

**University of Florida**  
**College of Public Health & Health Professions Syllabus**  
**RSD6938 Doctoral Seminar In Rehabilitation Science (1 credit hours)**

Spring 2025

Delivery Format: In person & HyFlex

<https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/524882>

## **INSTRUCTORS**

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## **PURPOSE AND OUTCOMES**

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**Prerequisites:** This course is open to all Rehabilitation Science PhD students. Other graduate students are invited to register with approval of the instructor.

### **Course overview**

Students meet and interview nationally and internationally renowned rehabilitation scientists to discuss key professional and scientific issues related to rehabilitation science. As part of this course, students attend and critique the Rehabilitation Science Seminars, complete seminal readings in visiting scientists' areas of focus, and moderate and participate in discussions.

### **Relation to Program Outcomes**

This course was designed to meet a number of learning outcomes outlined in the Rehabilitation Science academic assessment plan submitted to Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) the accrediting body of the University of Florida.

- Students will utilize various Rehabilitation Science theories and models to analyze and inform research, treatments, and inter-professional approaches to ethical considerations.
- Students will critique models and theories of rehabilitation research.
- Students will examine how competencies in a focused area of rehabilitation science can be applied in a research study.

### **Course Objectives and/or Goals**

By completion of this course, a student will be able to:

- Compare and contrast the strengths and weaknesses of the different research methodologies used in rehabilitation science research.
- Frame the relevance of each speaker's research to rehabilitation practice.
- Evaluate the impact (in terms of innovation and significance) of each speaker's research to rehabilitation practice.
- Elaborate how each speaker's research methodology or area of research will impact and shape him/her as a scientist.

## **Instructional Methods**

We will use discussion as the primary instructional method. Discussions will occur in small groups as well as among the entire cohort of students enrolled in the course. Readings will be assigned as pertinent to the topics to be covered in the seminar.

## **DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT**

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### **Course Schedule**

Delivery format: In person and HyFlex format

Class day: Wednesdays (or other weekdays) as noted in the schedule on Canvas

**12-1PM: Rehabilitation Science Seminar** (in person or online synchronous). All students registered for the class **must** attend all Rehabilitation Science Seminars as posted on Canvas.

- In-person seminar: You will be required to attend the seminar in person in the classroom specified on Canvas.
- Online seminar: If the speaker cannot travel to UF, seminars will be held online as Zoom webinars. The seminar host will provide students with a link to register to the seminar as panelists.

**1:10-2:10PM: Speaker Interviews** (in person or online synchronous). All students registered for the class **must** meet with the seminar speaker for an interview.

- In-person seminar: The speaker interview meeting will occur in the UF Department of Physical Therapy Conference Room (HPNP 1115).
- Online seminar: The speaker interview meeting will occur online synchronously using the link provided in the schedule posted on Canvas. Speaker interviews will not be recorded, unless otherwise previously communicated. During the interview, students are required to always keep the camera on and actively participate in the discussion.

### **Course Materials and Technology**

Desktop, laptop, or tablet required to access the online seminar and interview. For technical support for this class, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu)
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

## **ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

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### **Assignments**

**Speaker assignments:** A group of students will be assigned to each speaker. The assigned students will:

- **Contact the speaker** at least 1 week before the seminar to request **1)** a copy of the CV and **2)** a publication related to the seminar. Please cc the instructors in all communication with the speaker. Please share the CV and articles from the speaker with the class and instructors.
- **Submit a written the introduction** of the speaker and at least three questions to use to facilitate post-seminar audience discussion. Submission will occur through canvas and one-submitted document is required per group. Introduction and questions submission is due the Monday before the seminar by 5PM.
- **Moderate the seminar**, including speaker introduction before the beginning of the seminar and post-seminar question & answer discussion. All seminars are delivered hybrid, please bring a computer to moderate questions from remote audience.

**Speaker interview:** After the seminar, all students participating in the class will meet with the speaker as a group. During this time, students will have the opportunity to interview the speaker and ask questions related but not limited to rehabilitation science research, career development, mentoring, grant writing, speaker career path, work-to-life balance, etc.

The instructors will evaluate each student participation in the speaker interview. This will include if the student:

- Demonstrates an advance preparation for class.
- Actively participates in group and class discussions, asking questions and occasionally introducing relevant new information about topics.
- Volunteers willingly and carries own share of the group’s responsibilities.
- Listens actively and shows understanding by paraphrasing or by acknowledging and building on others’ ideas.

**Speaker essay:** Each student is required to write a 1-page essay reflecting on the seminar. There is no single approach to the essay. You may make recommendations for future research in this area, discuss how and why the topic covered in the speaker interview will shape your future as scientist, or discuss content of the seminar and how it applies to rehabilitation (avoid summarizing the presentation). Essays will be submitted via Canvas and they are due the Tuesday following the seminar at 11:59 PM, unless otherwise indicated.

**Final paper:** Students will reflect on the range of speakers from the semester and use the outline below to help guide your response. Note – you do not need to follow the outline exactly. The final is due on the date specified in the assignment tab in Canvas.

*Implications for research*

- Indicate which area of work resonated with you the most.
- Describe the overall impact on rehabilitation practice
- Justify your response in terms of innovation or significance
- Describe interdisciplinary relationships between some of the presentations

*Implications for your career*

- Indicate which area of work resonated with you the most.
- What will shape you as a scientist?
- What will you apply to your career?

