Syllabus

EPID/CPH 309: Introduction to Epidemiology
Spring 2015

TIME: Monday & Wednesday 1:00 - 2:15 pm
LOCATION: Drachman Hall, A-114

INSTRUCTOR: Heidi Brown, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Office: Drachman Hall, A-220
E-mail: heidibrown@email.arizona.edu

Help Sessions: M/W 2:15-3:15PM

Graduate Teaching Assistants (Help Session, location and email)

Jayleen Gunn: WED 11:00-12:00 A219JJ #3
gunnj@email.arizona.edu
Steven Haenchen: MON Noon-1:00 206DD
shaenchen@email.arizona.edu
Stephanie Koch: WED 220-3:20 206KK
smkoch@email.arizona.edu
Marvin Langston: WED 1145-1245 206F
mlangston@email.arizona.edu

Teaching Preceptors
Heidi Williamson: hwilliamson@email.arizona.edu
Annie Kankera Haguma: ahaguma@email.arizona.edu

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION
This course will introduce students to basic principles and methods used in epidemiology. The course will include basic research designs, estimating outcome measures, and establishing cause and effect and effectiveness of interventions to prevent and cure disease.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: Math 112 or equivalent

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES
Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:
1) Describe the historical roots of epidemiologic thinking and their contribution to the evolution of the scientific method.
2) Explain how ethical principles affect epidemiologic research.
3) Calculate rates and proportions to express numerically the amount and distribution of health and non-health related outcomes.
4) Use the distribution of a health-related outcome to generate hypotheses that might provide an explanation.
5) Explain basic statistical and epidemiologic concepts of estimation, inference, and adjustment to establish association.
6) Explain how to use evidence of an association to make a judgment about whether an association is causal.
7) Describe the basic epidemiologic study designs that are used to test hypotheses, identify associations, and establish causation.
8) Describe the concepts of measurement of test performance and be able to apply the concepts of testing and screening in different settings.
9) Describe the broad applicability of epidemiologic methods to clinical and basic science as well as public policy.

UNDERGRADUATE COMPETENCIES
1) Use epidemiological principles to describe and analyze causes of disease and illness.
2) Provide a biological description for the major causes of communicable and non-communicable diseases and their pathology.
3) Provide an environmental description for the major causes of communicable and noncommunicable diseases and their pathology.

COURSE FORMAT
The class will be organized with classroom lectures and discussion forums. Learner-centered methods will include individual and small group work and discussion, guest lectures, and student presentations.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

** Available as ebook: [http://sabio.library.arizona.edu/record=b6997192~S9](http://sabio.library.arizona.edu/record=b6997192~S9). This ebook is licensed as a single user ebook, i.e. one user at a time. If you log on and it isn’t there, someone else has checked it out.

Course syllabus, schedule, homework, additional readings, and class notes will be made available online: [http://d2l.arizona.edu](http://d2l.arizona.edu). Students use Student Link to access the D2L site.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
The student 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 on time.

Class Attendance and Participation
Class attendance is strongly encouraged. Participation will be assessed through completion and submission of in-class exercises. It is participation, if you are not here, you cannot participate and you cannot make up participation you missed (that includes leaving early or arriving late). I estimate 10 to 12 in-class exercises per semester: you will be allowed to miss 2 and still receive full credit.

Feel free to ask questions and contribute your own ideas and knowledge to the class. It is important to read the material in advance and give it some careful thought, so that you come to class prepared to discuss information and opinions. Engaging and instructive class discussion can come from this if we are both prepared beforehand and mutually respectful during our interactions with each other. Talking, using electronic devices such as cell phones, laptops, or iPods, and any other unruly behavior that disrupts the class will not be tolerated. The instructor reserves the right (and obligation to the class) to
administratively drop from the course any student who does not maintain appropriate behavior. Turn off your cell phones.

**Homework**
Throughout the semester, homework will be assigned. The purpose of homework and activities is to provide opportunities for students to practice the tools of epidemiologists and to assure that they are practicing correctly.

Homework assignments will be distributed about one week prior to the due date or will be in the available online. Homework assignments are due at the beginning of the assigned class period. Most can be turned in on D2L or in class.

Unless otherwise noted, homework assignments will be graded as 3 points = assignment is complete & submitted on time; 2 = homework is incomplete but submitted on time; 1 = homework is complete but submitted by the class period after the due date, 0 = not completed within the time frame.

Life happens: the lowest homework score will be dropped.

**Reading Quizzes**
Please read each chapter before coming to class. Reading quizzes – a couple of questions about the readings – will be posted on D2L. These must be answered prior to class.

Life happens: the lowest quiz score will be dropped.

**Examinations**
The midterm and final examination will be closed book, in-class exams unless otherwise specified. Students will be allowed to bring in 1 page of notes and calculators to the in-class exams. If you need to reschedule an exam for a valid reason, email me at least 2 weeks in advance so we can coordinate an alternate time.

**Extra Credit**
An extra credit assignment is worth a 2% bonus on the overall course grade. This assignment can be completed at any time, but must be submitted by Monday, 20 April. The 2% is NOT automatic. The assignment will be graded.

This year’s assignment is to read and report on the book “The Doctors’ Plague: Germs, Childbed Fever, and the Strange Story of Ignác Semmelweis” by Sherwin Nuland. The book is available on Amazon for less than $2.00. It has over 200 pages – do not leave this to the last minute. Detailed Instructions will be available on the course website.

Returning your voting card in good condition on the day of the final exam will result in 1 point extra credit applied to your final exam grade.

**STUDENT EVALUATION**
Evaluation will be based upon the student's ability to demonstrate a basic understanding of the concepts, principles, and methods of epidemiology through:

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<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
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<td>Exam 2</td>
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<td>Class Participation</td>
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<td>Homework</td>
<td>15 %</td>
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<td>Reading Quizzes</td>
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Final Exam | 20 %
---|---
Total | 100 %

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

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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90.0 - 100%</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>80.0 - 89.9%</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>70.0 - 79.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60.0 - 69.9%</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>&lt; 60%</td>
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D2L and your grade. Please track your grades on D2L. Sometimes the grades take a little while to post. Some TAs are faster than others. Give it a few days. If your assignment has been turned back to you but isn’t on D2L then come see me. Note also that since the lowest grade is dropped, if you have 100% on your homework/in-class, D2L will drop one of your ‘lowest’ 100%. I know it’s odd, but computers aren’t always that clever.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

**Email Etiquette:** Please be professional with respect to emails you send. Email is not texting. Email is a letter. It begins with a greeting and ends with a closing. Please use proper punctuation and remember to use spell check. Please include sufficient information in the email that I can respond appropriately (e.g., “can I meet with you” is not helpful to either of us). I respond to email as quickly as I can. I do not respond to emails on Tuesdays. If your email query is covered in the syllabus, you will receive an email stating “Please see syllabus.” If your email is not professional, it will be returned for you to revise. If you do not receive a reply to an email, check D2L - especially when your email is likely relevant to the whole class. This may be helpful: [http://www.101email etiquettel tips.com/](http://www.101email etiquettel tips.com/).

**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)

**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.

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• 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) 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

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 and the Policy on Threatening Behavior by Students found at: 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

Grade Appeal Policy: 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. The latest version of the policy is available at: 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.