

## Course Information

Course Number: DDHS 4715  
Course Title: Research Methods  
Section: Fall 2024  
Time: Tuesdays, 10am-12pm  
Location: AEB Room 310  
Credit Hours: 1.5 hours

## Instructor Details

Course Director: Jane C. Cotter RDH, MS, CTTS, FAADH  
Office: AEB Room 139B  
Phone: 214-828-8458  
E-Mail: j\_cotter@tamu.edu  
Office Hours: Wednesday and Friday 1-5pm or by appointment

## Additional Participating Faculty

### Co-Director

Ariana Vargas, RDH, BSDH, MPH

### Mentors

Maureen Brown, RDH, BSDH, MS-HIED  
Brandy Cowen, RDH, MS  
Martha Estrada, RDH, BSDH  
Eric Fox, RDH, MS  
Chelsi Graham, RDH, BSDH  
Thao Kim, RDH, BSDH  
Joanne Martinez, RDH, BSDH  
Amanda McNeil, BSDH, MS  
Chelsea Moorman, RDH, BSDH, FADHA  
Leigh Ann Nurick, BSDH, MA, MS  
Kayla Reed, RDH, MS-EDHP  
Leah Spittle, RDH, BSDH, MS  
Ariana Vargas, RDH, BSDH, MPH

## Course Description

This course is designed to introduce the dental hygiene student to the basic concepts of research design and knowledge discovery in the context of evidence-based health science practice. Emphasis is placed on developing the ability to critically evaluate dental literature, apply it to dental practice, and especially to communicate knowledge to the dental community through verbal and written media.

## Course Prerequisites

None

## Special Course Designation

Specify if the course has one (or more) of the following special course designations:  
writing intensive (W) student must pass the writing components to earn a grade in the course.

## Course Learning Outcomes

### Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain how research informs knowledge development and daily practice.
2. Differentiate between sources of human knowledge relative to research approaches.
3. Incorporate critical thinking into an evidence-based treatment decision-making process.
4. Describe the scientific method and research process, and their relevance to healthcare.
5. Gain an appreciation for the role of research in evidence-based oral healthcare practice.
6. Evaluate the merits and limitations of oral healthcare research articles.

### Related Competencies:

#### *Ethics*

- 1.1. Apply ethical reasoning to dental hygiene and practice with professional integrity.

#### *Information Management and Critical Thinking*

- 2.1. Apply critical thinking skills and evidence-based decision making to the practice of dental hygiene.
- 2.2. Commit to self-assessment and lifelong learning in order to provide clinical care.
- 2.3. Effectively communicate with diverse populations without discrimination.
- 2.4. Employ the principles of scientific writing.

#### *Professional Identity*

- 3.1. Prepare for career opportunities within health care, industry, education, research, and other roles as they evolve for the dental hygienist.
- 3.2. Advance and promote the values of the profession through leadership, service activities, and affiliation with professional organizations.
- 3.3. Contribute towards the knowledge base of the dental hygiene profession.

#### *Community Involvement*

- 5.3. Influence the public (consumer groups, businesses, and government agencies) to support important health care issues.

## Textbook and/or Resource Materials

### Required

Dental Public Health & Research: Contemporary Practice for the Dental Hygienist, 4<sup>th</sup> edition  
Christine Nielson Nathe RDH, MS  
Published by Pearson 2017  
ISBN-13: 978-0-13425-712-9

Darby and Walsh. Dental Hygiene Theory and Practice, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed., Elsevier, Maryland Heights, MO 2020.

### Recommended

- [www.cochrane.org](http://www.cochrane.org) (Provides accurate info on oral health topics)
- <https://launch.tamu.edu/Undergraduate-Research/URS>
- <http://www.adha.org> (American Dental Hygienists' Association)
- <http://www.ada.org> (American Dental Association)

AMA Manual of Style: A Guide for Authors and Editors (10<sup>th</sup> Ed.) Edited by JAMA & Archives Journals  
Published: 2007  
ISBN: 978-0-19517-633-9

Lecture objectives, handouts, Powerpoint slides, and other course materials will be posted to the course Canvas Learning Management web site.

### Grading Policy

#### Grading Scale

- A 90.0-100
- B 80.0-89.99
- C 75.0-79.99
- D 70.0-74.99
- F <70.0

Grades including the final course grade will not be curved or rounded.

