

## Evidence-Based Dental Hygiene Research Project Syllabus

### DH135 (Semester 2) and DH238 (Semester 3)

Evidence-based methodology includes the application of findings from clinical research one of the underlying principles in clinical decision-making. An integral part of utilizing evidence-based methodology is learning to critically evaluate research literature for relevance and accuracy of findings. Equally important is the ability to present one's findings in a clear yet comprehensive manner.

#### **Objectives:**

Upon completion of this project, students will be able to:

1. Retrieve and critically analyze scientific publications with regard to reliability, validity, limitations, and generalizability on a topic of research interest.
2. Pose a researchable question based on the fundamentals of evidence-based methodology.
3. Conduct a systematic review of the literature.
4. Present findings in a comprehensive, original format.

#### **Assignments:**

##### **Part 1 (DH 135 - Semester 2)**

1. Visit the following website: <http://www.cebd.org/?o=1005>, the Centre for Evidence Based Dentistry and review the entire website. Go through each tabbed area, etc. Write a minimum one page summary on something you learned from the website. **Due date: January 18, 2008.**
2. Select a topic relevant to the dental hygiene profession. Explain how your topic will benefit the practice of dental hygiene and/or your patients. Conduct an internet/database search and develop a research question. Turn in a copy of your research question and initial search history for credit. **Due Date: Feb 8, 2008**
  - Research questions should require you to **make a decision** or **plan a course of action**. When writing research questions, avoid "What is" questions such as "What is periodontal disease," or "What is early childhood caries." While these are important questions, they do not require that you make a decision or plan a course of action. Instead, ask, "How can I reduce the likelihood of developing periodontal disease?" (this requires a **plan of action**) or "What is the best strategy for reducing early childhood caries in children of low socioeconomic status?" (this requires a **decision** among the various strategies).
3. Obtain three to five (3-5) full-text articles (primary sources) from peer-reviewed (refereed) journals that relate to your research question. In order to provide an unbiased review, it is important to include any research that may dispute your research question if available.

4. Complete a [critical analysis table](#) (CAT) for each article. References must be documented in correct APA format. You will only be submitting three (3) for grading credit. Submit a copy of the CAT and a [copy of the full-text article](#) for on or before the following **due dates**:

<b>Article 1</b>	<b>February 28 2008</b>
<b>Article 2</b>	<b>March 13, 2008</b>
<b>Article 3</b>	<b>March 27, 2008</b>

## **Part 2 (DH 238 - Semester 3)**

5. Construct a detailed project outline, including your research question, key points, conclusions, etc. (\*\***may work in group of 3 or on your own from this point on**)**Due Date: October 6, 2008**
6. Prepare a final project to present your research findings. Final projects may be done individually or in groups up to three. If you choose a group project, part of your evaluation will include ratings from all group members. Group participation will factor into your final grade. **Due Date: November 11, 2008**
7. **Project options:** written research paper, web page design, PowerPoint development and presentation, table clinic, design a study, informational brochure, other?

### **8. Assignment Criteria**

- Current articles (primary sources), within the last 5 years
- Works-cited page, APA format (see library website or Mrs. Mould for assistance)
- **Full-text copies** of your three (3) articles must be submitted with the associated CAT. Failure to do so will result in zero credit for that assignment.
- Select an individual topic. After individually completing the assignments one through four, you may then choose to work in groups for final presentations by selecting one of the topics researched by your group members.
- **Project Grade:** pass/fail; Passing = Completion of all assignments and final project according to criteria by the assigned due dates.
- Completion of each assignment related to this project on or before the listed due dates is **required** or you will not receive credit for that assignment. Exceptions may be made in cases of emergency. See Mrs. Mould if you have any questions.
- Assignments and articles should be submitted electronically, on a disc or via email. Any email should be directed to [\*\*mouldwm@comcast.net\*\*](mailto:mouldwm@comcast.net)
- Plagiarism will result in an automatic failure. Additional action may be taken. See DHOnline: Policies and Procedures, Academic Integrity
- I am available to provide feedback at any time during this project.

## Evidence-Based Dental Hygiene Semester 2 and 3 Research Project

Please read the entire research project syllabus and clarify anything you do not understand with the instructor. Please sign and return this form to the instructor by the first day of class spring semester (January 14, 2008). The instructor will make every attempt to help any student who may have questions or concerns regarding any aspect of the research project.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the research project syllabus completely. I have clarified initial questions regarding the material presented within this syllabus with the course instructor. I understand and agree to the project requirements and due dates. I am aware that the instructor will be available for ongoing clarification and assistance with any aspect of the research project.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (print name)

\_\_\_\_\_ (signature)