

APPLIED PREVENTION SCIENCE (56:792:604)

FALL, 2025

COURSE INFORMATION

Time: Wednesday, 2:05-5:05pm

Location: ATG 208

INSTRUCTOR

Kristin August, Ph.D.

Email: kristin.august@rutgers.edu; Phone: (856) 225-6431; Office: 413 Armitage

Office hours: By appointment (virtual or in person)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is the first in a two-course series (followed by *Seminar in Action Research*) focused on building and maintaining successful relationships with community-based organizations and conducting prevention science-related community-based participatory research. Students will identify and connect with a community site where they will spend time each week observing and participating in site activities. In collaboration with their community partner, students will begin an applied research project and build competencies in community partnership development, consultation, and community-based prevention science research. Weekly class meetings will integrate discussion of relevant literature, reflection on site experiences, and connections to course concepts. By the end of the semester, students will present a final report outlining the background and rationale for their project, the methodology, and the analytic strategy that will guide their continued work in the sequence course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The learning objectives of this course are consistent with the goals of the Prevention Science Graduate Program. Course activities are designed to assess the following learning objectives. Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Communicate and establish working parameters with a community/organizational partner
- Submit a proposal for your research project to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and present this proposal to the class
- Work on data collection and/or data analyses with your partner organization (begin or plan to do this next semester)
- Effectively communicate ideas about your research in writing and in an accessible presentation, including a report at the end of the semester.

REQUIRED READINGS

- Required readings are available on the Canvas course webpage and will be posted/updated at least one week in advance (under each module).

GRADING

Grades will be determined as follows:

Partner organization report	30 points
IRB assignments	20 points
Project presentation	15 points
Practice presentation	10 points
Discussion co-leader	10 points
Attendance/class participation	10 points
Partner organization contract	<u>5 points</u>
	100 TOTAL POINTS

Letter grades:

- A: 90-100 points
- B+: 85-89 points
- B: 80-84 points
- C+: 75-79 points
- C: 70-74 points
- F: Less than 70 points (“D” is not a grade in the graduate program)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Notes:

- Details for all assignments will be discussed in class and in some cases, additional information will also be posted on Canvas (under “assignments”).
- Due dates are listed next to each assignment description and on the schedule below.
- All assignments are due by the beginning of class unless otherwise noted.
- This course is the first part in a two-part course sequence. Thus, many of the deadlines this semester must be met to earn your grade in the course this fall and also to stay on track to complete your project during spring semester.
- If you turn in an assignment late, you will lose 10% of the assignment amount for each day it is late.

PARTNER ORGANIZATION CONTRACT (DUE 9/24)

To ensure clarity and establish appropriate expectations for your collaboration with the organization partner, you will draft a contract to be signed by both you and a leader or representative from the organization. A sample contract will be available on Canvas to guide you. This is a valuable early step when working with any external group and reflects best practices in consulting or community-engaged research

**This assignment is worth 5 points.*

INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD SUBMISSION (DUE 10/15) AND FINAL APPROVAL (DUE 12/3)

Even if you are not required to submit a proposal to the IRB for your specific project (e.g., if the organization you are working with has already completed data collection and holds an IRB approval that can be amended to include you as a collaborator), you are still required to gain experience submitting a proposal to the Rutgers IRB as part of this course. [**The initial submission is worth 15 points*] After submitting your proposal, you will likely be asked to make revisions. You are expected to respond to these requests and obtain IRB approval. Please note that IRB processing times can be longer than anticipated. If you encounter delays or have concerns about meeting the assignment deadline, stay in close communication with the instructor. [**The revisions/completion is worth 5 points*]

**Both parts of this assignment are worth 20 points.*

PROJECT PRESENTATION (DUE 12/3 OR 12/5)

During the final two weeks of the semester, you will give a brief presentation that outlines the Introduction and Method sections of your project with your organization partner. This presentation should be rehearsed in advance. Your presentation should be approximately 10 minutes long and include around 10 PowerPoint slides. You will need to upload a PDF of your presentation to Canvas under “assignments.” Assigned dates will be determined later in the semester.

**This assignment is worth 15 points.*

PARTNER ORGANIZATION REPORT (DUE 12/12 BY 11:59PM)

By the end of the semester, you will submit a written report (approximately 6 pages) detailing your project work with your partner organization. This report should describe what has gone according to plan, what challenges or deviations have occurred, and what work remains to be completed in the spring semester to meet the goals outlined in your contract. While reflections on your experience are encouraged, please keep in mind that your contact at the organization will receive a copy of this report. Therefore, it should be professionally written, (loosely) follow APA style, and include scholarly sources. This assignment represents not only a written report but also the culmination of your work on the entire project.

