

**MEL AND ENID ZUCKERMAN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA**

**CHRONIC DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY: EPID670 and CPH 670
FALL 2008**

TIME: Tuesday: 9:00-11:50
LOCATION: Drachman A-123-125
FACULTY: Robin Harris, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Office: Drachman, A-234
Telephone: 626-5357
E-mail: rharris@azcc.arizona.edu
Office hours: After class and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will reinforce epidemiological concepts, research skills and public health concepts in the context of the study of chronic diseases and associated risk factors.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

At least one basic epidemiology and one basic biostatistics course (or approval of instructor)

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- 1) Describe trends in the epidemiology of selected chronic diseases.
- 2) Describe patterns of major etiologic (risk) factors and their relationship to these selected chronic diseases.
- 3) Locate data from chronic disease registries and databases on a state and national level and identify key methodological considerations for chronic disease surveillance
- 4) Review the scientific merit of articles within the chronic disease epidemiologic evidence-base, and synthesize information from a variety of epidemiologic and related studies.
- 5) Select appropriate clinical outcomes for evaluating chronic disease research questions.
- 6) Select appropriate research instruments for assessing exposures in chronic disease research.
- 7) Design effective chronic disease studies by applying epidemiological methods across the spectrum of chronic disease problems.
- 8) Design and write methodologically sound and well-organized written proposals.

COURSE FORMAT

The class will be organized as an interactive seminar designed to prepare students for the skills required for chronic disease research consultancy. Learner-centered methods will include individual and small group work and discussion, guest lectures, student presentations, and preparation of a modified NIH-type research proposal

RECOMMENDED BOOKS AND READINGS

Course syllabus, schedule, readings, homework packet, and any classnotes will be made available online: <http://d2l.arizona.edu> Students use Student Link to access the D2L site. Students must enter their student ID and PIN, then a Fall 2008 course schedule appears with active links to courses.

Readings for the course will be from several different epidemiology textbooks and journals. Required readings will be available online or made available in class.

The following book is recommended for the course, but not required. It will be on reserve in the AHSC library

Chronic Disease Epidemiology and Control, By Ross C. Brownson, Patrick L. Remington, James R. Davis. Published by American Public Health Association, 1998

The following website will be useful for the writing of the research proposal and will be discussed throughout the semester.

Trochim, William M. The Research Methods Knowledge Base, 2nd Edition. Internet WWW page, at URL: <<http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/>>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Policy on Class Attendance and Participation

Per Graduate College guidelines, 2-3 hours of out-of-class preparation is expected for each course unit each week to include: literature or data searches, reading, grant planning, or other exercises.

Class attendance is strongly encouraged. If a student misses class, s/he is responsible for meeting all course deadlines. If the student knows in advance that s/he will be away, then it is the student's responsibility to make appropriate arrangements for submission of homework or projects on time.

Each student should be prepared to participate in class discussions and have read all assigned readings prior to attending class. Participation will be based on attendance and contribution to the class on a regular basis.

Projects

There are four projects to be completed throughout the semester: literature review of a chronic disease, research proposal narrative, and peer review of a research proposal. Specific instructions for the format and grading criteria of these projects will be provided. Check the online website for further details. Due dates for the projects are listed on the course schedule.

- 1) Literature Review of a Chronic Disease**
- 2) Research Instrument Documentation**
- 3) Research Proposal Narrative**
- 4) Mock Study Section - Peer Review of a Research Proposal**

STUDENT EVALUATION

Evaluation will be based upon the student's ability to demonstrate an understanding of the concepts, principles, and methods of chronic disease epidemiology through:

CHRONIC EPIDEMIOLOGY 670 GRADING SCHEME	
Class Attendance and Participation	15%
Chronic Disease Literature Review	25%
Research Instrument Documentation	10%
NIH-Type Proposal Narrative	35%
Critique of Proposal (Peer Review)	15%
	100%

The final grades are based on the following point system, although the instructor reserves the right to revise this scale if necessary.

