

ENV H 583 A Sp 17: Thesis Research Proposal Preparation

[Jump to Today](#)

 [Edit](#)



ENVIRONMENTAL & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH · UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

ENV H 583: Thesis Research Proposal Preparation

1 credit, CR/NC

Lianne Sheppard, PhD

Time: Wednesday, 1:30 - 2:20

Location: Marine Studies Building (MAR) 168

Link to pdf document: See week 1 module

Course Instructor:

Lianne Sheppard, PhD

F672 Health Sciences Building and 203 Roosevelt Building

Tel. 206-616-2722

E-mail: sheppard@uw.edu (<mailto:sheppard@uw.edu>)

Office Hours: Drop in or by appointment.

Course Goals:

The primary goal of this 1-credit class is to help students develop research skills through its focus on writing and critiquing research proposals. This course is open to students developing Master's thesis or MPH projects as well as PhD students who wish to develop a dissertation or independent research proposal in a structured setting. All enrolled students are required to sign up concurrently for 2 credits of ENVH 700 (or 600) with a faculty advisor who will actively support the proposal development process. One credit for ENVH 583 is insufficient to support the work needed to develop a good quality proposal.

During this quarter, students will develop a research or project proposal. ENVH 583 provides milestones for the proposal development process; the development will occur outside of class. Integrated into these milestones will be requirements to meet with and obtain feedback from the student's mentor about the research project and proposal.

Students will review components of research proposals and practice developing effective aims, hypotheses, background materials and analytic strategies. In addition to preparing a complete proposal for his or her

research project, each student will be required to read assigned materials, hand in reflections about readings, give status updates, conduct peer reviews, make presentations, and participate actively in class discussions. The final project for the course will be a peer review “study section” modeled after the NIH peer review process.

Learning Objectives: At the end of this course students should be able to:

- Identify and create the key components of a research proposal
- Demonstrate the ability to conduct literature reviews and gather the critical scientific information related to the research proposal
- Demonstrate writing skills by writing, a clear, concise research proposal with scientifically defensible aims and research approach (methods, analysis plan, expected benefits, limitations)
- Develop the skills to objectively review and write a scientific critique of a colleague’s proposal
- Describe the important concepts related to using human subjects in scientific research
- Describe the underlying concepts and principles of scientific misconduct and plagiarism

Academic Integrity Statement:

Students at the University of Washington (UW) are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic conduct, professional honesty, and personal integrity.

The UW School of Public Health (SPH) is committed to upholding standards of academic integrity consistent with the academic and professional communities of which it is a part. Plagiarism, cheating, and other misconduct are serious violations of the University of Washington Student Conduct Code (WAC 478-120).

We expect you to know and follow the university's policies on cheating and plagiarism, and the [SPH Academic Integrity Policy](http://sph.washington.edu/students/academicintegrity/) [\(http://sph.washington.edu/students/academicintegrity/\)](http://sph.washington.edu/students/academicintegrity/). Any suspected cases of academic misconduct will be handled according to University of Washington regulations. For more information, see the University of Washington [Community Standards and Student Conduct website](http://www.washington.edu/cssc/) [\(http://www.washington.edu/cssc/\)](http://www.washington.edu/cssc/).

Access and Accommodations:

Your experience in this class is important to me. If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please communicate your approved accommodations to me at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs in this course.

If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but not limited to; mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), you are welcome to contact DRS at 206-543-8924 or uwdrs@uw.edu (<mailto:uwdrs@uw.edu>) or [disability.uw.edu](http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs/). [\(http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs/\)](http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs/) DRS offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and/or temporary health conditions. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process

between you, your instructor(s) and DRS. It is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law.

Multi-cultural Inclusion Commitment:

The UW School of Public Health seeks to ensure all students are fully included in each course. We strive to create an environment that reflects community and mutual caring. As your instructor, I encourage students with concerns about classroom climate to talk to me if you have any concerns. You may also choose to seek out others such as your advisor, a member of your Department's or the SPH Diversity Committee and/or a program director.

Requirements:

The requirements for receiving credit for ENVH 583 are listed below. Each of these requirements will be evaluated to determine whether credit will be given for the course. In addition, during this quarter students are required to sign up for 2 credits of ENVH 700 (or 600) with a faculty advisor who will actively support the proposal development process. Some of the assignments require mentor feedback and the 600- or 700-level credits provide the mechanism for ensuring that feedback will occur.

