

Research Paper Project Guidelines (250 pts possible)

Your objective is to select an issue that is related to public health and analyze its impacts using a health ecology framework. All papers will be developed over the course of the semester with feedback provided along the way. This project is designed to teach you the process of doing research, scientific writing, and sharing your results with a diverse audience. Your project will be completed in five phases: a prospectus, a paper outline, a draft due at the mid-semester point (paper part 1), a final paper, and an online poster conference.

Prospectus (20 pts) – Due: Wednesday, July 24th by 10pm PST via Canvas

A paper briefly describes the health related topic you will study and briefly explain how it is related to the health ecology and public health framework. If your topic is related to a specific community, make sure to briefly describe the populations and how the issue impacts it. *Keep in mind that your overall paper will be 10-12 pages in length.*

- Length: 2-3 page (typed Times New Roman, double-spaced, one inch margins)
- Sources: 2-3 references (APA style) related to your topic

Outline (20pts) – Due: Wednesday, July 31st by 10pm PST via Canvas

Complete a comprehensive outline with details about content flow of the paper by section and including sources. The more you have in your outline the better feedback you will receive. Make sure to outline the entire paper (this includes Part 1 and the Final paper) using heading and subheadings.

- Topics to cover in outline: Introduction, Background and Significance, Theoretical Framework, Analysis of Topic, Interventions to Mitigate the Issue, Implications, and Conclusion
- Include sources to backup your content and to help you begin writing the paper (*the whole paper will need at minimum 9-10 sources*)

Part 1 (First Draft) (80 pts) – Due: Wednesday, August 7th by 10pm PST via Canvas

Describe the topic, discuss the theoretical framework and start analysis using health ecological framework. Part 1 will cover the following topics from your outline: Introduction, Background and Significance, Theoretical Framework, and Analysis of the Topic. You should also write a conclusion for this part of the paper.

- Length: 5-6 pages (typed Times New Roman, double-spaced, one inch margins)
 - Use a title page; it does NOT count towards the overall page requirement
- Sources: 5-6 references (APA style) at minimum (*references do NOT count towards the overall page requirement*)

The paper should discuss the following points:

- Introduction:
 - What is the health related topic you are examining, and how, specifically, does it impact public health?
 - Include a statement of purpose for the paper.

- Background and Significance:
 - Who is affected? Describe the population affected and if the impact varies based on any specific characteristics (i.e. age, gender, race/ethnicity, income, location, etc.)
 - What are the consequences of the problem? Does it result in mortality, morbidity, loss of quality of life, etc? Consider the long-term, social, and/or environmental impacts.
 - If you are describing a problem in a certain community, can it be compared to state or national data?
- Theoretical Framework
 - Example: cite Fielding, et al. and describe which levels of the health ecology model you will be using.
- Analysis of Topic
 - What causes the problem? Your analysis should discuss the various determinants of health affected. Make sure you have reliable scientific sources in the analysis.
- Conclusion
 - Summarize findings.

Final Paper (80pts) – Due: Wednesday, August 14th by 10pm PST via Canvas

Make revisions to Part 1; add content about policies or interventions that have been proposed to mitigate the problem and talk about the implications of the issue on the population or environment you have chosen, and then what conclusions have you drawn from your research. The final paper will cover all of the topics from the outline so your paper will have: Introduction, Background and Significance, Theoretical Framework, Analysis of Topic, Interventions to Mitigate the Issue, Implications, and Conclusion.

- Length: 5-7 new pages for a total paper length of 10-12 pages (typed Times New Roman, double-spaced, one inch margins)
 - Use a title page; it does NOT count towards the overall page requirement
- Sources: 4-5 additional references for a total of 9-10 references (APA style) at minimum (*references do NOT count towards the overall page requirement*)

This paper should discuss the following new points:

- Mitigating the Issue
 - What policies or interventions have been proposed to mitigate the problem?
 - Are they educational/informational programs, screenings, legislative or regulatory programs, changes to the social or physical environment, targeted screening, or a combination?
 - Who are the main stakeholders in creating and executing the policies or interventions?
 - I.e. who is involved in the decision making for the intervention? Who is affected by the intervention and how.

- Implications
 - Evaluate how effective the policies or interventions have been? Make sure you have reliable scientific sources in the evaluation.
 - Are there any unintended consequences from the programs?
 - What did they try to change and how well did it work?
 - What improvements could still be made?
 - Is it a sustainable approach?
- Conclusion
 - Summarize findings.

Conference Poster and Discussion (50pts) – Due: Throughout Week 5

Create a research poster for the online “Health Ecology Conference” discussion based on your final research paper. Use this as an opportunity to learn about communicating your research interests at true conferences and ask questions about your peer’s research topics. See rubric for point breakdown.

The poster should include information from each of the sections in your paper: Introduction, Background and Significance, Theoretical Framework, Analysis, Mitigating the Issue, Implications, Conclusion, and References.

- For each section, you should choose the most important information and summarize it on the poster.
- A sample poster template is provided. You can change the colors and make each section long enough to fit your needs.
 - Make sure it can fit all on one page AND can be easily read!

Poster Upload - Due: Wednesday, August 14th by 10pm PST via Canvas

Embed your completed poster file as a .png into the “Conference Poster” discussion on Canvas.

Conference Replies – Due: Friday, August 16th by 10pm PST via Canvas

Respond to TWO peers’ posters using complete sentences. Each reply must be at least 4 complete sentences long and should include the content listed below. Spelling and grammar will count. Replies will need to do more than state you agree with the content of the poster or another peer’s response.

The TWO response postings should include:

- Ask relevant follow-up questions and/or create a new connection between the research poster and course content.
- Discuss what surprised you most about the research.

Mechanics of Paper

Citations and Paraphrasing: Your paper will need to have sources and include a references page. Approximately 80% of your sources should be peer-reviewed or scholarly texts (we will review this during the library session).

- References should be formatted using the APA guidelines. You can find guidelines for using this method at: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>
- A maximum of 4 direct quotations can be used per paper.
- Overall paper must be below a 25% originality score on Turnitin for similar content.
 - *You can double check this score upon upload. Scores might not show up immediately and may get slower to appear closer to the deadline.*

Grammar, Spelling, Format: All papers must be typed using Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with one inch margins. Include page numbers and a separate cover page with a title for your paper, name, course number, and date. The title page does not count towards your total page count. Proofread your work carefully; repeated misspellings and grammatical errors will cause you to lose points!

Organization: Your paper should be clearly organized, and the sequence should be clear and logical.

- Have a strong introduction paragraph that: introduces and develops your main argument; briefly outline the structure of your paper; explain the kinds of policies and interventions you will review; and have a strong purpose statement.
- Make sure each paragraph develops a clear central idea.
- Use headings and sub-headings to help structure and organize the paper.

Writing Center: If you need any assistance with writing your paper, please utilize the UNLV writing center that is available free of charge, located in CDC-3-301. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>

Email me with any questions. I am more than willing to talk through your paper ideas with you at any stage of the process. The sooner you determine a clear direction, the better your overall product will be.