

## Course Information

Course Number: *DDHS 4710*  
Course Title: *Applied Research*  
Section: *Spring 2025*  
Time: *Tuesdays, 9am-10am*  
Location: *AEB, Room 134*  
Credit Hours: *1*

## Instructor Details

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

## 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

Practical experience in applying principles of research methodology; includes preparation of a formal proposal and table clinic under mentorship of individual faculty.

## Course Prerequisites

DDHS 4715 Research Methods

## Special Course Designation

To receive C credit for this course, you must pass writing and speaking components.

## Course Learning Outcomes

### Course Objectives\*:

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

1. Apply critical appraisal skills in evaluating and disseminating oral health care research.
2. Design and appropriately execute an effective strategy for writing a research proposal.
3. Apply scientific writing skills in completing an abstract and research proposal.
4. Expand your knowledge in a researchable topic and communicate learnings to the public.
5. Maintain open communication between student, course director, and faculty mentor.

\*Specific learning objectives will be provided in the Course Manual for each topic.

### Related Competencies:

The following list of beginning competencies identifies the knowledge, skills and attitudes the dental hygiene student must acquire by graduation in order to become a competent, curious and caring practitioner of dental hygiene. This course will begin to address these specific competencies that will be needed to treat patients in a professional and competent manner. Refer to [Competencies for the Dental Hygienist, Caruth School of Dental Hygiene](#).

#### *Information Management and Critical Thinking*

- 2.1. Apply critical thinking skills and EBDM to the practice of dental hygiene.
- 2.2. Commit to self-assessment and lifelong learning in order to provide clinical care.
- 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 organization.
- 3.3. Contribute towards the knowledge base of the dental hygiene profession.

## Textbook and/or Resource Materials

### **Recommended**

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.

- [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)

## Grading Policy

### Dental Hygiene Students

LETTER GRADE	NUMERICAL GRADE RANGE	GRADE POINTS	DESCRIPTOR
A	90-100	4.0	Excellent
B	80-89	3.0	Good
C	75-79	2.0	Fair
D	70-74	1.0	Poor, may require remediation
F	Below 70	0.0	Failure
S		0.0	Satisfactory
U		0.0	Unsatisfactory
I			Incomplete (work or assignments)

Evaluation Criteria/Methods: Conscientious attention to deadlines, course-meeting times, completion of reading and/or written assignments, and active participation in all class activities can have a favorable impact on your learning, as well as that of your classmates. The final grade will be based on the following metrics:

Assessment Category	Value	Format
Informative Poster Oral Presentation	20%	Individual Grade
Journal Article/Narrative Review	40%	Individual Grade
Peer Evaluations/Quizzes	15%	Individual Grade
Caruth Journal Club Presentation	25%	Individual Grade
<u>Note:</u> Assessment specific guidelines and rubrics are available as appendices. *Students that make <75 on any assignments are <b>required</b> to meet with the Course Director to review individual performance and seek remediation, where necessary.		

## Late Work Policy

Late Assignments: Submission of assignments are due as stated by the Course Director. Assignments submitted after the due date will be considered late and students will be penalized five points per calendar day if the assignment is submitted late (*this includes weekends*).

*Work submitted by a student as makeup work for an excused absence is not considered late work and is exempted from the late work policy. Late work policies must clearly link to [Student Rule 7](#).*

## Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Expectations
Week 1 1/7/25	<b>Course Overview:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Syllabus, Rubrics, &amp; Expectations</li> </ul>	
Week 2 1/14/25	<b>TAMU Writing Center Workshop:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivering Effective Oral Presentations</li> </ul>	
Week 3 1/21/25	<b>Lecture:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparing articles for publication</li> </ul>	
Week 4 1/28/25	<b>Caruth Journal Club</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group 1 (Fox &amp; Vargas)</li> <li>Group 8 (Fox &amp; Spittle)</li> </ul>	<u>Pre-Module Materials:</u> Journal Club Article
Week 5 2/11/25	<b>DUE: First Draft of Journal Article</b> <b>Caruth Journal Club</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group 2 (Reed &amp; Kim)</li> <li>Group 4 (Cowen &amp; Martinez)</li> </ul>	<u>Pre-Module Materials:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Journal Club Article</li> </ul>
Week 6 2/18/25	<b>DUE: Oral Presentation Script</b> <b>Oral Presentations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research Group Candidates</li> <li>Faculty Panel Judging &amp; Feedback</li> </ul>	
Week 7 2/25/25	<b>Oral Presentations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research Group Candidates</li> <li>Faculty Panel Judging &amp; Feedback</li> </ul>	
<b>Week 8</b> <b>3/4/25</b> <b>11 am – 12 pm</b>	<b>Due: 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of Journal Article</b> <b>Caruth Journal Club</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group 3 (Estrada &amp; Vargas)</li> <li>Group 7 (Moorman &amp; Kim)</li> </ul>	<u>Pre-Module Materials:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Journal Club Article</li> </ul>
Week 9 3/11/25	<b>Caruth Journal Club</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group 5 (Brown &amp; Graham)</li> <li>Group 10 (Nurick &amp; Cowen)</li> </ul>	<u>Pre-Module Materials:</u> Journal Club Article

