# Health and Retirement Study Workshop Syllabus
## June 2-6, 2025

**Organizer:** Amanda Sonnega
**Lab instructors:** Ryan McCammon, Chichun Fang, Stephen Lee, Jessica Hayes, and Regan Main

The HRS Summer Workshop provides an introduction to the study and gets students started using the data. **This course is designed for users who have little to no experience using HRS data.** At the end of the week, students have the opportunity to present their research ideas to the class and HRS research faculty and obtain feedback.

**Canvas** The course website is on Canvas. Guidance on using Canvas to navigate links that you will use in the course has been shared with you by email and is also on the Procedures and Resources section on the Modules link on Canvas.

**Zoom** All lectures and lab demonstrations will take place on Zoom. Click on the Zoom link in Canvas to join each day. To simplify, we will hold one, day-long Zoom meeting each day. You will be able to join, leave, and rejoin the meeting throughout the day. Instructions for using Zoom are also found on the Procedures and Resources section on the Modules link on Canvas. We will have the same meeting password all week for all meetings. Please note that **the Zoom call will start 15 minutes before the agenda start time** each day. This allows time to get settled in and chat with one another. **All times are in Eastern Time**.

**Content lectures** Content lectures will cover basic survey content, sample design and weighting**.** Pre-recorded survey content lectures delivered by HRS faculty will be posted on the Canvas site and can be viewed any time. We will hold a 15 minute Q&A with each of the presenters each day before the lab. Please review the syllabus for each day and view the lectures ahead of the day that we have the Q&A. The filename of the video and the PPT that goes with the Q&A is immediately below the presenter's name in the syllabus.

**Labs** allow students to work with the data with expert guidance. All labs will begin with a PowerPoint presentation followed by a demonstration of the lab exercises. Students will run the exercises on their own in a Zoom meeting with lab instructors available to help.

Additional help with the data is available through the online helpdesks. If you email one of the helpdesks below, please write HRS Training Workshop in the subject line.

| Data | Helpdesk |
|------|----------|
| RAND HRS data | RANDHRSHelp@rand.org |
| HRS raw data | HRSQuestions@umich.edu |

Throughout the week, students will use the Discussion board on Canvas to pose questions that course faculty and other students can answer.

**MONDAY, June 2**

10:00 – 11:15  *Introduction to the Workshop and Who You are*
*Design and Content of HRS*
*Tour of the HRS Website*
Amanda Sonnega

11:15 – 11:30  *HRS in the Field: Interviewing and Data Collection*
Q&A with Eva Leissou
*1_Arrieta_ Data Collection*

11:30 – 11:45  *Sample Design and Weights*
Q&A with Amanda Sonnega and Ryan McCammon
*2_Sonnega_Sample Design*

11:45 – 12:00  *Break*

12:00 – 12:30  *HRS Data Structure and Tracker File*
Ryan McCammon

12:30 – 1:00  *Computer Lab: File Merging*
Ryan McCammon

1:00 – 3:00  *Students run exercises on their own in Zoom with course instructors and lab assistants available to help*

**TUESDAY, June 3**

10:30 –10:40  *Q&A on Monday content or lab*

10:40 –10:55  *HRS Sister Studies*
Q&A with Amanda Sonnega
*10_Sonnega_Sister Studies*

10:55 – 11:10  *Cognition Data*
Q&A with Lindsay Ryan
*5_Ryan_Cognition*

11:10 – 11:25  *Pension and Social Security Benefits Wealth*
Q&A with Chichun Fang
*6_Fang_Pension*

11:25 – 11:40  *Break*

11:40 – 1:10  *Computer Lab: HRS Data Practical*
Ryan McCammon

1:10 – 3:00  Students run exercises on their own in Zoom with course instructors and lab assistants

available to help

**WEDNESDAY, June 4**

10:30 – 10:40  *Q&A on Tuesday content or lab*

10:40 – 10:55  *Health and Physical Functioning*
             Q&A with Ken Langa
                   *7_Langa_Health*

10:55 – 11:10  *Health Insurance and Medical Care*
             Q&A with Helen Levy
                   *8_Levy_Health Insurance*

11:10 – 11:25  *Medicare Linkage*
             Q&A with Mohammed Kabeto
                   *9_Kabeto_Medicare*

11:25 – 11:40  *Employment, Retirement, and Pensions*
             Q&A with Charlie Brown
                   *11_Brown_Employment*

11:40 – 11:55  *Break*

11:55 – 1:25  *Overview of RAND HRS Data Part I*
             *Computer Lab: RAND Data Practical*
             Stephen Lee and Regan Main

1:25 – 3:00   Students run exercises on their own in Zoom with course instructors and lab assistants
             available to help

**THURSDAY, June 5**

10:30 –10:40  *Q&A on Wednesday content or lab*

10:40 – 10:55  *Biomarkers, Physical Measures*, and *Genetic Data*
             Q&A with Jessica Faul
                   *3_Faul_Biomarkers*
                   *4_Faul_Genetics*

10:55 – 11:10  *Off-year and Internet Studies*
             Q&A *with* Amanda Sonnega
                   *12_Helppie-McFall_Off-year*

11:10 – 11:25  *RAND HRS Family Data*

Q&A with Regan Main (RAND)
*13_Main_Family Data*

11:25 – 11:40  *Psychosocial and Well-being Data*
Q&A with Jacqui Smith
*14_Smith_Psychosocial*

11:40 – 11:55  *Break*

11:55 – 1:25  *Overview of RAND HRS Data Part II*
*Computer Lab: RAND Data Practical*
Stephen Lee and Regan Main

1:25 – 3:00  Students run exercises on their own in Zoom with course instructors and lab assistants available to help

**FRIDAY, June 6**

10:00 – 10:30  *HRS Restricted Data Files*
Kasey Messer

10:30 – 10:40  *Q&A on Thursday content or lab*

10:40 – 10:55  *Break*

10:55 – 1:55  *Student Presentations of Research Ideas with Feedback from HRS Investigators and Staff*

1:55 – 3:00  An opportunity for you to work on the data with HRS staff on hand to help