

**SPPH 507/607**  
**Research Seminar for incoming MSc and PhD students**  
**Term 1: 2020**

**Course Instructors**

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**Course TAs**

**Name:** TBD

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**Department:** School of Population and Public Health

**Faculty:** Faculty of Medicine

**Class Time and Location:**

Fridays 10:00am – 12:00pm

**Format:**

Blended (part online, part in-person)

**Course Overview**

The SPPH RS (former Research in Progress) is a required course for new SPPH students in SPPH MSc and PhD (thesis-based) programs. It brings together students enrolled in SPPH 507 (the master's level course) and SPPH 607 (the doctoral level course) to share learning and to encourage development of a supportive environment within and across the two programs.

The main objective of this research seminar is to support you in sharing your own research ideas to your peers, hearing about their proposed research, and making meaningful networks. Through these exchanges, the course offers opportunities for you to interact and build community around shared interests. Also, the course aims to encourage the development of skills that will enable you to function effectively as a graduate student and to become familiar with, and immersed in, the intellectual life of the School. It offers you an opportunity to interact with other students, with key SPPH and other UBC staff, and with a variety of faculty members; these interactions will allow you to become familiar with program expectations, and to gain insights into succeeding in

a graduate program. It will also support you in developing the ability to reflect on key learnings and apply them to support your own development.

The course will use UBC's *Canvas* system as the major means of communication; it will be used to access the course schedule and to participate in the discussion boards. You will need your Campus Wide Login (CWL) and password to access the site. Information about how we will use *Canvas* will be provided in class.

**The class format, restrictions allowing, will encourage in-person activities on campus, and online either synchronous (i.e., real time) or asynchronous (on your own time) activities.**

### **SPPH Research Seminar's major components**

This course takes place in the first year of your program. The overarching aim of the class is to support you in building your cohort with your peers, your network and how to acquire essential skills and soft skills for thriving within a graduate program – both in general, and within SPPH in particular. A schedule that lays out the format of each class will be made available through *Canvas*. Please check for updates as invited presentations might change dates due to presenters' availability.

#### ***Components:***

##### **A) Research in Progress Exchange**

Through the class activities (e.g., think pair share, small group discussions, open group questions, etc.) you will have an opportunity to share your research plans in its current stage (from early topic identification, to analysis, to summarizing results, to defence preparation) and to hear what your student colleagues are working on. Through this component you will be able to identify potential meaningful collaborations and support from your peers.

The objectives of this component include:

- Share your thesis research and interests
- Identify potential meaningful collaborations from student colleagues
- Recognize the diverse SPPH research (fields and methods) through your peers' work plans.
- Reflect on your source of passion and motivation to be in this program and your set goals.
- Build community with other students who share related interests.

##### **B) Building Skills to Succeed in Graduate School**

This component of the course features a series of sessions exploring some of the key challenges, opportunities, and milestones of graduate school. Topics that have been identified as critical to supporting success in the program will be addressed by key resource people,

including invited speakers, faculty members, students who are more advanced in the program, and others with relevant expertise. These sessions are intended to address topics that are relevant to you as you, so your input into suggesting topics or developing them is always welcome. This component of the class will enable you to:

- Develop skills (and soft skills!) related to success in graduate school
- Promote an understanding about how to find and use resources that can enhance your success
- Build relationships with other students who share similar interests

### **Expectations and Grading:**

This is a pass fail class. Completion of the activities (e.g., class participation) in 80% is necessary to pass the class.

You can meet these expectations of this course by:

- Using *Canvas* course content materials and to respond to questions posed by instructional team.
- Being well prepared for class and the roles you will play, including those of presenter, facilitator, and active participant.
- Engaging constructively in class.
- Actively participating in small group settings, with a commitment to respect for all.

### **Requirements for Completion:**

- Participate in class (as outlined above)