Description of the Spring Seminar (1-credit)

The Community Research Program is a two-semester seminar that offers leadership, research, and public social policy training for students interested in working with communities of color in Massachusetts.

In the Spring, students will register for an independent study with a faculty advisor, conduct their research project, and attend the 1-credit community research seminar once a week.

The Spring semester seminar is designed to complement students’ independent work on their research projects. It will serve in large part as a forum for students to discuss their research with each other, and work through challenges together. The seminar will include the opportunity for sharing research data in order to receive feedback on the research process to include data collection, analysis and writing of the final paper. Former CRP students will also visit the class and share their expertise and experiences with the process, challenges, and rewards of research. Finally, students will continue to develop their formal oral presentation skills in preparation for and end of semester presentation as well as other potential opportunities to present in a public setting.
Course Objectives for Spring Semester

• By completing and submitting your research plan to the Institutional Review Board, gain a deeper understanding of the various ethical and methodological issues related to your project that must be addressed before conducting research
• Deepen your understanding of the process of conducting community-based research, including the obstacles that researchers encounter and ways in which they can be overcome
• Apply appropriate methodological tools, including data collection and analysis skills, for your research project
• Acquire analytic reading and writing skills, as well as skills for working with various populations within a specific community
• Develop oral presentation skills suitable for both academic and general audiences

Seminar Requirements and Grading for Spring Semester

This is a one (1) credit seminar. In addition to a grade for this seminar, you will also receive a grade for your independent research study from your faculty advisor that will constitute three three (3) credits. Your faculty advisor will determine the requirements for your independent research study final paper.

Class Attendance and Participation (60% of your grade)

This seminar is designed to assist you in completing your independent research study by providing an environment that facilitates peer support and methodological instruction. Therefore, class attendance is of utmost importance. It is expected that you will come to class prepared to discuss progress on your research project and lead one discussion specifically on your research data to date (mid-semester). Additionally, it is expected that you will provide constructive feedback to your classmates on their respective projects. In addition there are several tasks that need to be completed to keep your project on track:

Registration: You will ensure that you are enrolled in a three (3) credit course (e.g., Research and Readings or Independent Study) with your faculty advisor before drop/add period ends: Wednesday, January 21st. You will be enrolled in the one (1) credit seminar (SOCY2255) by Prof. Piatelli. If you are experiencing problems with registration, please inform Prof. Piatelli as soon as possible so she can assist you.

Faculty/Student Agreement: If you have not done so already, you will meet with your faculty advisor and obtain a signed faculty/student agreement. Please provide a copy of this agreement to your GA by Thursday, January 22nd. If for some reason you are not able to obtain this signed agreement by this date, please inform Prof. Piatelli as soon as possible so she can address any questions your advisor may have.
IRB forms: You will complete and submit your IRB expedited application form and materials with your faculty advisor approval by **Thursday, January 29th**. You can find copies and guides for the final materials on Canvas and also on the IRB website ([http://www.bc.edu/research/oric/human](http://www.bc.edu/research/oric/human)). Please provide a copy of your submission to your GA for our records. If for some reason you are not able to submit your application by this date, you will submit a status report to Prof. Piatelli as to your progress with submitting your application.

**Project timeline.** You will draft a schedule outlining tasks to be completed for your research project to serve as checkpoints throughout the semester. The first task is to prepare an abstract of your proposed project with a list of the tasks required to complete your IRB application and materials. This is due the first class, **Thursday, January 15th** where you will orally update the class on your project. Your project timeline will be sent to Prof. Piatelli via email by **Thursday, February 5th**. It is recommended that this timeline be presented to your faculty advisor as well.

**Progress Reports (30% of your grade)**

1\(^{st}\) Written Progress Report: This report will outline your progress to date with your research project. You should discuss your progress in developing a sample and collecting data, along with any challenges you may have encountered conducting research or working with faculty. This report of approximately 2-3 double spaced pages is due via email to Prof. Piatelli by **Thursday, February 26th** and will be used as the basis for discussion in the next class. A handout with guiding questions can be found on Canvas.

2\(^{nd}\) Written Progress Report: This report should focus on discussing preliminary interpretations of data collected thus far, any challenges in finalizing data collection and analysis, and an action plan for crafting the final research paper. This report of 4-5 double spaced pages is due via email to Prof. Piatelli by **Thursday, April 2\(^{nd}\)** and will be used a basis for discussion in the next class. A handout with guiding questions can be found on Canvas.

**Presentation (10% of your grade)**
You will be asked to present your research project in the form of a 15-minute powerpoint presentation. Powerpoint presentations will be sent via email to your GA by 5pm on the day prior to your presentation. You will also provide your GA with an abstract of your paper by that time as well. Points will be deducted for lateness and not adhering to time limit for presentation. Guidelines (similar to your Fall presentation) for this presentation can be found on Canvas.

**Grading scale and late work:** 95-100 (A); 90-94 (A-); 87-89 (B+); 84-86 (B); 80-83 (B-); 77-79 (C+); 74-76 (C); 70-73 (C-), etc. In order to best support your progress with your research project and evaluate the professor’s effectiveness in the classroom, it is imperative that you submit your work on time. If you have extenuating circumstances that will prevent you from doing so, you must come see Prof. Piatelli BEFORE the due date to discuss a possible extension and appropriate point deductions; otherwise you will lose 5 points each day the assignment is late.
Students Requiring Accommodations

If you have a learning disability and are requesting accommodations for this course, please register with Dr. Kathy Duggan (dugganka@bc.edu), Associate Director, Connors Family Learning Center. For other types of disabilities, register with Ms. Paulette Durrett (paulette.durrett@bc.edu), Assistant Dean for Students with Disabilities. Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for all accommodations.

Academic Integrity

All students are expected to understand the university’s policy about academic integrity. It can be found at www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/academic/integrity.html. Any violations of this policy will result in penalties prescribed by the university. A list of writing resources to assist you in citing sources is available from the library and can be found at http://www.bc.edu/libraries/help/citation/formatting.html.
Seminar Schedule

Thursday, January 15
Summary of Project Status
Review research proposal and IRB status

Thursday, January 22
Registration Completed
Designing data collection instruments
Faculty Agreement to GA
Setting project timelines and managing your time

Thursday, January 29
IRB Application Due/
CRP Student Panel
Status Update

Thursday, February 5
Timeline Due
CRP Student Panel Status Update
Problems gaining access, generating a sample and other research dilemmas

Thursday, February 12
Analyzing quantitative data

Thursday, February 19
Analyzing qualitative data

Thursday, February 26
Progress Report #1 Due
(Continued)

SPRING BREAK NO CLASS

Thursday, March 12
Student-Led Discussions on Data to Date (2)

Thursday, March 19
Student-Led Discussions on Data to Date (2)

Thursday, March 26
Student-Led Discussions on Data to Date (2)

Thursday, April 2
Progress Report #2 Due
Student-Led Discussions on Data to Date (2)

EASTER NO CLASS

Thursday, April 9
Moving from Analysis to Paper Writing
Presentation Overview

12.11.14
Thursday, April 16
Poster Working Session

Thursday, April 23
Presentations (4)

Thursday, April 30
Presentations (4) and Certificates