FYC 6932 (Class Number 23405): Community-Based Research and Interventions*
Fall 2019
Class Meetings: Thursdays 9:35 am – 12:35 pm
Meeting Location: 3042 MCCD

Instructor: Dr. LaToya J. O’Neal, Assistant Professor
Department of Family, Youth & Community Sciences
Office/Phone: McCarty Hall D 3038-C; 273-3501
Office Hours: Thursdays 1:30 – 3:00 pm or by appointment
Email: latoya.oneal@ufl.edu

*Note that the instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus as needed. Version provided in footer.

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: In this course, students will examine community-based approaches to research, understand, and address the most important issues affecting the health and well-being of families, youth, and communities. Emphasis will be placed on multilevel interventions and populations experiencing higher levels of health disparities. In addition to dynamic discussions surrounding social determinants and other factors influencing health outcomes, students should expect to identify strategies for engaging communities as research partners, differentiate the impact of singular and multilevel interventions, and utilize the socio-ecological framework to design a comprehensive community-engaged research and intervention project.

Course Objectives
One or more of the following substantive and process-related objectives must be met during the course of the semester:

- Students expand current knowledge in a specific area of interest related to public health;
- Students remediate deficient areas of knowledge, behavior, or skills;
- Students develop or enhance skills in analyzing, synthesizing, and integrating public health related information or experiences;
- Students develop or enhance skills in project identification, development, management, implementation, evaluation, communication, and/or dissemination;

Course Purpose and Procedure
This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to gain or enhance public health-related knowledge related to community-based research and multilevel interventions in family, youth, and community sciences.

Class time will be used for group discussion, presentations, and activities designed to facilitate inquiry surrounding course concepts. Please complete all assigned readings prior to class and prepare 1-2 questions to contribute to the discussion. Students are expected to engage both actively and constructively in class discussions and activities.

Required Readings
See course schedule for details.
Course Requirements/Assignments

1. **Reflection Papers.** Short reports, no less than 2 pages and no more than 3 pages, on the assigned readings will be required prior to the beginning of the class in which they are discussed. These reports are designed to help students apply course concepts to their areas of interest and to prepare for class discussions. Assignments should be uploaded to Canvas by **noon the Wednesday before class.** Each student will complete a total of 5 reflection papers. (25 points X 5 = 125 points total; 23%)

2. **Attendance and Participation.** Each student is expected to be an active and regular participant in class discussions (5 points X 13 = 65 points). Students should come to class prepared to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the assigned readings as well as how the readings apply to their own research interests. Additionally, each student will select one week to lead class discussion (60 points). Students will also participate in a class project focused on the development of a scholarly output (50 points). (175 points total; 32%)

3. **Community-based Research and Intervention Project.** Students will develop a community-based, multilevel research and intervention project related to their area of interest. Each student will: (1) examine how social conditions and health are related to their topic of interest (50 points); (2) synthesize the literature on the role of contextual factors related to their topic of interest (50 points); (3) design a community-based, multilevel project to investigate their topic of interest (50 points); (4) submit a final project (75 points); and (5) present their final project to the class, followed by class discussion (25 points). (250 points total; 45%)

**Evaluation and Grading:**

Students may earn a maximum of 550 points in this course. Grades will be based on performance related to course requirements and assignments. All deadlines must be met. Any assignment turned in late will receive a 10 percentage point reduction in the final grade. The following grading system will be used: A (95% or higher), A- (90-94%), B+ (87%-89%), B (83%-86%), B- (80-82%), C+ (77%-79%), C (73%-76%), C- (70-72%), D+ (67-69%), D (63%-66%), D- (60-62%), and E (<59%).

**Course/University Policies**

- **Classroom Demeanor**
  - Please behave in a manner that is respectful of each other and the instructor.
  - Be on time and ready to work; do not leave early. Both of these are disruptive and disrespectful to everyone.
  - Keep the dialogue respectful of your peers and of the instructor. Be sure to be objective, nonjudgmental, and non-confrontational.
  - Put aside distractions and be ready to participate in class. Turn off/silence your cell phone. Keep conversations with others at a minimum during class time. Only use your computer for note taking.

- **Course Communication**
  - Check your ufl email and the Canvas announcements page each week for notices about class.
  - When emailing, please use only your ufl account. I will not respond to emails from g-mail or another server/provider. If you have not received a reply, please email again or see me for assistance.
**Attendance policies**

Class attendance is expected. Absences count from the first class meeting. Excused absences are consistent with university policies that can be found at: http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/. Written, professional documentation (only for reasons approved by the University) is required before your absence or immediately upon return to class. Be sure to review this policy for illness policy, religious holidays, and other policies.

**Late Assignments Policy**

Submit your assignments on time by bringing a hard copy to class. Late assignments will not be accepted unless there is an excused absence approved by the instructor as per UF policy.

**Policy on Make-up Work**

- Arrange with the instructor to make up material if you have an excused absence. You will receive one week to prepare for any makeup assignment, if circumstances allow it.
- You must provide written, professional, verifiable proof of your need to miss the assignment that is consistent with UF attendance policies.

**Academic Honesty**

The University requires all members of its community to be honest in all endeavors. Cheating, plagiarism, and other acts diminish the process of learning. UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, defined in the University Honor Code. “A student shall not represent as the student’s own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to: (1) Quoting oral or written materials including but not limited to those found on the internet, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution; (2) Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student.” (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php.)

This policy will be vigorously upheld at all times. Academic dishonesty of any sort will not be tolerated. Students are expected to do their own work, use their own words in papers, and to reference outside sources appropriately, following APA guidelines (APA Publication Manual, 6th ed.). Students who do not follow APA guidelines and who violate the University’s plagiarism policy will receive a zero for the assignment and will be referred the Dean of Students Office and the student judicial court.

- All written work should be completed independently.
- All written work must be turned in to Canvas and put through the Turn-It-In Anti-Plagiarism software. If you do not submit your written work to Canvas/ Turn-It-In by the deadline posted on Canvas, your assignment will not be accepted and you will lose the points for that assignments
Students Requiring Accommodations
The Dean of Students Office coordinates the needed accommodations of registered students with disabilities: “Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.”

Campus Helping Resources
Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the University’s counseling resources. U Matter We Care and The Counseling & Wellness Center provide confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students.
- U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352-392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx, 392-1575
- The University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies. http://www.police.ufl.edu/
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

Online Course Evaluations
Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/.

Software Use
All faculty, staff and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.