Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health
University of Arizona

SYLLABUS
EPID/CPH 696A: EPIDEMIOLOGY SEMINAR
Spring 2015

Time: Wednesdays, 12:00 – 12:50 p.m.
Location: Drachman Hall A-120

Instructor: Yann Klimentidis, PhD
Assistant Professor of Public Health
Medical Research Building, 115
Telephone: 621-0147
yann@email.arizona.edu

Office Hours: By Appointment via email
Teaching Assistant: None

Course Description: This is a seminar course which consists of presentations & discussions given by diverse speakers on a range of topics that may not be available through other courses. Topics may include research methodologies; research ethics; mentoring; epidemiology and the law; the results of research and issues in specific areas such as injury epidemiology, TB control, medical genetics, and infectious diseases; and practical issues of a research career such as finding funding, consulting, career development, and issues in study management. This is also the forum in which MS and PhD epidemiology students will present their results.

Course Prerequisites: This course is restricted to graduate students in health related fields including public health, medicine, and the biological or social sciences.

Course Learning Objectives: At the end of the course students will:
- Have an increased understanding of the range of epidemiological research being conducted within Arizona
- Be able to evaluate current issues affecting epidemiological research.

MPH/Section Competencies Covered: The seminar will cover all the competencies under analytical, communication, cultural and basic public health science skills.

Course Notes: No notes will be provided.

Recommended Texts/Readings: Journal articles if relevant will be posted on D2L.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

Pass-Fail Grading. Attendance will be taken at each class. Students who arrive more than 10 minutes late or leave prior to 12:40 pm will be counted as absent. Students must attend and participate to receive a grade of P as described below. This will include completing assignments prior to class.
During several weeks of the semester, we will have more classic “Research Seminars”, while other weeks will be a “Discussion” around a specific topic.

Grading includes:

- **Attendance (1 point per week for 14 ‘non-Student Presentation’ weeks)**: we require that you
  - Participate in active listening and participating by discussing the topic or asking the speaker relevant questions
  - Sign/initial the attendance sheet
  - Students who arrive more than 10 minutes late or leave prior to 12:40 pm will be counted as absent.
  - **NOTE**: Students texting or working on their computer (tablet, notebook) during a seminar will not receive attendance credit

- **Research Seminars – additional requirements**
  - Completion of the seminar evaluation within 24 hours (1 point per week)

- **Presentation of a Major Cohort Study (5 points)**
  - 3-4 minute PowerPoint presentation on a major epidemiological cohort study
  - Sign up using the discussion board for a specific cohort study. First come, first assigned.
  - The instructor has randomly assigned the order of the topics for student presentations. Students can then agree via email to switch with another student as long as the instructor is copied on the emails and the change in dates is agreed upon by 1:30 pm on March 4, 2015.
  - Attend other student’s presentations and complete the seminar evaluation.

- **29 out of 33 points to Pass**
- **33 out of 33 points for a High Pass**

You must notify the instructor of any absences via email prior to class; as a one credit course you can miss one week unexcused. If you miss a research seminar this would be a loss of 2 points. Attending less than 12 weeks or not presenting on a major epidemiological cohort on the assigned dates will result in a Failing grade.

In rare occasions, if a student cannot attend a seminar session, substitution with another seminar may be appropriate. The student must discuss this option with the course instructor for prior approval (no exceptions) including why the scheduled seminar will be missed. The student will be asked to provide documentation of attendance at the alternate seminar and a one-page description of the seminar answering several specific questions.

**Class Attendance/Participation**: Students are expected to attend and participate in the seminar. You are asked to sign in for each seminar that you attend. Using a laptop, tablet or cell-phone (calls, texting or surfing) during seminar is grounds for not receiving attendance credit for that day.

All holidays or special events observed by organized religions will be honored for those students who show affiliation with that particular religion. The instructor should be notified by the student (at the student’s responsibility) at the beginning of the semester (by 1/21/15) and must be notified at least two weeks prior to that week. Absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean’s designee) will be honored.

