

FYC 6932 (Class Number 23188): Community-Based Research and Interventions\*  
Class Periods: Thursdays, 9:35 am – 12:35 pm  
Meeting Location: MAEB 0229  
Academic Term: Fall 2023

Instructor: Dr. LaToya J. O'Neal, Assistant Professor  
Department of Family, Youth & Community Sciences  
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\*Note that the instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus as needed. Version provided in footer.

**Equal Access Statement:** The UF/IFAS Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences is committed to engaging positively in a global and diverse society through its teaching, extension, and research efforts. That commitment is demonstrated by creating an inclusive educational environment that fosters belonging as we mentor students, perform relevant scholarship, and conduct outreach for families, youth, and communities that is sensitive and responsive to the needs of diverse audiences. Intentional effort is made to providing access and equity to underrepresented, underserved, marginalized, and minoritized people in Florida and beyond.

**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 multi-level 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 multi-level interventions, and utilize the socio-ecological framework to design a comprehensive community-engaged research and intervention project.

**Course Pre-requisites:** Previous coursework in research methods is recommended, but not required.

**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 community health;
- Students remediate deficient areas of knowledge, behavior, or skills;
- Students develop or enhance skills in analyzing, synthesizing, integrating, and communicating community 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 expand their knowledge of population health, 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. Due to the sensitive nature

of some topics of discussion, students are asked to demonstrate high levels of understanding, empathy, and respect for the opinions, knowledge, and lived experiences of their peers and their instructor.

### **Required Text and Readings:**

For required readings, see course schedule for details.

### **Course Requirements/Assignments:**

#### **1. Lead Discussant (100 points).**

As part of your academic training, you are expected to enhance your skills related to critical analysis and facilitating discussion of scientific studies. In this course, each student will select **two** weeks to lead class discussion. Presentations should cover at least one-third and no more than one-half of the class period. PowerPoint or other presentation tools should be used. Reading selections will be made in the second class meeting of the semester. **(Total Points = 100; 50 points each)**

#### **2. Community-Based Research and Intervention Project (500 points).** As part of your academic training, you are expected to integrate and apply new knowledge and skills to advance the health and well-being of families, youth and communities. In this course, students will gain real world experience by developing a multi-level, community-based, research and intervention project to address a complex issue impacting the health and well-being of graduate students (the community to which the students belong). This is a group project that will involve research and action. The submission will be divided into four phases and will include a final presentation to which the entire department will be invited to attend.

##### **(1) Community engagement (CE) plan and implementation (Total: 125 points)**

- a. CE Plan: 25 points
- b. CE Implementation: 100 points

##### **(2) Research and needs assessment (Total: 200 points)**

- a. Research Methods/Needs assessment plan: 50 points
- b. Conduct research/needs assessment: 150 points

##### **(3) Intervention design and Evaluation Plan (Total: 125 points)**

- a. Intervention design: 50 points
- b. Evaluation plan: 75 points

##### **(4) Final Presentation (Total: 50 points)**

**Evaluation and Grading:** Students may earn a maximum of 600 points in this course. Grades will be based on performance related to course requirements and assignments. All deadlines must be met. 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 ( $\leq$ 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.
- Each student is expected to be an active and regular participant in class discussions. 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.

### **Course Communication**

- Check your ufl email and the Canvas announcements page each week for notices about class.
- When emailing the instructor, please use Canvas. If you do not receive a reply within 48 hours, please email again or call 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 regarding illness, religious holidays, etc. Excessive absences and inadequate participation may result in a lower grade in the course.

### **Late Assignments Policy**

Submit your assignments on time by bringing a hard copy to class and uploading to Canvas, as instructed. You have a 24 hour grace period to submit an assignment after the deadline without prior approval. Please do not abuse this privilege or this policy will be updated. Otherwise, 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.

### ***Students Requiring Accommodations***

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

### ***Course Evaluation***

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at [gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/](http://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via

[ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at [gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/](http://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/).

### **University Honesty Policy**

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 (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) 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 in this class.

### **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. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

### **Student Privacy**

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see:

<http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html>

### **Campus Resources:**

Health and Wellness

#### **U Matter, We Care:**

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto: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>, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

#### **Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)**

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

**University Police Department** at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), [or http://www.police.ufl.edu/](http://www.police.ufl.edu/).

Academic Resources

**E-learning technical support**, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu). <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

**Career Resource Center**, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://www.crc.ufl.edu/>.

**Library Support**, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

**Teaching Center**, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.  
<https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.

**Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall**, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.  
<https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.

**Student Complaints Campus**: [https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF\\_Complaints\\_policy.pdf](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf).

**On-Line Students Complaints**: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>