

R. JAY TURNER, PHD
Sociology 6933

Fall 2007
Mondays 1-4

ADVANCED RESEARCH SEMINAR: The Sociology of Mental Health and Substance Problems

One purpose of this seminar is to provide advanced instruction and practical experience with respect to conceptual, methodological, and data analytic aspects of the sociology of mental health, substance use problems and/or criminal deviance. Conceptual and empirical considerations will focus on life course perspectives and may include the relevance of physical disability and physical health in general. A primary course objective is to enhance student's ability to identify research aims that are of substantive significance and of manageable size, and to produce analyses and manuscripts of a competitive quality.

The primary mechanism for achieving these aims will be active collaboration on the development of two or more papers of sufficient quality to warrant their submission to appropriate journals. To the maximum extent possible, students will participate in each and every evolution involved in the conceptual, analytic, interpretive and presentational dimensions of the paper development process.

Please be clear that this will be a serious course requiring serious and continuous effort on the part of each and every registered student. It will involve at least as much work and focus as the more demanding courses you may have previously experienced.

To initiate an effective start to the course processes, we will restrict consideration to possibilities provided by the "Transitions" and/or "Disability" data sets. Students are asked to study the provided grant applications that describe non-exhaustive sets of such possibilities between the first and second weeks of class. The objective is to identify issues or topics of interest and that might be candidates for the two or more papers we will aspire to complete.

Please note: The scheduled Monday meeting time is problematic because of several conflicts. These include: labor day Sept 3d; that I am representing the Center at a special federal meeting on health disparity research in Washington on Sept 17th; that my NIH review committee meets in Washington on October 1st; and that I will be away in California on the 15th of October. Because our goals for the course require that we meet at least one a week, we will need to find alternative meeting times to cover these conflicting dates.

Evaluation

The requirements of this course include participation in initial conceptual discussions, classroom presentations of weekly progress made by one's team, and active participation in tasks required to conceptualize a useful paper, set it in the context of what is known, conduct appropriate analyses, and interpret and write up the results. Grades

will be assigned based on the professor's observations of individual performance and individual effort.

Prerequisites

Graduate statistics (intermediate) and at least one graduate course on health.

Academic Honor Code

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in *The Florida State University Bulletin* and the *Student Handbook*. The Academic Honor System of The Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the university community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the university community.

Please see the following web sites for a complete explanation of the Academic Honor code.

<http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/codes/honor.html>
<http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook>

Americans with Disabilities Act

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center, (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Student Disability Resource Center
Dean of Students Department
08 Kellum Hall
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4400
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
[http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/Student Disability/](http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/Student%20Disability/)

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