

SEMINAR IN ACTION RESEARCH (56:792:605)

SPRING, 2026

COURSE INFORMATION*

Time: Thursday, 2-4:40pm

Location: ATG 205

*Note: in weeks 10-14, we will meet from 3-4:15 in our classroom and 4:45-5:45 in the current topics in prevention science classroom (location TBD) for final presentations.

INSTRUCTOR

Kristin August, Ph.D.

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Office hours: By appointment (virtual or in person)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed as a second-year capstone experience for students in the Prevention Science program. In this course, you will complete the applied research project that you began in *Applied Prevention Science*, working closely with your partner organization. The focus is on applying foundational skills in data analysis, interpretation, and communication to produce a professional report and presentation. The final written report and oral presentation will serve as the capstone requirement for the master's degree and will also count toward degree progress for doctoral students.

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:

- Collaborate with a partner organization to complete a research project that serves the organization's needs.
- Conduct data collection and/or data analyses with your partner organization.
- Interpret and synthesize the findings from the data analyses.
- Effectively communicate ideas about applied research orally and in writing.

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

Final	25 points
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Revisions/draft sections (all components)	20 points
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Project presentation

Final	20 points
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Practice	5 points
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Peer feedback (all components)

20 points

Attendance/class participation (incl. discussion questions)

<u>10 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

- 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 should be uploaded to Canvas (under “assignments”) – with the exception of discussion questions (see below).
- If you turn in an assignment late, you will lose 10% of the assignment amount for each day it is late. Some assignments cannot be turned in late due to the timing of degree requirements.

PARTNER ORGANIZATION REPORT ASSIGNMENTS

- **REVISIONS/DRAFTS**

To ensure steady progress and timely feedback, you will submit draft sections of your report throughout the semester. Each draft should reflect your best effort at that stage and follow APA formatting. You are welcome to turn in drafts early for review. *Each assignment is worth 5 points (for a total of 20 points).*

- **Revision of Introduction/Methods (DUE Thursday, February 5 by 2pm)**

Incorporate instructor feedback from the previous semester and peer feedback. Reflection and commentary on the process of working on the project should be eliminated, as this will not be appropriate for the final draft.

- **Analyses Draft (DUE Thursday, March 5 by 2pm)**

Provide a clear description of your analytic approach and preliminary findings (~1 page).

- **Results Draft (DUE Thursday, April 9 by 2pm)**

Present key findings with appropriate tables and figures (~4 pages).

- **Discussion Draft (DUE Thursday, April 16 by 2pm)**

Interpret results, discuss implications, and note limitations (3–5 pages).

- **FINAL REPORT (DUE SUNDAY, MAY 3 BY 11:59PM)**

The final report (~12–15 pages) represents the culmination of your applied research project and serves as your “master’s capstone” project. It should integrate all major sections – Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion – into a cohesive, professionally written document. The report must adhere to APA style guidelines, incorporate scholarly sources, and be suitable for sharing with your partner organization. A minimum score of 90% is required for the report to be approved as your capstone project; reports earning < 90% will require revision before submission to the Graduate School. The Graduate School has instructions concerning formatting and other requirements for master’s capstone projects:

<https://graduateschool.camden.rutgers.edu/graduation/> (also see below for more information about earning your master’s degree, including important dates).

*The final, revised report is worth 25 points.

PROJECT PRESENTATION ASSIGNMENTS

Students will deliver two presentations:

- **PRACTICE PROJECT PRESENTATION (DUE DATES VARY; MARCH 26-APRIL 23)**

A 15–20 minute rehearsal of your final presentation, including background, research questions, methods, results, and implications. Prepare 15–20 PowerPoint slides and rehearse in advance. Feedback from peers and the instructor will help refine your final presentation. Please upload a PDF of your presentation to Canvas. We will discuss presentation date assignments later in the semester. Please note there is limited flexibility with rescheduling if you miss your assigned practice week.

**The practice presentation is worth 5 points.*

- **FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATION (DUE DATES VARY; APRIL 2 – APRIL 30)**

A polished 15–20 minute presentation delivered during the Current Topics in Prevention Science course. Incorporate feedback from your practice session and be prepared to answer audience questions. Please upload a PDF of your presentation to Canvas. We will discuss presentation date assignments later in the semester. Final presentations are a required component of this course and the capstone experience. If you are unable to present during your assigned time, you will need to reschedule for a future semester. Please note that your master's degree cannot be conferred until this requirement is completed.

