Doctoral Seminar in Epidemiology
EPID796A – Fall 2017

Time: Wednesday 5:00 PM-6:00 PM with future monthly 3 hour meetings on Wednesdays.

Location: A123 Drachman Hall

Instructor:
Elizabeth T. Jacobs, Ph.D. – Course Director 626-0341 jacobse@u.arizona.edu
University of Arizona Cancer Center – Room 1920

Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Assistant: Not applicable

TA Office Hours: Not applicable

Course Description: This doctoral seminar will be to explore advanced concepts and methods in Epidemiology. The presentations and discussions will focus on these challenges in epidemiological research by both the doctoral students and their faculty mentors.

Course Prerequisites: Course Requisites: EPID 573A, EPID 573B, EPID 573C, EPID 576A, EPID 576B, EPID 576C; Epidemiology doctoral student (major or minor) passed qualitative exam, completed minimum of 40 epidemiology units.

Course Learning Objectives:
• Read and critique nonfiction books related to epidemiology and public health
• Understand the strengths and limitations of reporting epidemiological information in a popular-press format
• Become familiar with a broader range of epidemiological problems and challenges

Epidemiology Competencies
• Defines a research or health problem by identifying gaps in the knowledge of a health issue
• Evaluates the integrity, comparability of data, and limitations of data
• Determines appropriate uses and limitations of data
• Identifies areas of further research
• Formulates an appropriate research question
• Identifies an appropriate population and sampling strategy for testing hypotheses
• Selects an appropriate study design for testing hypotheses in specific populations
• Selects and defines measures and variables relevant to defined health problems
• Develops and assesses validity and reliability of data collection instruments (e.g. questionnaires, physical examination, lab assays, etc.)
• Identifies potential sources of bias and implements strategies to control bias

Course Notes: None
**Recommended Texts/Readings:** These books are required for the class. They can be purchased new or used on Amazon.com for very reasonable prices.


**Course Requirements:**
The primary requirement is that students MUST read the assigned books. Failure to do so will most likely lead to poor performance in our group discussions of the book. Students are expected to attend each class and participate in class discussions. This is a very interactive class that requires input from all students.

**Grading/Student Evaluation:** Class participation 80%; Assignments 20%

**Grading Scale:**
- A: 89.5-100
- B: 79.5-89.4
- C: 69.5-79.4
- D: <69.5

**Class Attendance/Participation:**
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. Please arrive in class on time. Late arrivals are distracting to other students as well as to the instructor, and may result in deduction of participation points.

**Course Schedule:**

**Wednesday, August 23rd, 5:00-6:00 PM**
Introduction to class
Introduction to *The Death Gap*
1 hour class

**Wednesday, September 13th**
Five emailed questions/comments/discussion points due

**Wednesday, September 20th, 5:00 PM-8:00 PM (A-123 Drachman)**
Discussion of *The Death Gap*
Introduction to
3 hour class period

**Wednesday, October 11th**
Five emailed questions/comments/discussion points due

**Wednesday, October 18th 5:00 PM-8:00 PM (A-123 Drachman)**
Suggestions for final article due
Discussion of *Polio: An American Story*
Introduction to *How We Do Harm*
3 hour class period

**Wednesday, November 8th**
Five emailed questions/comments/discussion points due

**Wednesday, November 15th, 5:00 PM-8:00 PM (A-123 Drachman)**
Discussion of How We Do Harm
Introduction of final articles, to be selected by the class
3 hour class period

**Wednesday, November 29th**
Five emailed questions/comments/discussion points for articles due

**Wednesday, December 6th 5:00 PM-8:00 PM (A-123 Drachman)**
Discussion of the articles selected by the class
3 hour class period

**ASSIGNMENTS**

First, a word about class participation. As you can see from the grade breakdown, class participation is an imperative part of this class. Please come to each class session prepared to discuss the assigned books, as this will account for a full 80% of your grade. As you are all doctoral students I will not badger you to make sure you are doing the reading; I will simply assume that you are getting it done. Failure to so guarantees a poor grade as this course is all about reading books.

You have undoubtedly noticed that one week prior to our 3-hour discussion meeting, you are required to me send 5 questions, comments, or discussion points. These emails should be sent to my email address listed on this syllabus and are due by midnight the week prior to our scheduled discussion meetings. IF the dates of the discussion meetings on the syllabus change, these questions or comments should be sent the week prior to the new date. Each of these 5 questions will earn you 2 pts. toward your final grade.

**ALL ENROLLED CLASS MEMBERS MUST BE AVAILABLE FOR THE ENTIRE 3-HOUR DURATION OF THE DISCUSSION MEETING.**

**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](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](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.