Week 10 3/18/25	<b>Spring Break Week</b>
Week 11 3/25/25	<b>Caruth Journal Club</b> <div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group 6 (Brown &amp; Estrada)</li> <li>Group 9 (Moorman &amp; McNeil)</li> </ul> </div> <u>Pre-Module Materials:</u> Journal Club Article
Week 12 Wednesday 4/2/25	<b>INFORMATIVE POSTER PRESENTATIONS: Scholars day</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Panel Judging for Research Scholar's Day: TBA</u></li> </ol>
Week 13 4/8/25	Independent study to complete Journal Article
Week 14 4/15/25	<b>Due: Final Journal Article</b>
Week 15 4/22/25	<b>Research Section: Senior Exit Examination</b>
Week 16 4/29/25	<i>Remediation for Research Section: Senior Exit Examination</i>

## Optional Course Information Items

### 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 (both TAMU and TAMU Health) and keeping passwords up to date. Students are expected to keep their devices up to date in regard to patches and OS updates.

### Division of IT

If the student experiences issues with an electronic device, wifi 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 COD. 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>	SOD Local Division of IT Office Room: 519 Phone: 214-828-8248
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### 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: 516 - 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

Canvas support 24-hours

(877) 354-4821

### Lecture Recordings and Mediasite Support

Lecture recordings are posted to the Mediasite course catalog typically no more than 24 hours after they have been received. Unless otherwise specified, all course recordings are available via the Mediasite channel link within the Canvas course.

For missing recordings, contact your instructor and the Instructional Design Team.

For problems with recording playback, Mediasite access, or performance, contact IT's Health Technology Care Team (979.436.0250).

## 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 5 days after the absence.

**Makeup assessments for excused absences must be administered either in advance of the scheduled exam or within 5 business days of the student's return from the absence.**

### **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>**

### **Makeup Work Policy**

Students will be excused from attending class on the day of a graded activity or when attendance contributes to a student's grade, for the reasons stated in Student Rule 7, or other reason deemed appropriate by the Office of Student Affairs.

Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about makeup work, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

Absences related to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 may necessitate a period of more than 30 days for make-up work, and the timeframe for make-up work should be agreed upon by the student and instructor” ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.1](#)).

“The instructor is under no obligation to provide an opportunity for the student to make up work missed because of an unexcused absence” ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.2](#)).

Students who request an excused absence are expected to uphold the Aggie Honor Code and Student Conduct Code. (See [Student Rule 24](#).)

### 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. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Resources and their instructors as soon as possible. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability which may include, but not limited to: attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions, visit Disability Resources for more information. <http://disability.tamu.edu>.

The primary contact for any new disability accommodation requests and for any accommodation questions/concerns:

Tracey Forman, Associate Director of Disability Resources  
979.845.1637 | [traceyf@disability.tamu.edu](mailto:traceyf@disability.tamu.edu) |

Staff and administration in Student Affairs, Student Development and Academic Affairs are available as needed to discuss any concerns and navigate the accommodations process with our students locally.



## 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.

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

Students who need someone to talk to can call the TAMU Helpline (979-845-2700) from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. weekdays and 24 hours on weekends. 24-hour emergency help is also available through the National Suicide Prevention Hotline (800-273-8255) or at [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org). You can also contact Graduate Studies at 214-828-8182 or Student Affairs at 214-828-8210 for a referral to a local counselor. These counseling sessions are private and confidential, as are any referral requests. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



## 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.

## College and Department Policies

College and departmental units may establish their own policies and minimum syllabus requirements. As long as these policies and requirements do not contradict the university level requirements, colleges and departments can add them in this section. Please remove this section if not needed.