A - 90-100%
B - 80-89%
C - 70-79%

D - 60-69%
E - <60%

OTHER INFORMATION

Communications: You are responsible for reading emails sent to your UA account from your professor and the announcements that are placed on the course web site. Information about readings, news events, your grades, assignments and other course related topics will be communicated to you with these electronic methods. The official policy can be found at:

<http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/emailpolicy.htm>

Disability Accommodation: If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with me. I would like us to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with Disability Resources (621-3268; drc.arizona.edu) and notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. We can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations. The official policy can be found

at:<http://catalog.arizona.edu/2008%2D09/policies/disability.htm>

Academic Integrity: All UA students are responsible for upholding the University of Arizona Code of Academic Integrity, available through the office of the Dean of Students and online: The official policy found at:<http://dos.web.arizona.edu/uapolicies/scc5308abcd.html> and

<http://dos.web.arizona.edu/uapolicies/cai1.html>.

Plagiarism: What counts as plagiarism?

- Copying and pasting information from a web site or another source, and then revising it so that it sounds like your original idea.
- Doing an assignment/essay/take home test with a friend and then handing in separate assignments that contain the same ideas, language, phrases, etc.
- Quoting a passage without quotation marks or citations, so that it looks like your own.
- Paraphrasing a passage without citing it, so that it looks like your own.
- Hiring another person to do your work for you, or purchasing a paper through any of the on- or off-line sources.

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://web.arizona.edu/~policy/disruptive.pdf> and the Policy on Threatening Behavior by Students found at <http://web.arizona.edu/~policy/threatening.pdf>

Grievance Policy: Should a student feel he or she has been treated unfairly, there are a number of resources available. With few exceptions, students should first attempt to resolve difficulties informally by bringing those concerns directly to the person responsible for the action, or with the student's graduate advisor, Assistant Dean for Student and Alumni Affairs, department head, or the immediate supervisor of the person responsible for the action. If the problem cannot be resolved informally, the student may file a formal grievance using the [Graduate College Grievance Policy](http://grad.arizona.edu/catalog/policies/academic-policies/grievance-policy) found at <http://grad.arizona.edu/catalog/policies/academic-policies/grievance-policy>

Grade Appeal Policy: <http://catalog.arizona.edu/2008%2D09/policies/gradappeal.htm>

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.

Please Note: URLs change frequently. You will need to test the URLs in the syllabus you produce each semester, to ensure the links are correct.

**MEL AND ENID ZUCKERMAN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
CHRONIC DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY
SCHEDULE - FALL 2008**

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Assignments</i>
1	August 26th	Introduction to Chronic Disease Epidemiology	Harris	
2	September 2 nd	Disease Surveillance – ADHS & Chronic Disease	Porter, Warren, Flood	
3	September 9 th	Autism/Birth Defects	Pettygrove	
4	September 16 th	Diet & Dietary Assessments	Jacobs	
5	September 23 rd	Disease Surveillance-Cancer clusters	Harris	
6	September 30 th	Vision	Twelker	
7	October 7 th	Epilepsy/Neurological Disorders	Labiner/ Chong	Literature Review Due
8	October 14 th	Questionnaire Design – Exposure Assessment –psychometrics	Coons	
9	October 21 st	Causal Diagrams	Shahar	
		Consultation on Research Proposal	Harris	Specific Aims section due for review.
10	October 28 th	Quality of Life Tools/ Other social/behavioral tools	Coons	
11	November 4 th	Environmental Assessments & Respiratory Disease	O'Rourke / Sherrill	Research Tool Documentation due
12	November 11 th	Veteran's Day – No Class		
13	November 18 th	Surrogate Endpoints & COPD	Guerra	
14	November 25 th	Physical Activity	Giacobbi	Proposal Due
15	December 2 nd	Chronic Disease Management	Ball	Peer Review assignments made
16	December 9 th	Mock Study Section		Peer Reviews Due

