS DUE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2007, 5 PM

Topics & Readings

9/27/07: Introduction to Research Methods

Introduction to Research Methods
Introduction to the Field of Health Services Research

Singleton & Straits, Chapters 1 & 2.

Institute of Medicine, *Health Services Research: Work Force and Educational Issues*, Washington, DC: National Academy Press, 1995: 13-41.

Crombie, I.K., and H.T.O. Davis, "Related Disciplines" in *Research in Health Care: Design, Conduct and Interpretation of Health Services Research*, New York City: John Wiley & Sons, 1995: 178-198.

10/2/07: Defining the Problem: Research Objectives and Hypotheses

Hulley, Cummings et al., pp.3-14.

Hulley, Cummings, et al., pp. 17-26.

Neuman, W. *Social Research Methods, Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1994: Chapter 2, pgs. 17-32.

10/4/07 Conceptual Modeling I

Morris, W.T., "On the Art of Modeling," *Management Science* 13(12), August 1967: B-707 – B-717.

Stokey, E., and R. Zeckhauser, *A Primer for Policy Analysis*, New York: W.W. Norton, 1978: 8-21.

Shi, L. *Health Services Research Methods*. New York: Delmar, 1997: Chapter 1, pgs. 1-30.

Singleton & Straits, pp. 54-68.

10/9/07: Conceptual Modeling II

Andersen, R.M., "Revisiting the Behavioral Model and Access to Medical Care: Does it Matter?," *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 36, March 1995: 1-10.

Andersen, R.M., and P.L. Davidson, "Improving Access to Care in America: Individual and Contextual Indicators," in: Andersen, R.M., T.H. Rice, and G.F. Kominski, eds. *Changing the U.S. Health Care System: Key Issues in Health*

Services, Policy, and Management. 2nd edition. (San Francisco, Jossey-Bass, 2001), pp. 4-10 assigned.

10/11/07: Study Design: Observational Studies

Hulley, Cummings et al. pp. 97-107

Hulley, Cummings et al. pp. 109-121

Hulley, Cummings, et al. pp. 127-143.

10/16/07: Surveys I (Linda Bourque, guest lecturer)

Singleton & Straits, Chapters 8 & 9.

Ferber, R., et al., "What is a Survey?" Subcommittee of the Section on Survey Research Methods, American Statistical Association, Washington, DC (no date).

Aday, L.A., *Designing and Conducting Health Surveys*, Second Edition, San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1996, Chapter 9 & 12.

Resources recommend by Dr. Bourque (not in reader):

Aday, L.A., *Designing and Conducting Health Surveys*, Second Edition, San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1996 (remainder of book).

Fink, A., *The Survey Kit*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2002. (Ten-volume series by A. Fink, L. Bourque, E.P. Fielder, M. Litwin, and S. Oishi.)

10/18/07: Surveys II (Linda Bourque, guest lecturer)

Kornhauser, A., and P.B. Sheatsley, "Questionnaire Construction and Interview Procedure," Appendix B, in C. Seltiz et al. (eds), *Research Methods in Social Relations*, 3rd Edition. Austin, Texas: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1976.

Krosnick, J.A., et al., "The Impact of 'No Opinion' Response Options on Data Quality," *Public Opinion Quarterly* 66, 2002: 371-403.

10/23/07: Literature Review I (Cheryl Bartel & Andrea Lynch, guest lecturers)

Counsell, C., "Formulating Questions and Locating Primary Studies for Inclusion in Systematic Reviews," *Annals of Internal Medicine* 127, 1997: 380-387.

Meade, M.O., and W.S. Richardson, "Selecting and Appraising Studies for a Systematic Review," *Annals of Internal Medicine* 127, 1997: 531-537.

10/25/07: Literature Review II (Cheryl Bartel & Andrea Lynch, guest lecturers)

See readings for 10/23/07

10/30/07: Study Design: Experimental Studies

Singleton & Straits, pp. 155-159 & Chapter 7 (pp. 187-207).

Hulley, Cummings et al. pp. 147-161

Hulley, Cummings et al. pp. 163-182

Hulley, Cummings et al. pp. 183-205

11/1/07: Conceptual Model Critiques

11/6/07: APHA No class

11/8/07: Sampling Strategy

Hulley, Cummings et al. pp. 27-35

Singleton & Straits, Chapter 5.

11/13/07: Sample Size and Power

Hulley, Cummings et al. pp. 51-63.

Hulley, Cummings, et al. pp. 65-83.

11/15/07: Measurement Issues & Variable Selection I

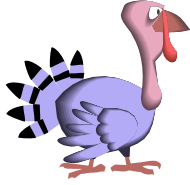
Hulley, Cummings, et al. pp. 37-49.

Singleton & Straits, pp. 43-52 & Chapter 4.

11/20/07: Research Ethics and Human Subjects (Alice Kuo, guest lecturer)

Singleton & Straits, Chapter 16.

Hulley, Cummings, et al. pp. 225-239.



11/22/07:

11/27/07: Measurement Issues & Variable Selection II

Marx, R.G., et al. "Clinimetric and Psychometric Strategies for Development of a Health Measurement Scale," *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology* 1999;52(2):105-111.

Zyzanski, S.J., and E. Perloff. "Clinimetrics and Psychometrics Work Hand in Hand," *Archives of Internal Medicine* 1999;159(15):1816-1817.

11/29/07: Writing and Critiquing a Scientific Article

Walker, A.M., "Reporting the Results of Epidemiologic Studies," *American Journal of Public Health* 1986;76(5):556-558.

Gregg, M. B., *Field Epidemiology*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996: 139-151.

Colton, T., *Statistics in Medicine*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1974: 315-322.

12/4/07: Sources of Data and Management (Guest lecture, Libbie Stephenson)

Hulley, Cummings, et al. pp. 257-269.

Hulley, Cummings, et al. pp. 271-286.

12/6/07: Conclusions and Implications of Research