

Course Outline
C783: Research Issues in Health Management
Winter 2020

Health Policy and Management
DeGroote School of Business
McMaster University

COURSE OBJECTIVE

This course provides students with exposure to current research issues in health management, through in-depth discussions and designing an original research study. Ideally, work will be towards developing a proposal for the student's dissertation, with the guidance of the instructor. The course also provides students with exposure to issues in ethics, design, and planning the details of a research study.

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Manaf Zargoush, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
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Office: DSB 204
Office Hours: by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on current research issues in healthcare management. This course will be conducted as a combination of a seminar and/or independent study course. Readings and activities (discussions, assignments) are intended to provide an overview of the most pressing issues and gaps in several content areas of the field, while at the same time developing skills for critically evaluating research designs, methodologies, interpretations, and the overall contributions of the published studies to advancing scholarship and practice. Through taking this course students will be well positioned to identify and develop a promising research program - with exposure and discussions to ongoing debates and issues within the field.

Note: Students are strongly encouraged to consult with the instructor well in advance of the course to discuss their research interests as this may have an impact on the course's balance between seminar and independent study.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course will provide students with the opportunity to strengthen skills in:

1. Critical thinking and writing,
2. Developing rigorous research designs, and
3. Building a strong theoretical foundation for research studies.

EVALUATION

Preparation of work documents (e.g., literature review)	20%
Coursework summary and thesis integration	30%
Draft of thesis proposal (2 of 3 topics minimum)	50%
Total	100%

Note: It is strongly advised that the supervisor and the student agree on a schedule for meetings, and dates for deliverables at each stage, while at the same time staying within the allocated time for graduate courses within the specified terms.

Conversion

At the end of the course your overall percentage grade will be converted to your letter grade in accordance with the following conversion scheme.

LETTER GRADE	PERCENT
A+	90 - 100
A	85 - 89
A-	80 - 84
B+	75 - 79
B	70 - 74
B-	60 - 69
F	00 - 59

1. Preparation of Work Documents

This assignment is worth **20%** of the final grade and will be marked individually. Students will review the requirements set out by McMaster University or Hamilton Integrated Research Ethics Review Board (if appropriate) or other preparation documents (e.g. literature review) and prepare all required documentations (note: sample ethics forms are available on the web sites).

The following work products are particularly recommended to be completed:

- 1) Literature review of the clinical aspects of delayed discharge among older adults, specially the Alternate Level of Care (ALC) issue in Canada and globally
- 2) Literature review of the analytical methods using predictive and prescriptive modeling to address the delayed discharge issue among older adults (with particular focus on ALC).

2. Coursework summary and thesis integration

This assignment is worth **30%** of the final grade and will be marked individually. The proposal shall include the following:

- 1) Summary of learnings from the **general predictive modeling** literature to address patient trajectory, delayed discharge, and ALC,
- 2) Summary of learnings from the **deep learning** literature to address patient trajectory, delayed discharge, and ALC,

- 3) Summary of learnings from the **reinforcement learning** literature to address patient trajectory, delayed discharge, and ALC.

3. Draft Thesis Proposal (minimum 2 of 3 topics)

This assignment is worth **50%** of the final grade and will be marked individually. Students are required to present their draft research proposals (2-3 research ideas) to the instructor. Grade will be based on the quality of the presentation (oral and format) and the student's ability to answer questions about the proposal.

Please review the Graduate Examinations Policy (if applicable):

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/GradExamsPolicy.pdf>

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

It is the student's responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the University Senate Academic Integrity Policy at the following URL:

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>

This policy describes the responsibilities, procedures, and guidelines for students and faculty should a case of academic dishonesty arise. Academic dishonesty is defined as to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. Please refer to the policy for a list of examples. The policy also provides faculty with procedures to follow in cases of academic dishonesty as well as general guidelines for penalties. For further information related to the policy, please refer to the Office of Academic Integrity at:

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>

MISSED ACADEMIC WORK

Late assignments will not be accepted. No extensions are available except under exceptional circumstances. Please discuss any extenuating situation with your instructor at the earliest possible opportunity.

POTENTIAL MODIFICATIONS TO THE COURSE

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

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other words, it is illegal to: i) copy an entire book, or ii) repeatedly copy smaller sections of a publication that cumulatively cover over 10 percent of the total work's content. Please refer to the following copyright guide for further information:

http://www.copyright.mcmaster.ca/Access_Copyright_Agreement

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Student Accessibility Services (SAS) offers various support services for students with disabilities. Students are required to inform SAS of accommodation needs for course work at the outset of term. Students must forward a copy of such SAS accommodation to the instructor normally, within the first three (3) weeks of classes by setting up an appointment with the instructor. If a student with a disability chooses NOT to take advantage of an SAS accommodation and chooses to sit for a regular exam, a petition for relief may not be filed after the examination is complete. The SAS website is:

<http://sas.mcmaster.ca>

RESEARCH USING HUMAN SUBJECTS

Research involving human participants is premised on a fundamental moral commitment to advancing human welfare, knowledge and understanding. As a research intensive institution, McMaster University shares this commitment in its promotion of responsible research. The fundamental imperative of research involving human participation is respect for human dignity and well-being. To this end, the University endorses the ethical principles cited in the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans:

<http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique/initiatives/tcps2-eptc2/Default/>

McMaster University has mandated its Research Ethics Boards to ensure that all research investigations involving human participants are in compliance with the Tri-Council Policy Statement. The University is committed, through its Research Ethics Boards, to assisting the research community in identifying and addressing ethical issues inherent in research, recognizing that all members of the University share a commitment to maintaining the highest possible standards in research involving humans.

If you are conducting original research, it is vital that you behave in an ethical manner. For example, everyone you speak to must be made aware of your reasons for eliciting their responses and consent to providing information. Furthermore, you must ensure everyone understands that participation is entirely voluntary. Please refer to the following website for more information about McMaster University's research ethics guidelines:

<http://reo.mcmaster.ca/>

Organizations that you are working with are likely to prefer that some information be treated as confidential. Ensure that you clarify the status of all information that you receive from your client. You **MUST** respect this request and cannot present this information in class or communicate it in any form, nor can you discuss it outside your group. Furthermore, you must continue to respect this confidentiality even after the course is over.