**Course Schedule**: The seminar schedule will be updated as needed on D2L.

**Required Statements**:

**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/2014%2D15/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://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity](http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity)

**Classroom Behavior:** (Statement of expected behavior and respectful exchange of ideas)
The Dean of Students has set up expected standards for student behaviors and has defined and identified what is disruptive and threatening behavior. This information is available at: [http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/disruptiveandthreateningstudentguidelines](http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/disruptiveandthreateningstudentguidelines)

Students are expected to be familiar with the UA Policy on Disruptive and Threatening Student Behavior in an Instructional Setting found at: [http://policy.arizona.edu/disruptive-behavior-instructional](http://policy.arizona.edu/disruptive-behavior-instructional) and the Policy on Threatening Behavior by Students found at: [http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/sites/deanofstudents.arizona.edu/files/Disruptive_threat_bklt_2012.pdf](http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/sites/deanofstudents.arizona.edu/files/Disruptive_threat_bklt_2012.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 found at: [http://grad.arizona.edu/academics/policies/academic-policies/grievance-policy](http://grad.arizona.edu/academics/policies/academic-policies/grievance-policy)

**Grade Appeal Policy:** [http://catalog.arizona.edu/2014-15/policies/gradappeal.htm](http://catalog.arizona.edu/2014-15/policies/gradappeal.htm)

**UA Smoking and Tobacco Policy:**
The University's "Smoking and Tobacco Policy" is designed to promote the health and wellness of all members of the University community, including visitors to campus, and it will prohibit the use of tobacco- and nicotine-containing products on property owned or controlled by the UA. This includes the main campus, the Arizona Health Sciences Center, the Phoenix Biomedical Campus, UA South, all satellite campuses, University vehicles, and any property leased by the UA. Smoking cessation aids, such as nicotine gum, patches, and nasal sprays, will be permitted, **but all other forms of tobacco or nicotine - including pipes, cigars, cigarettes and e-cigarettes, all types of smokeless tobacco, and water pipes - will be prohibited.** The latest version of the policy is available at: [http://policy.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/Tobacco-Free.pdf](http://policy.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/Tobacco-Free.pdf)

**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.

**Laptops and Electronic Devices (including cell phones):** Laptops and other electronic devices can interfere with class; **they need to be turned off and stored during all speaker presentations.**
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.

**Other General Notes Regarding Graduate Courses**

**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 is considered plagiarism.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<td>Wednesday January 14</td>
<td>Vitamin D &amp; Sun Exposure</td>
<td>Beth Jacobs &amp; Janet Foote</td>
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<td>Wednesday January 21</td>
<td>Investigating Potential Socioeconomic and Behavioral Factors Influencing Mosquito Net Ownership in Three Countries in sub-Saharan Africa (Joint EPI &amp; BIOS Seminar)</td>
<td>Benjamin Pope</td>
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<td>Wednesday January 28</td>
<td>Genetics of type-2 diabetes</td>
<td>Yann Klimentidis</td>
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<td>Wednesday February 4</td>
<td>Role of vitamin D pathway gene polymorphisms, vitamin D, and diet in prostate cancer risk and aggressiveness.</td>
<td>Ken Batai</td>
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<td>Wednesday February 11</td>
<td>MEZCOPH Seminar HPS</td>
<td>Juan Rivera &amp; Teresa Gonzalez</td>
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<td>Wednesday February 18</td>
<td>Physical Function in Older Adults</td>
<td>Jennifer Nicholas</td>
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<td>Wednesday February 25</td>
<td>The effect of AHCCCS cuts on dental-related visits to the emergency departments (ED) in Maricopa County</td>
<td>Ahmed Mohamed</td>
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<td>Wednesday March 4</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Eyal Oren</td>
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<td>Wednesday March 11</td>
<td>MEZCOPH Seminar CEP</td>
<td>Luke Naher</td>
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<td>Wednesday March 18</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>Wednesday March 25</td>
<td>Major Cohort Studies I</td>
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<td>Wednesday April 1</td>
<td>Major Cohort Studies II</td>
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<td>Wednesday April 8</td>
<td>MEZCOPH Seminar Biost</td>
<td>Nick Horton</td>
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<td>Wednesday April 15</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Nancy Stroupe</td>
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<td>Wednesday April 22</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Kristen Pogreba-Brown</td>
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<td>Wednesday April 29</td>
<td>Math Modeling applications to Public Health</td>
<td>Joceline Lega</td>
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<td>Wednesday May 6</td>
<td>Distribution and Abundance of Cs. melanura and Clustering of Eastern Equine Encephalitis Activity in Connecticut</td>
<td>Chelsi White</td>
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