- Exams may be given in true/false, multiple choice, short answer, essay format, or any combination thereof. These exams will primarily assess the student's understanding of materials and concepts introduced in the lectures and associated assignments.
- Development of an informative poster for presentation in collaboration with team members. Although posters will be developed in collaboration, students will receive individual grades based on their demonstrated contributions to the overall project.
- Each student will individually submit assignments related to the subject matter chosen by the team for the poster project. These assignments will engage the student's ability to discuss and develop ideas in collaboration with others, and then communicate a

personal understanding and perspective of that knowledge that illustrates critical thinking.

- Each student will individually write and submit an abstract of 250 words maximum for the team’s poster project, worth a maximum of 15 points. This will develop each student’s ability to synthesize knowledge and understanding into a clear and concise form for dissemination.

3 Exams	30%
Assignments	25%
<u>Final Poster Draft</u>	<u>45%</u>
 Total	 100%

Every graded item must be passed with at least 70% of the possible maximum score to pass the course. There is NO extra credit.

**\*\*\*All assignments are required to be completed to receive credit for the course. Nothing listed above is optional.\*\*\***

### Late Work Policy

- Late work will be accepted.
- 10 points will be lost for each day assignment is late including weekends.

Further information can be found at this link to [Student Rule 7](#).

### Course Schedule

**Course Topics, Calendar of Activities, Major Assignment Dates**  
 ~Class Schedule Fall 2024~  
**4715 Research Methods**

\*\*\*Schedule is subject to change at any time during the semester\*\*\*

DATE	TOPICS	ASSIGNMENT	FACULTY
8/13	Course Introduction, Research in Dental Hygiene	Review Syllabus Select Groups and Topics <b>Reading:</b> Nathe: Chp. 14, pgs. 181-186	Cotter
8/20	Research Design and Evidence	<b>Reading:</b> Darby: Chp, 3, pgs. 25-33	Cotter
8/27	TAMU Resources/Writing Center/Library/Mentors		Cotter
9/3	Exam 1	<b>Assignment DUE:</b> Identify Research Topic and PICO	Cotter

9/10	Evaluating Scientific Literature	<b>Reading:</b> Nathe: Chp. 20, pgs.284-291	Cotter
9/17	Intro to Biostatistics	<b>Reading:</b> Nathe: Chp. 16, pgs. 211-232	Cotter
9/24	Data Collection and Interpretation	<b>Reading:</b> Nathe: Chp. 16, pgs. 211-232	Cotter
10/1	Exam 2		Cotter
10/8	Research Ethics	<b>Reading:</b> Nathe:Chp. 15, pgs.188-194	Cotter
10/15	Dissemination and Implementation	<b>Assignment DUE:</b> Literature Review Matrix	Cotter
10/22	Scientific Writing, Abstracts and Poster Presentations	<b>Reading:</b> Nathe: Appendix A, pgs. A-1=A-2 (320-321) <b>Assignment DUE:</b> Title and Objectives	Cotter
10/29	Exam 3		Cotter
11/5		<b>Assignment DUE:</b> Photos and Graphics	Cotter
11/12		<b>Assignment Due:</b> Send Abstract and Poster to Mentor	Cotter
11/19		<b>Assignment DUE:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Draft of Abstract and Poster	Cotter
11/26	Fall Break		
12/3		<b>Assignment DUE:</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Draft of Abstract and Poster	Cotter
12/10		<b>Final Poster Draft Due</b>	

## Optional Course Information

### OPTIONAL LAUNCH URS Thesis program

The Undergraduate Research Scholars (URS) thesis program seeks to provide eligible undergraduates with a graduate student experience by allowing them to participate in research and communicate their findings as principal authors to the University's scholarly community.

You will be paired with 2-3 Dental Hygiene faculty mentors who will guide you through writing a thesis. You will be offered writing resources through the University Writing Center. You will have an opportunity to present your thesis at the URS Symposium. All faculty mentors are subject to Course Director approval.

Deadline for application this year is **September 4, 2024 at 11:59am CDT**. More info and registration at: <https://launch.tamu.edu/Undergraduate-Research/URS>

**Technology Support**

Students are responsible for maintaining their devices and ensuring that they are in proper working order throughout the semester. This includes maintaining access to the college wireless network, access to all accounts and keeping passwords up to date. Students are expected to keep their devices up to date regarding patches and OS updates.