- 1) **Complete all class readings, hand in all assignments, and actively participate in class discussions.** Readings are intended to support your development as a scientist. Often they will form the basis for class discussion. Most written assignments are (intermediate) drafts of the research proposal. **Students are required to turn in assignments on time.** For intermediate drafts, due dates are intended to support your work throughout the quarter.
- 2) **Meet with research mentor multiple times over the quarter and solicit their feedback on your work.** Mentor meetings should include conceptual discussions, plus feedback on the main study objective(s), proposal title, specific aims and hypotheses, study design, analysis approach, and other details. Students are required to turn in the mentor's feedback on one proposal draft as part of the required coursework.
- 3) **Hand in a complete research proposal.** See the proposal format guide for details. Deadlines to turn in proposal drafts during the quarter are intended to support student progress.
- 4) **Participate in the "Study Section" review of other student proposals.** The class will be divided into two peer review groups or "study sections". Each group will review the proposals from all students in the other group. Students will follow written instructions, briefly summarized here:
 - Each student will:
 - Write and present critiques of two proposals following the critique template
 - Consider and score all proposals in their section
 - Turn in their scores and written critiques
 - Study section etiquette:
 - Focus on making constructive comments that will help your peers improve their thesis research and

write-up

- Keep details of the peer review confidential – specific discussions and scores should not be shared outside of the “study section” discussion
- After the meeting, each student will receive feedback from study section:
 - Written critiques from two peers
 - An average score from the study section and the professor's score










Readings:

- Required readings are posted on the class website (see modules):
- No required textbook
- Multiple additional resources on a variety of topics are posted on the class website.

Grading:

To get credit in this course, the student will submit a complete research proposal and complete all other class assignments including: provide the class with progress updates, participate in peer editing, write critiques for two research proposals written by peers, participate in the study section and score all proposals, actively participate in class discussions, and hand in additional written assignments.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Wed Mar 29, 2017	 In Class Week 1 (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3657710)	due by 1:30pm
Fri Mar 31, 2017	 Draft Thesis Title and Specific Aims (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3634193)	due by 5pm
	 Meet with Mentor (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3634197)	due by 5pm
Mon Apr 3, 2017	 Peer review scheduling survey (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3634200)	due by 1:30pm
	 Thesis concept slide -- week 2 (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3634211)	due by 1:30pm
Tue Apr 4, 2017	 Peer Editing Assignment (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3634199)	due by 1:30pm
	 Peer review and editing sessions availability (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3634188)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 5, 2017	 In Class Week 2 (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3658805)	due by 1:30pm
	 In Class Week 3 (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3662351)	due by 1:30pm

Wed Apr 12, 2017	❏ Proposal Draft 1 -- week 3 (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3634204)	due by 1:30pm
Fri Apr 14, 2017	❏ Proposal Critique 1 -- Primary reviewer (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3634201)	due by 11:59pm
	❏ Proposal Critique 2 -- Secondary Reviewer (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3634202)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 19, 2017	❏ In Class Week 4 (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3662356)	due by 1:30pm
	❏ Proposal Draft 2 -- week 4 (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3634205)	due by 1:30pm
Wed Apr 26, 2017	❏ Ethics discussion -- ethics of environmental exposures (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3634189)	due by 12:30pm
	❏ Ethics discussion -- general comments (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3634190)	due by 12:30pm
	❏ Ethics reflection (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3634195)	due by 12:30pm
	❏ Analysis questionnaire draft responses (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3634192)	due by 1:30pm
	❏ In Class Week 5 (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3662541)	due by 1:30pm
Mon May 1, 2017	❏ NIH proposal review & critique (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3634198)	due by 1:30pm
	❏ Proposal Critique -- Practice (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3634203)	due by 1:30pm
Wed May 3, 2017	❏ Thesis update slide(s) -- Week 6 (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3634212)	due by 1:30pm
	❏ In Class Week 6 (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3662952)	due by 1:30pm
Wed May 10, 2017	❏ Proposal Draft 3 -- week6 (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3634206)	due by 1:30pm
	❏ Analysis questionnaire (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3634191)	due by 1:30pm
Wed May 10, 2017	❏ In Class Week 7 (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3664887)	due by 1:30pm
	❏ Proposal to mentor for comments (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3634209)	due by 1:30pm
Wed May 17, 2017	❏ In Class Week 8 (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3664852)	due by 1:30pm
	❏ Proposal Draft 4 w/o comments - week 8 (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3634208)	due by 1:30pm
	❏ Proposal Draft 4: Mentor comments -- week 8 (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3634207)	due by 1:30pm

Tue May 23, 2017

📅 [Student Research Day](https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3634210)
(<https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3634210>)

due by 2:30pm

Wed May 24, 2017

📅 [Effective poster notes](https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3634194)
(<https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3634194>)

due by 1:30pm

📅 [In Class Week 9](https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3664774) (<https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3664774>)

due by 1:30pm

Wed May 31, 2017

📅 [In Class Week 10](https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3665216) (<https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3665216>)

due by 1:30pm

📅 [Final Proposal -- week 10](https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3634196)
(<https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3634196>)

due by 11:59pm

📅 [In Class Finals Week](https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3665281) (<https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1139054/assignments/3665281>)
