**Course Title:** Independent Research I – Research Principles and Ethics

**Course Number:** BMED 3121 (27265)

**Credit Hours:** 1

**Schedule:** 12:00 – 1:00 pm

**Location:** E-REBL, 1.204

**Faculty:** Dr. Lydia Aguilera, Dr. Bianca Cruz, Dr. Yasar Tasnif

**Office Hours:** Office hours will vary, so please email the individual instructor to schedule an appointment.

**Course Description:**

This three-credit course is designed as a foundational course to introduce undergraduate students to research design, methodology and implementation. Students will gain an understanding of human subjects research and the ethical issues involved in conducting research in special populations. This course will also cover methods of literature review and analysis, as well as the types of sources and online resources commonly used. The focus of this course will remain on research topics and issues in pharmacy and pharmacology. However, the information and skill sets gained here may be employed in any discipline.

**Course Objectives**

In general, students will be expected to access Blackboard for the course readings, assignments, and Professional Journal/Learning Reflections. Course readings will be selected chapters to introduce research methodology, research journal articles, and informational websites. Students are required to post their Professional Journal/Learning Reflections on Blackboard.

Enrolled students will:

- Attend and actively participate in class sessions and related activities.
- Review and read course readings as assigned and be prepared to discuss.
- Learn about the research process, including its guiding principles, common procedures, written fundamentals, and basic phases.
- Identify a research question as assigned by the instructor and engage in a literature review, and become familiar with research methodologies.
- Receive preparation to engage in independent research at the undergraduate level.
**Required Textbook:**

There is no required textbook for this course. Students will be assigned reading materials per instructor.

**Teaching Methods:**

A variety of teaching methods may be employed including but not limited to discussions, lectures, case studies, demonstrations, audio-visual and on-line instruction. The Blackboard on-line learning environment will be used to house course materials, web links (to guidelines and other useful resources), reading assignments and Professional Journal/Learning Reflections.

Students are responsible for contacting instructors with questions or other academic needs pertaining to course materials. Clarification of course materials should be sought directly with the instructor.

**Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend class, and participate in any group or web-based activities required by the instructor. The student will be held responsible for all course materials regardless of attendance. It will be left to the discretion of the instructor whether make-up opportunities will be made available for those who miss attendance or an associated activity. Any changes and or cancelations (other than emergencies) are to be made in advance and with the instructor’s consent. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Request for excused absences should be made directly to the course coordinator in advance. Instructors may make accommodations for students with approved absences.

**Assessment**

Student assessment will be evaluated by attendance, participation in assigned activities, completion of assignments, and posting Journal/Learning reflections.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Team Based Learning</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflections</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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**Grading Scale**

- **A** 90-100%
- **B** 80-89%
- **C** 70-79%
- **D** 60-69%
- **F** Less than or equal to 59%

**Examinations**

There will be no examinations. See Assessment for grading details.
Calendar of Activities

The UTRGV academic calendar and final exam schedule can be found at https://my.utrgv.edu/home at the bottom of the screen, prior to login.

Some important dates for Fall 2017 include:

- **August 28**: First day of classes
- **August 31**: Last day to add a course or register for fall 2017
- **September 4**: Labor Day – NO classes
- **November 15**: Last day to drop a course; will count toward the 6-drop rule
- **November 23 – 26**: Thanksgiving Holiday – NO classes
- **December 6**: Last day of classes
- **December 7**: Study Day – NO class
- **December 8-14**: Fall 2017 Final Exams
- **December 15-16**: Commencement Ceremonies

### Semester Schedule / Topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 28</td>
<td>- Overview of Syllabus</td>
<td>Dr. Aguilera</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Why Research?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 4</td>
<td>Labor Day (No Class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 11</td>
<td>CITI Training</td>
<td>Dr. Aguilera</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 18</td>
<td>CITI Training / Reflections</td>
<td>Dr. Aguilera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 25</td>
<td>Scientific methodology</td>
<td>Dr. Aguilera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2</td>
<td>Clinical / Translational / Basic Science Research</td>
<td>Dr. Tasnif</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 9</td>
<td>Readings and Reflections</td>
<td>Dr. Tasnif</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 16</td>
<td>Literature Searches (Pubmed.gov)</td>
<td>Dr. Tasnif</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 23</td>
<td>Drug Information and Resources</td>
<td>Dr. Tasnif</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 30</td>
<td>Investigational Review Board</td>
<td>Dr. Tasnif</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 6</td>
<td>Ethics in Research</td>
<td>Dr. Cruz</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 13</td>
<td>Ethics in Research Workshop</td>
<td>Dr. Cruz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 20</td>
<td>Putting It All Together (Team Based Learning)</td>
<td>Dr. Cruz</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 27</td>
<td>Thanksgiving (No Class)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 4</td>
<td>Reflections on BMED 3121 and Course Evaluations</td>
<td>All Faculty</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Students with Disabilities (UTRGV Policy Statement)**

If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time. **Brownsville Campus**: Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. **Edinburg Campus**: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.
Mandatory Course Evaluation Period (UTRGV Policy Statement)

Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available:

- Fall 2017 Module 1: Oct. 5 – Oct. 11
- Fall 2017 Module 2: Nov. 29 – Dec. 5
- Fall 2017 (full semester): Nov. 15 – Dec. 6

Scholastic Integrity (UTRGV Policy Statement)

As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

Sexual Harassment Discrimination and Violence (UTRGV Policy Statement)

In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

Sources

- Undergraduate Research Methods Course (AMST 392), University of Southern California, Spring 2011, Course Instructor: Dr. Richard Andalon.
  
  ◦ Utrgv-course-syllabus-template-fall-2017