



A. A list of mandatory and optional textbooks and materials is provided for students at the beginning of each semester.

B. **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

In this course students study the nature and types of research, identify the research problem and review and evaluate the research literature. The learner will:

- demonstrate a basic understanding of the nature and types of research, research designs and epidemiology.
- critique the legal and ethical aspects applied to a research study.
- describe the major steps in the research process.
- identify and clearly define appropriate problems or topics for research in the health sciences field.
- identify and describe measurement and data collection methods.
- discuss methods used in the analysis of research data.
- prepare a research paper on a selected topic and be able to present the findings and methodology in a seminar setting.
- use identified strategies for critically reading research articles.
- develop an appreciation for the nature of applied research and its significance for the health information practitioner.
- use research findings to improve health information practice and influence health policies.
- identify the future trends in health information research

C. **COURSE CONTENT:**

1. **Overview**
  - what is research?
  - purpose
  - limitations
  - define epidemiology
  - ethical considerations
  - applied vs basic research
  - experimental
  - descriptive
2. **Research Process**
  - terminology
  - quantitative vs qualitative
  - major steps
  - organization of a research paper
3. **Research Design**
  - principles
  - planning
  - formulating the hypotheses
  - review of literature
  - population, time, place

4. **Data Collection**
  - measurement strategies (interviews, questionnaires, scales, etc.)
  - sample selection
  - collecting the data
  - reliability and validity
  - sources of measurement error and bias
5. **Data Analysis**
  - descriptive, analytic, experimental
  - selecting statistical tests
  - define and calculate measures
  - computer packages
  - presentation and interpretation
6. **Critique of Research Articles**
  - criteria
7. **Research and the Health Information Practitioner**
  - applications
  - potential role

**D. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION**

1. Lecture
2. Seminar
3. Group discussion
4. Application exercises
5. Guest lecturers
6. Site Visits
7. Independent Study of Identified Topics

**E. COURSE EVALUATION**

Course evaluation is based on course learning outcomes and is consistent with Douglas College Course Evaluation Policies.

An evaluation schedule is presented to the students at the beginning of the course.

Outline of evaluation may be subject to change.

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