*Format*

- The maximum length is 1,500 words.
- Use 11 pt font, 0.5 inch page margins, double-spaced.
- Title page and references does not count toward the word limit.

**GRADING**

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Assignment weight (as percentage) toward final grade

Speaker assignment	Speaker interview Participation	Speaker essay	Final paper	Final grade
20	35	25	20	100

Point system used (i.e., how do course points translate into letter grades).

Percentage Earned	Letter Grade	Points Grade
93-100	A	4.0
90-92	A-	3.67
87-89	B+	3.33
83-86	B	3.0
80-82	B-	2.67
77-79	C+	2.33
73-76	C	2.0
70-72	C-	1.67
67-69	D+	1.33
63-66	D	1.0
60-62	D-	0.67
Below 60	E	0.0
...	WF	0.0
...	I	0.0
...	NG	0.0
...	S-U	0.0

Please be aware that a C- is not an acceptable grade for graduate students. The GPA for graduate students must be 3.0 based on 5000 level courses and above to graduate. A grade of C counts toward a graduate degree only if based on credits in courses numbered 5000 or higher that have been earned with a B+ or higher.

More information on UF grading policy may be found at: <https://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/>

## **POLICY RELATED TO MAKE UP EXAMS OR OTHER WORK**

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**Late submissions:** Assignments **must** be submitted by the deadline specified on canvas. Late assignments will be graded at the discretion of the instructors. If graded, late assignments will receive a maximum grade of B.

**Make up work:** Not permitted unless a documented excuse is provided. Coordination in advance with instructor for make-up work is required whenever possible.

**Please note:** Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues **MUST** be accompanied by the UF Computing help desk (<http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>) correspondence. You **MUST** e-mail instructors within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

## **POLICY RELATED TO REQUIRED CLASS ATTENDANCE**

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**Attendance is mandatory.** Please contact the instructors as soon as possible if you are unable to attend class for any reason. Personal issues with respect to class attendance or fulfillment of course requirements will be handled on an individual basis. If students arrive late (defined as any time after the published start time of the seminar or class) without prior notice to the instructors, they will not be permitted to participate in the assignment and therefore will receive a zero. If the student has an emergency, the instructor can be notified via email in advance of the class.

The Rehabilitation Science program abides by the UF Attendance Policy. Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Graduate Catalog:

<https://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/>

## **STUDENT EXPECTATIONS, ROLES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT**

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### **Expectations Regarding Course Behavior**

Professional behavior is expected and is exemplified by:

- Attendance to all classes
- Timeliness
- Attentiveness
- Respectful and polite interaction with peers and instructors
- Active learning as demonstrated by questions and discussion
- Professionalism

### **Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity. As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge:

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

You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit 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.”**

It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For additional information regarding Academic Integrity, please see Student Conduct and Honor Code or the Graduate Student Website for additional details:

- <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>
- <http://gradschool.ufl.edu/students/introduction.html>

Please remember cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

### **Online Faculty Course Evaluation Process**

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 <https://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 <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

### **Online Synchronous Sessions**

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are

unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

### **Policy Related to Guests Attending Class**

Only registered students are permitted to attend class. However, we recognize that students who are caretakers may face occasional unexpected challenges creating attendance barriers. Therefore, by exception, a department chair or his or her designee (e.g., instructors) may grant a student permission to bring a guest(s) for a total of two class sessions per semester. This is two sessions total across all courses. No further extensions will be granted. Please note that guests are **not** permitted to attend either cadaver or wet labs. Students are responsible for course material regardless of attendance. For additional information, please review the Classroom Guests of Students policy in its entirety. Link to full policy:

<http://facstaff.php.ufl.edu/services/resourceguide/getstarted.htm>

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

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### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, it is strongly recommended you register with the Dean of Students Office <http://www.dso.ufl.edu> within the first week of class or as soon as you believe you might be eligible for accommodations. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation of accommodations to you, which you must then give to me as the instructor of the course to receive accommodations. Please do this as soon as possible after you receive the letter. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

### **Counseling and Student Health**

Students sometimes experience stress from academic expectations and/or personal and interpersonal issues that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing issues that have the potential to or are already negatively affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and/or seek help through University resources available to you.

**Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us.** We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.

- The Counseling and Wellness Center 352-392-1575 offers a variety of support services such as psychological assessment and intervention and assistance for math and test anxiety. Visit their web site for more information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/> Online and in person assistance is available.
- You Matter We Care website: <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>. If you are feeling overwhelmed or stressed, you can reach out for help through the You Matter We Care website, which is staffed by Dean of Students and Counseling Center personnel.
- The Student Health Care Center at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 392-0627 or check out the web site at: <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>.

- Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from: Alachua County Crisis Center: (352) 264-6789  
<http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx>

### **Inclusive Learning Environment**

Public health and health professions are based on the belief in human dignity and on respect for the individual. As we share our personal beliefs inside or outside of the classroom, it is always with the understanding that we value and respect diversity of background, experience, and opinion, where every individual feels valued. We believe in, and promote, openness and tolerance of differences in ethnicity and culture, and we respect differing personal, spiritual, religious and political values. We further believe that celebrating such diversity enriches the quality of the educational experiences we provide our students and enhances our own personal and professional relationships. We embrace The University of Florida's Non-Discrimination Policy, which reads, "The University shall actively promote equal opportunity policies and practices conforming to laws against discrimination. The University is committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act."