Division of IT

If the student experiences issues with an electronic device, Wi-Fi access, axiUm, Zoom, or user accounts, their first point of contact should be the Division of IT Central Help Desk or the local Division of IT at SOD. The Central Helpdesk provides 24-hour support.

Division of IT Central Help Desk Website: <a href="https://it.tamu.edu/help/">https://it.tamu.edu/help/</a> Phone: 1-979-845-8300 Email: <a href="mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu">helpdesk@tamu.edu</a>	COD Local Division of IT Office Room: AEB 519 Phone: 214-828-8248
--	---

COD Instructional Design Team

For electronic exam support or problems concerning other academic technology, such as the LMS (Canvas), ExamSoft, or Exemplify, students should contact the Instructional Design team.

Room: AEB 516 through Academic Affairs

Carmina Castro                      [ccastro@tamu.edu](mailto:ccastro@tamu.edu)                      (214-828-8316)  
 Jeff Lowry                              [lowryj1@tamu.edu](mailto:lowryj1@tamu.edu)                      (214-828-8243)

**University Policies**

**Attendance Policy**

Texas A&M University views class attendance as an individual student responsibility. In the Department of Dental Hygiene regular and punctual attendance is mandatory for scheduled or rescheduled classes, clinics, and related activities/events. The course director will check attendance at the start of the class/activity. Students who are not present at that time will be marked absent. **Students MUST notify course director via Teams message to report absences prior to the start of class session.**

For any absences (excused or unexcused), it will be the student’s responsibility to contact the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) by sending an email to [Sod-attendance@tamu.edu](mailto:Sod-attendance@tamu.edu) prior to the start of class session. The OSA will decide if your absence is excused or unexcused. Make sure to provide your name, class level, the date(s) of absence and reason for your absence, the names of the instructors that need to be notified. If documentation is requested, it must be from a medical provider on letterhead with the provider's signature and be submitted within 3 business days of returning to school. Please refer to <https://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07/>

**Excused Absences**

**Illnesses or emergencies:** It is understood that absences due to severe or contagious illness, injuries or emergencies may occur. An absence due to illness may require a medical confirmation note from a student's medical provider. For injuries or illnesses that require a student to be absent from class for three or more business days, a note from his or her medical provider is mandatory. If a student has frequented sick days, the program director may require a medical provider's note for each absence.

**Note:** An absence from a non-acute medical service does not constitute an excused absence.

**Religious holy day:** A student whose absence is excused under, or the observance of religious holy day will be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within 3 days after the absence. **If the student fails to schedule and complete the exam or assignment within three days, a grade of zero will be given.**

### **Unexcused Absences**

Tardiness and non-emergent appointments (illnesses not considered severe or contagious) scheduled during class time will be considered an unexcused absence. Quizzes and exams start at the beginning of class time. Students who arrive late will not receive extra time to take the quiz/exam. Since classroom learning applies directly to patient care, sleeping in class is considered an unexcused absence and is subject to the remediation policy. **Students with unexcused absences or late arrivals will have TWO points deducted from their final course grade. No make-up quiz/test will be given** if an absence is unexcused on a test day. Examinations will not be administered in advance for a planned/anticipated unexcused absence.

### **General Information**

For any absences (excused or unexcused), it will be the student's responsibility to review the lecture recordings for the class(es) missed. Additionally, the student must complete a make-up assignment(s) within 10 calendar days (including weekends) after returning to school. The make-up assignment will require the student to thoroughly answer the learning objectives for the class session(s) and define any listed terminology. The assignment must demonstrate the student has listened to the recording(s) and read the assigned reading. Make-up assignments must be typed or handwritten (legibly), contain the title of the missed class session(s) and be sent via email within the 10-calendar-day deadline. **Failure to complete the make-up assignment(s) within this time frame will result in TWO points being deducted from student's final grade.**

**IMPORTANT:** Failure to remediate all absences (excused or unexcused) by the final exam or end of semester may result in an "F" for the course.

To review the comprehensive Texas A&M University student attendance rule, go to <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07>

### **Academic Integrity Statement and Policy**

"An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do."

“Texas A&M University students are responsible for authenticating all work submitted to an instructor. If asked, students must be able to produce proof that the item submitted is indeed the work of that student. Students must keep appropriate records at all times. The inability to authenticate one’s work, should the instructor request it, may be sufficient grounds to initiate an academic misconduct case” ([Section 20.1.2.3, Student Rule 20](#)).

