



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Mel & Enid Zuckerman  
College of Public Health

**Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health  
University of Arizona**

**HPS 618 Introduction to Systematic Reviews**

**Catalog Description:** This is an introductory course on designing and conducting systematic reviews with or without meta-analysis. (3 units)

**Course Topics:**

- Writing a Systematic Review
- Formulating a Review Question
- Developing a Protocol
- Literature Review
- Quality Assessment
- Summarizing Evidence

**Course Objectives:** During this courses students will:

- Formulate key questions for a review.
- Organize a literature search; identify which literature bases to search.
- Abstract relevant information from appropriate studies in a systematic manner.
- Rate the scientific quality of each study and the level of evidence for each question.
- Create evidence tables and summary tables.
- Summarize the studies' findings.
- Interpret the pattern of evidence in terms of strength and consistency.

**Learning Outcomes (Competencies Obtained):** Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Gain knowledge about how to critically appraise research literature
2. Have a better understanding on the principles guiding the conduct of a systematic literature review
3. Become familiar with how to critique a published systematic review
4. Develop skills that are fundamental for conducting a systematic review
5. Describe the elements of a meta-analysis and when such a step is appropriate
6. Summarize the main strengths and limitations of systematic review methods and contexts