Independent Study
PHAR 7299
Spring 2026

Course Description
This elective course provides P2 and P3 pharmacy students with hands-on experience in academic research focused on improving pharmacy education. Students will lead data-driven projects involving analysis, manuscript writing, and possible publication while developing critical thinking, communication, and independent research skills.

Additional Course Information
In this research-focused elective, P2 and P3 students will actively engage in the full cycle of academic research within pharmacy education. The course begins with identifying meaningful research topics and formulating hypotheses based on available datasets (e.g., attendance, course performance, or assessment outcomes). Students will learn practical skills in data management, statistical analysis, and scholarly writing. Throughout the semester, students will collaborate as a research team to interpret findings, write scientific reports, and prepare manuscripts for submission to peer-reviewed journals. The course also covers essential aspects of research ethics, including data integrity, authorship, and responsible conduct of research. By the end of the course, students will have strengthened their ability to think critically, communicate effectively, and work independently while contributing to evidence-based improvements in pharmacy education.

Course Credit: 2 credit hours (7299)

Pre-Requisites: None

Co-Requisites: None

Class Meeting Days, Time & Location: A weekly 60-minute meeting will be held in Dr. Fujiwara's office. Students must contact Dr. Fujiwara and schedule the meeting day and time at least one week in advance.

Course Coordinator:
Ryo Fujiwara, PharmD, PhD
W.T. Brookshire Hall Room 128
Phone number: 903.565.6438
Email: rfujiwara@uttyler.edu
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday at noon-1pm
Preferred method of contact: Email

Course Co-Coordinator:
Frank Yu, PharmD, MPH
W.T. Brookshire Hall Room 238
Phone number: 903.566.6147
Email: fyu@uttyler.edu
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday at noon-1pm
Preferred method of contact: Email

Fisch College of Pharmacy (FCOP) and UT Tyler Policies
This is Part 1 of the syllabus. Part 2 contains UT Tyler and the FCOP policies and procedures. For experiential courses (i.e., IPPE and/or APPE), the Experiential Manual contains additional policies and instructions that supplement the Syllabus Part 1 and 2. Please note, the experiential manual may contain policies with different deadlines and/or instructions. The manual should be followed in these cases.

Required Materials

Most course required materials are available through the Robert R. Muntz Library. These materials are available either online* (http://library.uttyler.edu/) or on reserve.

1. Other required materials will be posted on the classes' Canvas site. The site address is: uttyler.edu/canvas.

Recommended Materials

Course Format

The course may include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

1. Independent study of selected readings
2. Literature review
3. Data analysis
4. Creative thinking
5. Discussion
6. Data presentation
7. Writing

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

CLOs	PLO(s) Assessed for this CLO (1-12)	EPAs (1-13) Only map for Lab, IPPE, APPE. Otherwise N/A	Assessment Methods (1-13)
1. Identify and develop a research question related to pharmacy education using available institutional or programmatic data.			6, 7, 8, 13
2. Perform data collection, management, and statistical analyses to evaluate educational outcomes and trends.			6, 7, 8, 13
3. Interpret research findings to draw meaningful conclusions that can inform improvements in pharmacy education.			6, 7, 8, 13
4. Communicate research results effectively through scholarly writing and professional presentations.			6, 7, 8, 13
5. Demonstrate understanding of research ethics, including data integrity, authorship, and responsible conduct of research.			6, 7, 8, 13
6. Critically evaluate the strengths, limitations, and implications of their research for future educational practice and policy.			6, 7, 8, 13

Course Summative Assessment Methods

	Assessment/Examination Method
1	Question-based examination (ExamSoft-based)
2	Question-based examination (paper-based)
3	Comprehensive Case
4	Skills Assessment
5	OSCE
6	Team Project
7	Individual Project
8	Oral Presentation
9	SOAP Note
10	Reflection Essay
11	Simulation
12	Internship/Observation
13	Other major assignment. Please specify: Writing

Grading Policy & Grade Calculation

Grades will be determined based on evaluation of assignments, formative assessments (for learning), and summative assessments (for mastery). For all intents and purposes, final examinations are synonymous with summative assessments. Assessments may consist of, but are not limited to, multiple-choice, true/false, fill in the blank, short-answer, essay, and problem-based questions. They may also include a variety of formats beyond the traditional question-based written examination, as each CLO may require different methods to determine student achievement.

Assignments, formative, and summative assessments may be **cumulative.** Students are responsible for material presented during prior courses. The grading scale for all graded material is below. The final course grade will be assigned according to the calculated percentage and the percentages will not be rounded upward or downward. For additional information, see Part 2 of the syllabus.

During the time the course is in progress, students who obtain less than 75% on any summative assessment or a total course grade of less than 75% during a particular semester will receive an academic alert from the course coordinator and the Office of Academic Affairs and be subject to weekly in-course remediation with the course instructor(s).

Standard Grade Calculation*	
Individual Assessments: 95%	
Weekly assignments	60%
Manuscript	30%
Presentation	10%
Total	**100%**

The final course letter grade will be as follows:

A	90 - 100 %
B	80 - 89.999 %
C	70 - 79.999 %
D	65.0 - 69.999 %
F	< 65.0 %

Appropriate Use of Artificial Intelligence

For this course, **AI is permitted only for specific assignments or situations, and appropriate acknowledgment is required.**

a. Example 1: This course has specific assignments where artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT or Copilot) are permitted and encouraged. When AI use is permissible, it will be clearly stated in the assignment directions, and all use of AI must be appropriately acknowledged and cited. Otherwise, the default is that AI is not allowed during any stage of an assignment.

b. Example 2: During some class assignments, we may leverage AI tools to support your learning, allow you to explore how AI tools can be used, and/or better understand their benefits and limitations. Learning how to use AI is an emerging skill, and we will work through the limitations of these evolving systems together. However, AI will be limited to assignments where AI is a critical component of the learning activity. I will always indicate when and where the use of AI tools for this course is appropriate.

c. Example 3: Most assignments in this course will permit using artificial intelligence (AI) tools, such as ChatGPT or Copilot. When AI use is permissible, it will be documented in the assignment description, and all use of AI must be appropriately acknowledged and cited. When using AI tools for assignments, add an appendix showing (a) the entire exchange (e.g., prompts used), highlighting the most relevant sections; (b) a description of precisely which AI tools were used, (c) an explanation of how the AI tools were used (e.g. to generate ideas, elements of text, etc.); and (d) an account of why AI tools were used (e.g. to save time, to surmount writer's block, to stimulate thinking, to experiment for fun, etc.). Students shall not use AI tools during in-class examinations or assignments unless explicitly permitted and instructed to do so.

d. Example 4: In this course, we may use AI tools (such as ChatGPT and Copilot) to examine how these tools may inform our exploration of the class topics. You will be notified as to when and how these tools will be used, along with guidance for attribution. Using AI tools outside of these parameters violates UT Tyler's Honor Code, constitutes plagiarism, and will be treated as such.

PHAR 7299 Course Schedule

Week	TOPIC
1	Orientation to course and project determination
2-14	Design and execution of project
15	Submission of abstract/manuscript and presentation of project