

PUBH 702: Systematic Reviews

Spring 2015

Mondays 12:20-1:10 pm
2308 Mc-Gavran-Greenberg

Instructor:

Russ Harris, MD, MPH
(With a little help from my friends)

This is a 1-credit course that is meant to give the student a stronger background in assessing and conducting systematic reviews. The course focuses on:

- (1) reading, discussing, and critiquing systematic reviews on various topics;
- (2) reading background and methods articles on systematic reviews;
- (3) developing a focused question for your own systematic review;
- (4) working on the systematic review over the semester.

The course will be taught primarily in a “journal club”, group discussion format. Frequently, students will present their own work. Some sessions will be set aside for individual meetings.

Please check the course Sakai website for weekly reading assignments and further information about the course during the semester. It is absolutely essential that each week’s reading be done before class.

General Learning Objectives:

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Have a good knowledge of how to critically appraise a systematic review;
2. Have a good knowledge of how to conduct a systematic review;
3. Have completed at least half of the work of their own systematic review (including developing a focused question, writing Introduction and Methods sections, developing and using eligibility criteria for admissible evidence; developing and using search terms to find potentially eligible articles, assessing articles for inclusion/exclusion, assessing the “quality” of potentially included articles, developing an evidence table of included articles, and beginning to interpret the findings).

Grades: (we expect everyone to do well)

1. 50% of the grade is from in-class participation. [Note: evaluation of participation is not based entirely on the volume of comments made by a student. Excellent participation also involves the quality of comments, including their thoughtfulness and the degree to which they demonstrate that the student has not only done the expected reading but has also gone beyond this to read and think more deeply.]
2. 50% of the grade is from the instructor’s evaluation of the quality of the partial systematic review that the student has been able to complete in the semester.

To be considered for Honors, a student must attend regularly, participate at a level beyond that expected for all students, and write an outstanding partial systematic review.