**This assignment is worth 30 points.*

PRACTICE PRESENTATION (DUE DATES VARY)

Select a published journal article - either one written by your advisor or one that is particularly relevant to your interests or the work you will be doing this semester. Please select a peer-reviewed empirical article (not a book chapter or review article); ideally, the article should report on a single study to keep the presentation manageable (ideally, one published in the past ~5 years). You will present the Introduction and Methods sections of the article as if they were your own, in a “practice presentation.” Your presentation should be approximately 10 minutes long and include around 10 PowerPoint slides. Your selected article must be approved by me no later than the Wednesday before your scheduled presentation (for approval, you can either email me or ask about your article in class). You will need to upload a PDF of your presentation to Canvas under “assignments.” A sign-up form with available presentation weeks will be provided. Please note there is limited flexibility with rescheduling if you miss your assigned week.

**This assignment is worth 10 points.*

DISCUSSION CO-LEADER (DUE DATES VARY):

Starting the second week of class, one student each week will be asked to co-lead the discussion of the assigned readings/videos. You may be asked to select a relevant reading to discuss. To prepare for co-leading a class discussion, students should: thoroughly review the assigned readings or videos, identifying key themes, arguments, and questions that could spark meaningful discussion; develop a few open-ended discussion questions and connect the material to broader course themes or current events; consider incorporating interactive elements like small group discussions or brief reflection exercises to encourage participation; provide a short summary of the material at the start of the discussion to help ground the conversation and ensure everyone is on the same page. Overall, the goal is to foster an inclusive, thoughtful, and engaging discussion environment. Please first confer with the instructor in advance to understand any planned activities or specific focal points for that week. A sign-up form with available weeks to serve as a discussion co-leader will be provided. Please note there is limited flexibility with rescheduling if you miss your assigned week.

**This assignment is worth 10 points.*

CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

To promote engagement in learning the course material, you are expected to attend and actively participate in class. You will be graded on active and high-quality participation. If you must miss class, please inform me if and why you plan to miss (if you miss more than 1 class, you will lose points from your grade).

**Class attendance/participation is worth 10 points.*

OPTIONAL

Submit your work to a conference. We'll discuss possible conferences where you can present your research for this class (and other research you are involved in).

COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: This schedule is *tentative*; dates may change slightly depending on our progress in covering the material. **Reading assignments are posted on Canvas under each module and will be posted at least one week in advance.** You are expected to have reading assignments completed before class.

Module 1: Introduction and Course Overview

Wednesday, Sept. 3

Module 2: Building Partnerships, Collaborative Research Questions & Communicating with Nonacademic Audiences

Wednesday, Sept. 10

In-class:
Practice presentation
Discussion co-leader

Module 3: Understanding Community Context & Needs

Wednesday, Sept. 17

In-class:
Practice presentation
Discussion co-leader

Module 4: Ethics, Equity, & Power in CBPR

Wednesday, Sept. 24

DUE: Partner organization contract

In-class:
Practice presentation
Discussion co-leader

Module 5: Measurement & Data Collection in Applied Settings (New + Existing Data)

Wednesday, Oct. 1

In-class:
Practice presentation
Discussion co-leader

Module 6: Program Evaluation in Community Settings

Wednesday, Oct. 8

In-class:
Practice presentation
Discussion co-leader

Module 7: Making the Case for Science & Overcoming Skepticism

Wednesday, Oct. 15

DUE: IRB initial submission

In-class:
Practice presentation
Discussion co-leader

Module 8: Sustaining Partnerships & Avoiding Tokenism

Wednesday, Oct. 22

In-class:
Practice presentation
Discussion co-leader

Module 9: Writing for Multiple Audiences

Wednesday, Oct. 29

In-class:
Practice presentation
Discussion co-leader

Module 10: Presenting to Community & Academic Audiences

Wednesday, Nov. 5

In-class:
Practice presentation
Discussion co-leader

Module 11: Integrating Feedback & Finalizing Deliverables

Wednesday, Nov. 12

In-class:
Practice presentation
Discussion co-leader

Module 12: Individual Meetings / Check-InsWednesday, Nov. 19 *NO group meeting – individual meetings*Wednesday, November 26 – *NO CLASS (observe Friday schedule)***Project Presentations/Peer Review of Final Reports (Day 1)**Wednesday, Dec. 3 ***DUE:*** IRB final approval*Thursday, Nov. 28 – NO CLASS (HAPPY THANKSGIVING!)***Project Presentations/Peer Review of Final Reports (Day 2)**

Wednesday, Dec. 10

NO FINAL EXAM; PARTNER ORGANIZATION REPORT IS DUE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12 BY 11:59PM

INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT

I would like to create a learning environment for my students that supports diverse thoughts, perspectives, and experiences, and honors your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, etc.). To help accomplish this:

- If you have a name and/or set of pronouns that differ from those that appear in your official Rutgers records, please let me know. If you would like to have your name changed officially on Rutgers University–Camden rosters, please follow the [Chosen Name Process](#). In addition, within the Canvas course site, the [Rutgers Shout-Out](#) tool allows you to type the phonetic spelling of your name and record the pronunciation of your name in a shared audio recording for me and fellow students.
- If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you. Remember that you can also submit anonymous feedback (which will lead to me making a general announcement to the class, if necessary, to address your concerns). If you prefer to speak with someone outside of the course, the Dean of Students is an excellent resource: deanofstudents@camden.rutgers.edu.
- I (like many people) am still in the process of learning about diverse perspectives and identities. If something was said in class (by anyone) that made you feel uncomfortable, please talk to me about it. (Again, anonymous feedback is always an option.)

