

## HRM 743 – Systematic Review Methods- Course Information and Prerequisites

This course covers the methods of comprehensive syntheses of research evidence. Rigorous review methods will be highlighted, such as searching for potentially relevant articles, selecting primary articles using explicit, reproducible criteria; appraisal of studies; data synthesis; and, interpretation. The course uses the framework provided by the GRADE Working Group for evaluating certainty of estimates and present and interpret evidence. The focus of the course is on systematic reviews of interventions, which typically include randomised trials and non-randomised studies that evaluate therapeutic interventions and outcomes. This focus is to ensure that students understand and apply the fundamental processes to conduct a systematic review. The process can be applied to other review topics and study designs (such as diagnostic accuracy and prognosis) which will be briefly covered in the course. Students are required to conduct a systematic review of an intervention during the course. However, students who wish to conduct reviews of other topics will need to ensure they have methodological support in addition to what is provided within the course.

*Prerequisites:* HRM 721 and HRM 702, or permission of course coordinator. Plus an approved 1-page outline submitted before Nov 15.

Note: Students must also submit a one-page outline of the topic of the systematic review to be completed during the course. It can be submitted any time before November 15 for approval by the course coordinator. If not approved, students will be required to drop the course.

**One-page outline of the topic of the systematic review:** Please send the course coordinator, Nancy Santesso ([santesna@mcmaster.ca](mailto:santesna@mcmaster.ca)), a one-page document outlining the topic of your systematic review. We recommend choosing to conduct a review of an intervention (treatment). However, other types of reviews are possible if you can confirm that you have additional methodological support outside the course. The one-page outline should describe the intervention(s) or treatment(s) to be covered in the review, the people who received the intervention and the potential outcomes. You must also identify a partner for your review. This person can be someone who is also taking the course or not and who is willing to do the work in duplicate (e.g. screening and extracting data from studies). It is possible that two students can work on the same review and submit the same review at the end of the course. However, most assignments will need to be independently completed.