### **Texas A&M College of Dentistry**

You can learn more about the Aggie Honor System Office Rules and Procedures, academic integrity, and your rights and responsibilities at [aggiehonor.tamu.edu](http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu). You can also contact Graduate Studies at 214-828-8182, Student Affairs at 214-828-8210, or your Program Director, for guidance.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy**

#### **Texas A&M College of Dentistry**

Texas A&M University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact the Department of Disability Resources at <https://disability.tamu.edu/process/> or contact Ms. Tracey Forman at [Traceyf@disability.eamu.edu](mailto:Traceyf@disability.eamu.edu) or call (979) 845-1637.

Disabilities may include, but are not limited to attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Resources as soon as possible. Information concerning proctoring of exams: Please contact the Office of student Development at (214) 828-8987.

### **Title IX and Statement on Limits to Confidentiality**

Texas A&M University is committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe and productive for all. University policies and federal and state laws prohibit gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

With the exception of some medical and mental health providers, all university employees (including full and part-time faculty, staff, paid graduate assistants, student workers, etc.) are Mandatory Reporters and must report to the Title IX Office if the employee experiences, observes, or becomes aware of an incident that meets the following conditions (see [University Rule 08.01.01.M1](#)):

- The incident is reasonably believed to be discrimination or harassment.
- The incident is alleged to have been committed by or against a person who, at the time of the incident, was (1) a student enrolled at the University or (2) an employee of the University.

Mandatory Reporters must file a report regardless of how the information comes to their attention – including but not limited to face-to-face conversations, a written class assignment or paper, class discussion, email, text, or social media post. Although Mandatory Reporters must file a report, in most instances, a person who is subjected to the alleged conduct will be able to control how the report is handled, including whether or not to pursue a formal investigation. The University’s goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and to ensure access to the resources you need.



### Texas A&M College of Dentistry

Students can learn more about filing a report, accessing supportive resources, and navigating the Title IX investigation and resolution process on the University's [Title IX webpage](#). College of Dentistry students can contact Graduate Studies at 214-828-8182, Student Affairs at 214-828-8210, Security at 214-828-8335, their Program Director, or their Department Head to report an incident.

### Statement on Mental Health and Wellness

Texas A&M University recognizes that mental health and wellness are critical factors that influence a student's academic success and overall wellbeing. Students are encouraged to engage in healthy self-care by utilizing available resources and services on your campus. If you need assistance contact: [caps@tamu.edu](mailto:caps@tamu.edu) or <http://caps.tamu.edu/>



### TELUS Health Student Support App.

### Suicide Awareness & Prevention

**Call 911 or visit your nearest emergency room** if you are experiencing a life-threatening situation or if your safety is at risk. **Call 988 to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** or go online to <https://988lifeline.org/>



### Campus-Specific Policies

#### Statement on the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

FERPA is a federal law designed to protect the privacy of educational records by limiting access to these records, to establish the right of students to inspect and review their educational records and to provide guidelines for the correction of inaccurate and misleading data through informal and formal hearings. Currently enrolled students wishing to withhold any or all directory information items may do so by going to [howdy.tamu.edu](http://howdy.tamu.edu) and clicking on the "Directory Hold Information" link in the Student Records channel on the MyRecord tab. The complete [FERPA Notice to Students](#) and the student records policy is available on the Office of the Registrar webpage.

Items that can never be identified as public information are a student's social security number, citizenship, gender, grades, GPR or class schedule. All efforts will be made in this class to protect your privacy and to ensure confidential treatment of information associated with or generated by your participation in the class.

Directory items include name, UIN, local address, permanent address, email address, local telephone number, permanent telephone number, dates of attendance, program of study (college, major, campus), classification, previous institutions attended, degrees honors and awards received, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, medical residence location and medical residence specialization.

---

**DDHS 4715: Research Methods**

*Syllabus Agreement Form*

*(Please initial each line)*

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read and understand the course syllabus and my responsibilities to successfully complete **DDHS 4715: Research Methods**.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read and understand the institutional policies on academic honesty and have pledged accordingly to the **Aggie Honor Code**.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read and understand that the course syllabus provides a **tentative** timeline and that the course director has the ability to adapt/modify the syllabus, as needed. The course director will provide written notice to all students in as advance as possible for any changes that may arise.

Print Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Course Director Use Only:**

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_