

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

**MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH EPIDEMIOLOGY EPI630 / CPH630  
SPRING 2008**

**SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DIRECTOR:** Sydney Pettygrove, Ph.D.  
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<sup>1</sup> Preferred means of communication.

**CLASS TIME & LOCATIONS:**  
Tues / Thurs 9:00 – 10:30 am  
Room A122 Drachman Hall

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

**EPI 630 (Pre/Sum I) – Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology (3 units)**

**Description:** Course will cover methodologic issues and topical information in the epidemiology of female reproduction, childhood conditions, and women's health.

**May be repeated:** No.

**Usually offered:** Spring

**PREREQUISITE(S):**

EPI 573a Basic Principles of Epidemiology

**OBJECTIVES:**

This course will introduce students to methodologic issues in epidemiologic research on reproduction, childhood conditions, and women's health and cover information specific to conditions in each of these areas. The class will include classroom lectures, discussion, and student presentations.

Specific objectives are for the student to be able to:

- Discuss methodologic considerations for the conduct of epidemiologic research in areas of Maternal & Child Health
- Have a general knowledge of the descriptive epidemiology of issues affecting women and children
- Constructively evaluate research and scientific reports from the literature
- Formulate a research question, analyze a dataset, present analytic results in a table, and describe results in text.

**ONLINE INFO**

Course information, syllabus, schedule, and readings will be available online via eReserves.

## **READINGS**

The course readings will be drawn from the literature on each topic and will be available through eReserves. Readings will also be available as a reader to purchase from Copy Technology Services Arizona Health Sciences Center Room #3141.

Books on reserve for your reference:

*Essentials of Epidemiology in Public Health*, by A Aschengrau and GR Seage  
*Epidemiology for Public Health Practice*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. by RH Friis and TA Sellers  
*Epidemiology in Medicine*, by C Hennekens and J Buring.

Also highly recommended is: *A Dictionary of Epidemiology* by Last, JM (ed.)  
*Epidemiology* by Gordis, L

## **STUDENT EVALUATION**

The course will be organized as a combination of lecture and seminar sessions. Class participation is required. In general, Tuesday sessions will provide an overview of the week's topic presented by course instructor and/or invited speakers. Thursday sessions will be dedicated to in-depth discussion of the week's readings. Students will be required to lead the class discussion at least once during the term. Each student will be expected to have thoroughly read the material assigned each week and to participate in the weekly discussions. In addition, each student will bring to class two questions each week, in writing, based on the readings.

Students will be required to:

- Complete an online instructional module on recognizing plagiarism.
- Complete Human Subjects Training through the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI).
- Formulate a research question to be addressed through analysis of birth certificate data, determine which variables are needed for the analysis, conduct the analysis, produce a table of the results, and describe the results in text.
- Devise a *brief* questionnaire that they would propose to use to augment the birth certificate data and develop a data entry instrument in EpiInfo.
- Select a topic in Maternal & Child Health on which to focus for the semester, writing a series of essays on their topic covering:
  - Outcome – biology, pathology
  - Magnitude – prevalence and incidence
  - Exposures / Risk Factors – environmental and host characteristics that influence the outcome
  - Spatial – how the outcome varies with geography (local, regional, national, and/or international)
  - Temporal – how the outcome has changed in magnitude over time and/or how it demonstrates seasonal effects
  - Methodologic Issues – the implications of the specific characteristics of the outcome and populations that affect epidemiological work on the topic
- Respond to instructor comments on each essay to assemble these sections into a final review

paper (10-15 pages)

- All students will have 25 minute to teach the class about their topic and/or the results of their data analysis.

Assignment grades will be weighted as follows:

**20% Contributing in Class**

- 5% Class Participation
- 5% Facilitate Discussion
- 10% Final Presentation

**15% Data Analysis**

- 2% Data Analysis – Formulating a Research Question
- 3% Data Analysis – Initial Analysis
- 2% Data Analysis – Further Analysis
- 3% Data Analysis – Results Table
- 5% Data Analysis – Results Text

**10% EpiInfo Questionnaire**

**55% Writing on the Chosen Topic**

- 5% Outcome
- 5% Magnitude
- 5% Exposures / Risk Factors
- 5% Spatial
- 5% Temporal
- 20% Methodological
- 10% Term Paper

**Note: All student submissions must include the student's name. When submitting work by email, the name of the file must start with the student's last name and then have an indication of the assignment (e.g. *Pettygrove Outcome.doc*) **AND** the document within the file must also include the student's name. Submissions that do not conform to these guidelines will be deleted **unread** and will not be considered to have met the requirements of the assignment.**

**Class Attendance/Participation:** Participation in discussions will be evaluated as described above.

**Course Schedule:** Attached.

**Disability Accommodation:** Students who are registered with the Disability Resource Center must submit appropriate documentation to the instructor if they are requesting reasonable accommodations:

<http://drc.arizona.edu/instructor/syllabus-statement.shtml>

**Syllabus Changes:** Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate.

**THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS INCLUDED IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE STANDARDIZED SYLLABUS FORMAT:**

**Academic Integrity:** Students are expected to abide by the University of Arizona Code of Academic Integrity found at <http://w3.arizona.edu/~studpubs/policies/cacaint.htm>.

**Classroom Behavior:** (Statement of expected behavior and respectful exchange of ideas)  
Students are expected to be familiar with the UA Policy on Disruptive Behavior in an Instructional Setting found at [http://hr2.hr.arizona.edu/dos/pol\\_disrupt.htm](http://hr2.hr.arizona.edu/dos/pol_disrupt.htm) and the Policy on Threatening Behavior by Students found at [http://hr2.hr.arizona.edu/dos/pol\\_threat.htm](http://hr2.hr.arizona.edu/dos/pol_threat.htm).

**Grievance Policy:** [http://grad.arizona.edu/Current\\_Students/Policies/Grievance\\_Policy.php](http://grad.arizona.edu/Current_Students/Policies/Grievance_Policy.php)