Public Health Experience – Student Aid for Field Epidemiology Response (SAFER)
EPID 596D
Spring 2016
SYLLABUS

Time: Friday 10 am-12 am

Location: Drachman Hall A

Course Directors: Kristen Pogreba-Brown, PhD MPH
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626-3076
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A220

Office Hours: After class sessions and available by appointment

Teaching Research Assistants: Erika Barrett
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TA Office Hours: By appointment

Catalog Description: This course is designed to give public health & epidemiology graduate students “real world” experience in working in public health and to expose them to local and state public health issues. The course will cover all the basics of outbreak investigations as run by state and county health departments in Arizona. While the main focus will be on communicable diseases, many of the topics covered will be applicable to most disease investigations. Training will occur both at the university and off-site at state and county health department offices.

Course Prerequisites: Completion or concurrent registration in 573a and 576a or the permission of the instructor or completion of this course a prior semester. Students need to have a basic understanding of epidemiology, study designs, disease investigation and analysis of data

Course Learning Objectives:
The goal of this course is to create a student response team whereby students have sufficient skills and background to then be eligible to take part in public health interventions and outbreak investigations. As a member of a student response team, students will be expected to be available to respond to local and state requests for assistance. These assignments will be short-term and the students may need to be
available for response within a short period of time. Students who have already taken the course one time and are part of the team are expected to take on more leadership roles, specifically with regard to any topic in which they have received advanced training.

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- Work effectively on a disease investigation in the field of public health;
- Demonstrate knowledge of common protocols for disease investigations;
- Be familiar with the structure and organization of state and county health departments in Arizona;
- Understand the functions and steps of disease surveillance;
- Describe challenges involved in conducting an outbreak investigation;
- Identify current and emerging infectious disease threats

Program Competencies Covered:

**A. Analytical Skills**
A.6. Understanding basic research designs used in public health
A.7. Makes relevant inferences from data

**B. Communication Skills**
B. 1. Communicates effectively both in writing and orally (unless a handicap precludes one of those forms of communication)
B. 2. Interpreting and presenting accurately and effectively demographic, statistical, and scientific information for professional and lay audiences adapting and translating public health concepts to individuals and communities
B. 3. Soliciting input from individuals and organizations

**E. Basic Public Health Science Skills**
E. 1. Defining, assessing, and understanding the health status of population, determinants of health and illness, factors contributing to health promotion and disease prevention, and factors influencing the use of health services
E. 2. Understanding research methods in all basic public health sciences
E. 3. Applying the basic public health sciences including behavioral and social sciences, biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental public health, and prevention of chronic and infectious diseases and injuries
E. 4. Understanding of the historical development and structure of state. Local, and federal public health agencies

**Course Notes:** If notes are provided, they will be given out in class or provided online.

**Recommended Texts/Readings:** Control of Communicable Diseases Manual 18th Edition
David Heymann, MD Editor

**Course Requirements:**
1) Attendance at the training sessions at the county and state health agencies. Returning students will not have to repeat training sessions again.
2) Completion of at least one day at Pima County Health Department on a Friday from 1-5.
3) Commitment to the student response team as evidenced by:
   a) Reasonably attempting to be available for responding to a request for a student response to a county or state agency if an outbreak were to occur.
b) Making up any missed work in an appropriate time period as outlined by College policy

4) Being available for 2- two hour sessions each month to work in the call center for routine enteric investigations or outbreak responses.

5) Participation in at least one SAFER response. This could include any or all of the following tasks:
   a) Attendance at meetings regarding current issue
   b) Conduct of additional background or literature reviews concerning current issue
   c) Interaction with the public in a culturally appropriate manner (includes administering questionnaires, answering phone calls regarding the outbreak, etc)
   d) Compliance with all confidentiality policies and practices for both the county and state health departments
   e) Completion of all appropriate documentation
   f) Oral presentation detailing project/investigation experience
      • If student does not participate in a public health response within the semester, the student will write a paper on a relevant topic and present it to the class. The topic must be approved by the instructors.

**Grading/Student Evaluation:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Attendance</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call Center Hours/Outbreak Response</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</tbody>
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Grading is done of a scale of Superior (S), Pass (P), or Fail (E).

**Pass-Fail Grading:** Attendance will be taken at each class. Students must attend and participate in at least 5 sessions to receive a grade of P. If a student cannot attend a session, substitution with another seminar may be appropriate. The student must discuss this option with the course instructor for prior approval and the student will be asked to provide documentation of attendance.

**Class Attendance/Participation:** Students are expected to attend ALL classes, specifically those that focus on outbreak response training. This includes being available for the two scheduled trips to Phoenix where students will visit and take part in training at Arizona Department of Health Services and Maricopa County Department of Health Services. Missing either one of these trips may exclude the student from taking part in any outbreak investigations. All holidays or special events observed by organized religions will be honored for those students who show affiliation with that particular religion. Assignments for missed courses will be completed per arrangement with course instructor.

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.)
Course Schedule:
Online completion of 12 Steps to an Outbreak Investigation BEFORE Class
Post 3 discussion questions from lecture on D2L by Thursday at NOON

January 15 – Introduction, review of 12 Steps and Visit the Call Center

January 22 – Campylobacter and Salmonella Questionnaire Training

January 29 – Nuts and Bolts of Conducting an Epidemiological Study – The Call Log
The Trouble with Chicken movie and discussion

February 5 – Basics of Public Health Preparedness & Public Health Surveillance

February 12 – Pima County Health Department (Confirmed 10:15 AM)

February 19 – Arizona Department of Health Services – PHOENIX ALL DAY (Confirmed)

February 26 – Maricopa County Health Department Training – Phoenix all day (Confirmed)

March 4 – In Class Exercise

March 9 (Wednesday) – College-wide Seminar A114 – Joseph Eisenberg (strongly recommended)

March 11 – In Class Exercise

March 18 – NO CLASS – Spring Break

March 25 – Charles Schable, CDC Retired

April 1 – Student Presentations (4)

April 8 – Student Presentations (4)

April 15 – Student Presentations (4)

April 22 – TBD

April 29 - Book Discussion – discussion questions due by Tue April 26th

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/2013-14/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

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:  

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/2013-14/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.

Telephone and Computer Use:  You are not allowed to have your computer on during class unless it is needed for an in-class activity.  Turn your cell phones to silent or vibrate in order to not disrupt the class and disturb your fellow students and professor.

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.