SYLLABUS
Cancer Prevention Epidemiology – EPID 615A
Fall 2017

Time: Tuesday 9:00 am – 11:50 a.m.
Location: Drachman Hall A-119

Instructor: Leslie Dennis, MS, PhD
Professor of Epidemiology & Biostatistics
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Office Hours: By Appointment via email
Best times on Tuesdays 7:30 or 8 am, Tuesdays 12:30 or 1pm.

Teaching Assistant: None

Catalog description: An overview of the current issues and methods in cancer epidemiological studies. Issues and methods used in cancer surveillance, international studies, observational studies, and intervention trials will be covered.

Course Pre or Co-requisites:
- Epidemiology: Epidemiology 573A (Basic Principles in Epidemiology)
  or Cancer Biology major; or permission of instructor

Course Learning Objectives: At the end of the course students should be able to:
- Describe cancer as a public health problem in terms of magnitude, person, time, and place.
- Explain the basic concepts in cancer epidemiology, including study design and analytical methods used in the study of exposure-cancer associations.
- Evaluate the strengths and limitations of different epidemiological study designs used in cancer studies, including those that use laboratory methods through the written assignments and oral presentations.
- Formulate an opinion for or against an exposure-cancer hypothesis by evaluating existing published literature on the topic.

Competencies Covered:
Competencies that will be addressed on some level during the course include the following:

Domain 1: General Knowledge
- Describes major national and international public health problems (cancer)
- Describes risk factors for well-established health problems and the evidence in support of these factors
- Understands how epidemiologic evidence informs public health practice and policy.

Domain 2: Problem Identification / Planning
- Identifies steps needed to accurately assess and understand the health status of populations

Domain 3: Information Skills
- Retrieves and organizes literature from valid sources of the evidence base
Judges, critiques, and interprets research findings

**Domain 6: Professional Conduct**
Recognizes and responds appropriately to ethical issues in the conduct of scientific research

**Domain 12: Data Interpretation**
Evaluates the integrity, comparability of data, and limitations of data
Makes relevant inferences from data analyses
Understands and applies the principles of causality

**Course Notes:** No course notes will be provided. Handouts and articles will be posted on D2L.

**Required Textbook:** None

**Recommended Textbooks for students continuing in cancer etiology:**
- Clinical Oncology. By Lenhard, Osleen & Gansler. 2000. American Cancer Society. Out of Print. Available via Amazon (cost $0.32 - $12 ?) **RECOMMENDED FOR STUDENTS without Cancer Biology**

**Readings** for educational purposes will be posted on D2L
Most topic readings are described below for that class. Read prior to the class.
**Check D2L website for updates on readings, especially for later classes.**


**Course Requirements**
Students are expected to attend each class and participate in class discussions. The smaller class size allows for a good deal of interaction.

If you miss more than one week, you will need to attend make-up seminars (with the instructor’s agreement on the specifics) and write up along with submitting any Assignments on time. See below for Attendance requirements.

**Written Assignment Instructions:** Assignments should begin with your name, EPID 615A, date and the assignment number or title on 1-2 lines.

- **All written assignments must be typed using a word processor, spell-checked, double-spaced (not the Microsoft default), using Arial font 11 or 12 with 1 inch margins.**
- They should be written in manuscript form. Thus label tables starting with Table 1 and a descriptive (stand-alone) title and footnotes.
- **Cite all references using the reference format of the Journal of the National Cancer Institute both in the text and in the reference section** at the end of the write-up. The student is responsible for looking up and understanding this format. It is recommended that you review an article published JNCI along with the journals instructions for formatting.
- All assignments are required to be completed on or before the due date and are to be **submitted via D2L prior to 9am on the date due** unless otherwise specified. Written assignments that are turned in late will result in a lower grade; the grade will drop 20% each week late (thus 9:10am on the due date will be worth up to 80% of assignment points) for up to 2 weeks, then the grade will be 0%.
Grading/Student Evaluation:

1. Class Participation = 32.0% (96 pts):
   a. Each class period will have several readings. Students are expected to read all assigned papers and contribute significantly to discussions related to the readings and lecture. There will be 2 points for each hour of class for 6 points for the day as we only meet once a week. Points are a combination of attendance (physical and mental) and discussion, except for a few select sessions described in b and c.
   b. For student presentations, other students are expected to attend, ask questions and complete an evaluation form for each presentation for 2 points per student presentation (50 minutes of class time). You will also write a couple sentences/bullet points and what you might add to your presentation after seeing other presentations. Thus you will turn in one presentation form for each student.
   c. For any unassigned speaker hours, cancelled speakers, vacant student presentations slots or absences over one week (see below), students will instead review a Cancer Prevention & Control (CPC) seminars in person or taped CPC seminars. Cancellations or changes in the schedule will be posted on D2L.

Outside Seminar Summary

For each hour not filled, you will review on your own a one-hour video of a seminar or go to a live seminar from CPC seminars (or other seminars posted on the University of Arizona Cancer Center’s website that are approved by the instructor as a Cancer Prevention Epidemiology seminar). If you are enrolled in CPC seminar this semester then you cannot use current CPC seminars. The student may choose the topics/seminars they want to review.

For each video, you need to list at the top of the page:
- the title,
- the speaker and
- the date of the video and
- a working link to the video.

For live cancer seminars during the semester, you need to include the flyer or email announcement regarding the seminar.

The write-up will include:
Write/describe the following:
- Write 1-4 sentences on the aim or hypothesis of the talk;
- Describe in 3-6 sentences their findings and conclusions;
- Write 2-4 sentences on what you learned;
- What new question did this seminar spark for you (add why if you need to)?

The write-up for each 1 hour seminar should be a maximum of one doubled spaced typed page. See above for detailed instructions for Written Assignments above. These are each worth 2 points all due by 11/29/17.

The summary should be
- at least 150 words
- no longer than 1 page
- submitted to D2L before class time for which it is due

Use the posted template.

Class Attendance: Required. Prior permission from the course instructor should be received for any absence unless in emergency situations. Any absences beyond 1 week will require make-up seminars relevant to the topic/speaker. Such make-up seminars must be approved by the instructor. You cannot use a seminar as a make-up seminar if you are enrolled in such seminar for class credit. This includes taped CPC and other AZ Cancer Center taped seminars; those recommended (approved) are posted on D2L.

All holidays or special events observed by organized religions will be honored for those students who show affiliation with that particular religion. Absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean’s designee) will be honored.
2. **Written Assignments = 41.7% (125 pts):**

Assignments typically start with a review and then state your argument. Each Assignment should be a maximum of 3 doubled spaced typed pages (not including references). On an additional page, cite all references using the reference format of the Journal of the National Cancer Institute. See above for formatting instructions for written assignments above. A minimum of 5 journal references (not websites or web journals or book chapters) in addition to those provided should be used in write-up. Make sure to follow these guidelines, not doing so will affect your grade.

Most students cannot write assignments in a concise one page summary, typically one page summaries are not complete and reflect so in the grade.

3. **Student Presentations = 26.3% (79 pts):**

Students need to present on a cancer topic that has not been covered in class, typically a body site. Cancer sites not covered in class include anal, bladder, bone and joint, brain (adult), brain (children), breast (female), breast (male), endometrial, esophagus, gallbladder, Hodgkin’s lymphoma, kidney, larynx, leukemia, leukemia in children, liver, non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, multiple myeloma, ovary, pancreas, penile, stomach, testis and thyroid. Other topics might include: HPV vaccination, how are we doing, what cancers might this prevent?

Send the proposed topic for approval to Dr. Dennis via email no later than **Friday September 8th**.

