

American University of Beirut
Faculty of Health Sciences
Department of Epidemiology and Population Health
EPHD 213- SURVEY METHODS (2 credit course)
Spring AY 2019/2020

Course instructor

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Course Timing/Venue

Lecture: every Wednesday 8:30 am- 9:20 am in room 203
Lab (section1): every Friday 9 am – 11 am
Lab (section2): every Friday 11 am – 1 pm

Course Objectives

This course provides students with an introduction to the overall process of survey research and enables them to plan and execute a survey research study by applying basic principles of epidemiology, biostatistics and survey methodology to examining and understanding public health issues.

Course description

EPHD213 is a two-credit undergraduate course that provides students with a general overview of quantitative research methods, with an emphasis on survey research. In this course, students will select one of several research topics/questions suggested by the instructor, conduct a literature review, analyze secondary data, synthesize the main findings in tables/graphs, and summarize and present the results in an oral (student final presentation) and written format (student final paper). The course will also cover research ethics, and main ethical considerations to address during a research project.

Pre-requisites: EPHD203 or equivalent course to be approved by course instructor.

Course learning objectives

At the end of the course, the students will be able to:

- Carry out literature reviews
- Link research questions to theories and published literature
- Operationalize variables
- Develop good questions
- Describe ethical considerations in survey research
- Perform elementary data analysis and data synthesis using SPSS
- Synthesize data in tables and graphs
- Prepare meaningful PowerPoint presentations
- Present data meaningfully in a written paper format

Course structure

The course consists of a one hour lecture (every Wednesday) and a weekly two-hour practical lab session (2 hours, Mondays or Fridays). During the practical lab session, the students will be working with their partner (each two students at a time) on a particular assignment relevant to the **overall survey project**. The instructor will allow each pair to blindly choose one of the available suggested research topics to work on throughout the semester. For the lab assignments, the instructor will post on a Wednesday the assignment on Moodle, which the students must work on during the lab session on the Friday and Monday after. All practical work will be done under the guidance of the course/lab instructors in the lab (either in the classroom or computer lab). Students are expected to submit their lab assignment to the instructor at the end of the lab session.

Grading

The overall course grade will be distributed accordingly:

- 20% assignment 1: Literature review + objectives
- 20% assignment 2: questionnaire development and data collection
- 20% data analysis and results write up
- 15% final poster presentation
- 20% quizzes
- 5% attendance

Readings

Course material (lectures and assignments) will be placed on Moodle. It is your responsibility to check the course website frequently during the week, particularly before the lecture/lab sessions.

On referencing and plagiarism

Education is demanding and you need to properly manage your time. Do not hesitate to see the resources around you but do not cut corners. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Review the Student Code of Conduct and familiarize yourself with definitions and penalties (p. 85-88 of the Student Handbook). Cheating might earn you a failing mark on the assignment, at the very least. You might fail the course in which you cheated, be required to repeat your work, suspended or expelled from University and a permanent mention of the disciplinary action might be made in your student records. **If you are in doubt about what constitutes**

plagiarism, ask your instructor because it is *your* responsibility to know. Remember that the American University of Beirut has a strict anti-cheating and anti-plagiarism policy. Do not become a lesson to others

On Students with Special Needs

“If you have documented special needs and anticipate difficulties with the content or format of the course due to a physical or learning disability, please contact me and/or your academic advisor, as well as the Counseling Center in the Office of Student Affairs (Ext. 3196), as soon as possible to discuss options for accommodations. Those seeking accommodations must submit the Special Needs Support Request Form along with the required documentation.”

Detailed Schedule per week

	Lecture Topic (Wed.)	Wed.	Practical session topic	Friday	Lab venue
1	Introduction to the course * - Lecture 1	Jan 22	No Lab (required online reading on literature reviews)	24 Jan	Room 203
2	No Class	Jan 29	group formation and decide on research question	31 Jan	
3	Writing the Background/Introduction Writing the literature review Stating objectives/ hypotheses	Feb 5	How to conduct a lit review	7 Feb	Computer lab
4	Questionnaire development I	Feb 12	Conducting your own literature review + objectives I (due on Feb 28)	14 Feb	Computer lab
5	Questionnaire development II	Feb 19	Conducting your own literature review + objectives II	21 Feb	Computer lab
6	Sampling I	Feb 26	Developing your questionnaire I (due on March 6)	28 Feb	Computer lab
7	Sampling 2	Mar 4	Developing your questionnaire II	6 Mar	Computer lab
8	Quiz I	Mar 11	Data collection	13 Mar	Computer lab
9	Methods for collecting survey data	Mar 18	No lab	20 Mar	Computer lab
10	No Class	Mar 25	Stata: session 1	27 Mar	Computer lab
11	Data analysis Preparing a plan of analysis	Apr 1	Data analysis assignment I (due on April 24 th)	3 Apr	Computer lab
12	Data synthesis (creating Tables)	Apr 8	No Class EASTER	10 Apr	Computer lab
13	Data analysis assignment II (due on April 24 th)	Apr 15	No Class EASTER	17 Apr	Computer lab
14	Preparing oral Poster presentations	Apr 22	Final report write up and Presentation	24 Apr	Computer lab
15	Quiz 2	Apr 29	No Class Labor Day	May 1	
		May 6	Final report write up and Presentation	May 8	

* Session will include a refresher on Rubrics of Epidemiology, and Types of Variables (Independent vs. Dependent)