ACM COSTA RICA: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN PUBLIC HEALTH, EDUCATION, & THE ENVIRONMENT
Research Paper and Seminar Course
Spring Semester

COURSE COORDINATOR: Program Director

INSTRUCTORS: TBD

CREDITS: 4

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will cover the topics necessary to analyze research data and prepare the final research paper and oral presentation. This includes coursework in statistical data analysis, technical writing of a scientific manuscript, and oral presentation techniques. Students will work with on final reports (written and oral) and will include data organization and analysis, several written drafts and a final oral presentation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
The objective of this course is to instruct the student in the necessary procedures for synthesizing the results of a scientific research project in an area of interest. Upon return from the field you will learn basic concepts of organization and analysis of your data, and its interpretation necessary to find plausible answers to your research questions. Finally you will learn basic concepts of technical writing to present your final written paper. You will also be shown effective techniques for the oral defense, or presentation of your final paper.

Review the evolution of excellent examples of research projects carried out by ACM colleagues found in the “Student Academic Resources” Dropbox folder. All stages of the research, from formulating the initial idea, to the drafts of the research proposal and final paper can also be found there. The course readings will assist you in all stages of your project.

You will have the opportunity to improve your curriculum vitae and experience (as many former ACM students have done) by using this work as the basis for thesis seminars, senior thesis projects, oral presentations in national or international congresses, or by submission for publication in a related journal, as many former ACM CR Spring students have done. Start by reviewing the evolution of various ACM students’ research projects found in the “Student Academic Resources” Dropbox folder. This course and the ACM Costa Rica Spring research semester is considered a prelude for future, more in-depth research you may undertake in the quantitative (environmental and social sciences), as well as, qualitative (social sciences or humanities) fields.

REQUIRED TEXTS
To be determined
COURSE CONTENT

Class 1:

Class 2:
Data Analysis and Review of Statistical Tests

Class 3:
Review of Data Analysis in Groups

Class 4:
Scientific Writing, Suggestions for Oral Presentations

ASSESSMENT

Grading: The final grade will be calculated as a percentage earned out of 500 possible points. Please see the documents “Research Paper and Oral Presentation Guidelines” and “Research Paper and Oral Presentation Grading Rubrics” found in the “Student Academic Resources” Dropbox folder.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final research paper</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final oral presentation</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final feedback to research site</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total points possible</strong></td>
<td><strong>500</strong></td>
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ACM POLICY ON ACADEMICS

A complete listing of ACM policies can be found in your student handbook.

Class attendance and participation: You are expected to attend and participate fully in all classroom sessions, site visits, and field trips.

Academic honesty: Actions of dishonesty are destructive to the well-being of the academic community, and ACM staff respond to them vigorously. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic theft will result in a failing grade for that assignment and may result in failure for the course.

ACM POLICY ON NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Associated Colleges of the Midwest does not discriminate in the operation of its educational programs, activities, or employment on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, marital status, or disability.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT

Laptops, tablets and mobile phones are strictly forbidden during class time.