A presentation in class is required that includes the following:

- Describe the cancer – histology, subtypes as relevant, other medical characteristics
- How is it diagnosed, what is the treatment (you may want to use the ACS website)
- Describe the cancer – US incidence, mortality, and survival
- What is the cancer incidence/mortality for the US by race and/or ethnicity
- What is the cancer incidence/mortality for countries of the world? Is the disease different in different countries – particularly are there countries that have much higher or much lower rates?
- What are the known risk factors, and what are the suspected risk factors
- Cancer control or prevention for this site
- Implications for public health recommendations and/or future studies
  - Minimum of 30 to max of 40 minutes, plus about 10 minutes for questions/discussion
  - Everyone ask questions

Make sure to add some relevant rates from SEER*Stat in your presentation in context and reference them. Be sure to reference at least 5 key papers (along with any websites) from which you obtain the information. The instructor will randomly assign presentation dates and times; students may switch times with other students only if they both email the instructor by September 26 2017.

4. **Make-ups for classes missed beyond the first 3 hours = required for final grade.**

   For each hour of class missed beyond the first 3 hours (one week), the student will need to view one additional seminar for each hour missed assigned by the Instructor based on the topics missed. The student will also need to turn in a write-up as described in #3 above. If the student has already viewed the assigned video as their elective seminar above, then they will replace their elective seminar. The point is to discourage missing class but to allow the student to continue rather than dropping the class. If not turned in by 11-19-17, this will be a loss of 2 points per hour missed or 6 points per week.

**Grading Scale:**

- A: 90-100%
- B: 80-89.9%
- C: 70-79.9%
- D: 60-69.9%
- E: <60%

No Final or other exams. One presentation (#3 above) and six 2-3 page written assignments (#2 above).
Required Statements:

Communications: You are responsible for reading emails sent to your UA account from your instructor 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: https://www.registrar.arizona.edu/personal-information/official-student-email-policy-use-email-official-correspondence-students

Disability Accommodations: It is the University’s goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability or pregnancy, please let me know immediately, so that we can discuss options. You are also welcome to contact the Disability Resources (520-621-3268) to establish reasonable accommodations (as it is very important that you be registered with the DRC). For additional information on Disability Resources and reasonable accommodations, please visit http://drc.arizona.edu/students

Code of Academic Integrity
Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercise must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity, available through the office of the UA Dean Students: http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/policies-and-codes/code-academic-integrity

Classroom Behavior: (Statement of expected behavior and respectful exchange of ideas:
Present policies to foster a positive learning environment, including use of cell phones, mobile devices, etc.). Students are expected to be familiar with the UA Policy on Disruptive Student Behavior in an Instructional Setting found at: http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/disruptive-behavior-instructional-setting

Threatening Behavior Policy: The UA Threatening Behavior by Students Policy prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to one’s self, http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/threatening-behavior-students

Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment Policy:
The University of Arizona is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of discrimination, http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy

UA Smoking and Tobacco Policy:
The purpose of this Policy is to establish the University of Arizona’s (University) commitment to protect the health of University faculty, staff, students, and visitors on its campuses and in its vehicles, http://policy.arizona.edu/ethics-and-conduct/smoking-and-tobacco-policy

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 by the instructor.

Other Notes:

Laptops and Electronic Devices (including cell phones): Laptops and other electronic devices can interfere with class, so please turn them off. Phones can be left on vibrate if needed, but no phone calls or texting are allowed during class. Laptops should not be used during the class period, unless there is a documented need for their use. For most lectures, hard copies of presentations are provided. You may use your laptops prior to the beginning of class or during the break.
Plagiarism: Plagiarism can occur when a student copies text word-for-word without quoting, fails to paraphrase, or fails correctly reference materials used for preparing a written assignment. This includes fictitious or incorrect references. If plagiarism is detected on an assignment, it will result in automatic failure for that assignment. A second offense will result in automatic course failure. All these actions will be reported to the Section Chair, the Dean of the College of Public Health, and the Dean of Students. This policy is in place for this class because scientific writing is a fundamental skill at both the undergraduate and graduate level in this field, and for this course. If you feel you are unsure as to what might constitute plagiarism, there are numerous resources at the University of Arizona, including the writing lab, to help you understand and avoid plagiarism.

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.

The Epidemiology Section faculty reserve the right to check assignments or papers with TurnItIn for plagiarism.