COURSE POLICIES

It is my sincere hope that students are successful in this course and learn information that is useful for their academic and career goals. If you experience any difficulty in this course, please email me or contact me to schedule a time to talk. Please do not wait until the end of the semester to talk with me! Many of my policies are evidence-based and are in place to promote student success and provide an enriching and fair educational experience for all of my students.

- **Course webpage:** Other than the textbook, all the materials you will need for the course will be on the Canvas course webpage. It is your responsibility to keep informed of any updates made to the syllabus and other assignments.
- **Course communication:**
 - ***Announcements:*** Announcements will be posted on Canvas on a regular basis. They will appear on your Canvas dashboard when you log in and/or will be sent to you directly from Canvas via your preferred method of contact. Please make sure the “announcements” feature is activated in Canvas (under “course notifications”) and be certain to check them regularly, as they will contain important information about the course.
 - ***Email:*** You may contact me by email. **Please use your Rutgers email to contact me, as emails from non-Rutgers’ accounts are sometimes filtered as spam.** Please do not submit your assignments via email. If you email me and do not receive a response within 24 hours during the week, I did not receive your email. Please note that I will not respond to emails after 9pm, on weekends, during holidays, or during university breaks.
 - ***Office hours:*** I am available to meet in person, by phone, or via Zoom. Please email me for an appointment.
- **Missed class/assignments:** Please contact me as soon as possible if you experience an event that affects your ability to attend class or complete an assignment on time. If you do not have a *valid* reason for missing class or turning in an assignment when it is due, you will lose ~10% of your assignment grade for each day it is late. Valid reasons for missing class include serious/highly contagious illnesses, deaths in the family, academic interviews (e.g., doctoral programs), and conference presentations; valid reasons for not being able to complete an assignment on time are determined by me on a case-by-case basis (and do NOT include insufficient planning/time management). There is limited flexibility in rescheduling presentations.

Rutgers University–Camden seeks a community that is free from violence, threats, and intimidation; is respectful of the rights, opportunities, and welfare of students, faculty, staff, and guests of the University; and does not threaten the physical or mental health or safety of members of the University community, including in classroom space, and a community in which students respect academic integrity and the integrity of your own and others’ work. See below for information about Academic Integrity and Code of Conduct.

- **Academic Integrity:** As a student at the University, you are expected to adhere to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#). Academic Integrity is critical to the success of our students and the community and is everyone's responsibility to take their education seriously and follow the requirements to ensure that you are doing your own work and following the guidelines of the course and professor and program. Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to): cheating; plagiarism; aiding others in committing a violation or allowing others to use your work; failure to cite sources correctly; fabrication; using another person's ideas or words without attribution; re-using a previous assignment; unauthorized collaboration; and sabotaging another student's work. **Academic dishonesty also includes using artificial intelligence (AI) to complete a majority of your work (e.g., ChatGPT).**
- **Code of Conduct:** You are also expected to adhere to the [Student Code of Conduct](#). The conduct code specifically addresses disruptive classroom conduct, which means "engaging in behavior that substantially or repeatedly interrupts either the instructor's ability to teach or student learning. The classroom extends to any setting where a student is engaged in work toward academic credit or satisfaction of program-based requirements or related activities." Please be aware of in-classroom and out-of-classroom expectations by making yourself familiar with and by following the Student Code of Conduct. For this class, please be courteous to others and arrive to class on time, stay the entire time, and do not use electronic devices during class unless you are asked to. *If you engage in any disruptive, offensive, or disrespectful behaviors, you may be asked to leave class and will lose points from your attendance grade.*
- **Office of Disability Services (ODS)- Students with Disabilities:** If you need academic support for your courses, accommodations can be provided once you share a Letter of Accommodation issued by the Office of Disability Services (ODS) that specifies your accommodations indicated. If you have already registered with ODS and have your Letter of Accommodation, please share this with me the first week of the course. If you have not registered with ODS and you have or think you have a disability (learning, sensory, physical, chronic health, mental health or attentional), please visit the [ODS website](#), [email](#), or call [\(856\) 225-6954](#). *Please Note:* Accommodations will be provided only for students with a Letter of Accommodation from ODS. Accommodation Letters only provide information about the accommodation, not about the disability or diagnosis.
- **Dropping the course/incompletes:** The last date to drop this course *without* a W grade is **Thursday, September 11**; the last date to drop *with* a W grade is **Monday, November 10**. (Please note that this is a required course that graduate students must take to fulfill the requirements of their degree.) Please consult the academic calendar for additional dates related to dropping the course without tuition penalties. Incompletes will not be given in this course except under extremely rare circumstances that require documentation and adherence to university policies.
- **Additional resources:** Please see the Canvas page for additional resources available (under the "course essentials" module)