**The final presentation is worth 20 points.*

PEER FEEDBACK ASSIGNMENTS

You will complete two peer feedback assignments during the semester. For each, read your assigned peer's draft carefully and provide 2–3 (double-spaced) pages of constructive feedback focusing on clarity, organization, and whether key elements are included. Offer at least three actionable suggestions for improvement and note minor issues (e.g., grammar, APA style) using track changes and/or comments in the document. Upload your feedback to Canvas and email it to your assigned peer. *Each assignment is worth 10 points (for a total of 20 points).*

- **INTRODUCTION/METHODS (DUE THURSDAY, JANUARY 29 BY 2PM)**

Focus on clarity, organization, and inclusion of research question, rationale, and methods.

- **RESULTS/DISCUSSION (DUE THURSDAY, APRIL 23 BY 2PM)**

Address clarity, interpretation of findings, and whether implications are clearly stated.

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. In addition, part of your grade for attendance/participation will involve submitting at least one discussion question each week that readings are assigned. Please submit your discussion question to Canvas (under “discussions”) before class for the week we have readings (modules 2-9). 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).

MASTER'S DEGREE INFORMATION

Students in both the master's and PhD programs can earn an MS in Prevention Science by completing all required components of this course and earning a course grade of at least a B. (All required course credits must also be met; when completing the application, only include the 34 credits required for the degree.)

Students must apply for graduation using the online diploma application for "master's capstone candidates" at the following website: <https://graduateschool.camden.rutgers.edu/graduation/> Please review and adhere to the important deadlines listed on this site (also listed below).

- Diploma Application (**DUE Sunday, March 1**)
Completing this form simply indicates your intent to obtain the master's – you do not need to have completed the requirements at this time.
- Master's degree admissions to candidacy form (**DUE Friday, May 1**)*
This form can be submitted earlier; final grades are not needed for this to be submitted.
- Capstone project (i.e., final report) title page (**DUE Thursday, May 7**)*

*Note: These last 2 requirements have a Graduate School deadline of Saturday, May 9. However, as documents need to be signed by Dr. Daniel [graduate director] and me [capstone advisor], they must be submitted by the dates listed above, as we will not be signing them last-minute/on a Saturday.

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: Course Overview/Peer Feedback

Thursday, Jan. 22

Module 2: Program Evaluation

Thursday, Jan. 29

DUE: Peer Review - Introduction and Methods

*Submit discussion question for module 2

Module 3: Data Visualization & Telling Stories with Data

Thursday, Feb. 5

DUE: Revision - Introduction and Methods

*Submit discussion question for module 3

Module 4: Dissemination of Research Findings

Thursday, Feb. 12

*Submit discussion question for module 4

Module 5: Career Options (part 1)

Thursday, Feb. 19

*Submit discussion question for module 5

Module 6: Career Options (part 2)

Thursday, Feb. 26

*Submit discussion question for module 6

Module 7: Professional Development (part 1)

Thursday, March 5

DUE: Draft Analyses

*Submit discussion question for module 7

Module 8: Professional Development (part 2)

Thursday, March 12

*Submit discussion question for module 8

March 19 – no class (HAPPY SPRING BREAK)**Module 9: Professional Development (part 3)/ Practice Presentations**

Thursday, March 26

Practice presentations – day 1 students

*Submit discussion question for module 9

Presentations (Day 2 practice/Day 1 final)

Thursday, April 2

*Part 1: practice presentations – day 2 students (3-4:15pm)**Part 2: day 1 presentations (4:45-5:45pm)***Presentations (Day 3 practice/Day 2 final)**

Thursday, April 9

*Part 1: practice presentations – day 3 students (3-4:15pm)**Part 2: day 2 presentations (4:45-5:45pm)***DUE: Results Draft****Presentations (Day 4 practice/Day 3 final)**

Thursday, April 16

*Part 1: practice presentations – day 4 students (3-4:15pm)**Part 2: day 3 presentations (4:45-5:45pm)***DUE: Discussion Draft*****Email your peer your entire final section of report (results & discussion)****Presentations (Day 5 practice/Day 4 final)**

Thursday, April 23

*Part 1: practice presentations – day 5 students (3-4:15pm)**Part 2: day 4 presentations (4:45-5:45pm)***DUE: Peer Review - Results and Discussion****Open Office Hours/Presentations (Day 5 final)**

Thursday, April 30

*Part 1: open “office hours” for final paper feedback (3-4:15pm)**Part 2: day 5 presentations (4:45-5:45pm)****PARTNER ORGANIZATION REPORT IS DUE SUNDAY, MAY 3 BY 11:59PM****

*This is the final deadline, as your paper must be graded before the deadline for the master's degree. If you do not turn in your paper by this date, you will not receive your master's degree in the spring.

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 your fellow students and me.

- 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.

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:** 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). Some assignments cannot be turned in late due to degree requirements.

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, January 29**; the last date to drop *with* a W grade is **Monday, April 6**. (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)