Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health  
University of Arizona

SYLLABUS  
EPID/CPH 696A: EPIDEMIOLOGY SEMINAR  
Fall 2012

Time: Thursdays, 12:00 – 12:50 p.m.

Location: Drachman Hall A-118

Instructor: Leslie Dennis, MS, PhD  
Professor of Public Health  
1295 N. Martin  
Drachman Hall, A238  
Tucson, AZ 85724  
Telephone: 626-6408  
ldennis@email.arizona.edu

Office Hours: By Appointment via email

Teaching Assistant: None

Course Description: This is a seminar course which consists of presentations 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 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 Format: Seminars will be provided by outside speakers and faculty and students from the Epidemiology & Biostatistics Programs at the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. Topics may include research methodologies; research ethics; the results of research and issues in specific areas; issues in study management; practical issues of a research career.

Course Requirements and Evaluation: Pass-Fail Grading. Attendance will be taken at each class. Students must attend and participate in at least 12 sessions to receive a grade of P. This will occasionally include completing readings prior to class. 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 and the student will be asked to provide documentation of attendance at the seminar and a one-page description of the seminar.

**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. 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:** The seminar schedule will be updated as needed on D2L. Readings will be provided via D2L as needed at least 48 hours prior to a seminar.

**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/2012%2D13/policies/disability.htm](http://catalog.arizona.edu/2012%2D13/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/2012-13/policies/gradappeal.htm](http://catalog.arizona.edu/2012-13/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.

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.

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.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 23</td>
<td>Epidemiology &amp; Biostatistics Faculty &amp; Student Luncheon (A118)</td>
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<td>Thursday August 30</td>
<td>Hemoglobin Concentrations Associated with Cardiovascular Disease within the Women’s Health Initiative</td>
<td>Guanglin Wu, PhD Post Graduate, Epidemiology</td>
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<td>Thursday September 6</td>
<td>Sibling concordance for clinical features of Duchenne and Becker muscular dystrophy</td>
<td>Sydney Pettygrove, PhD Assistant Professor, Epidemiology</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Go to MEZCOPH seminar in A114 instead of Epi Seminar on 9/13</strong></td>
<td>Daniel Derksen, M.D. New Section Chair of PHPM “Affordable Care Act: Public Health, Research and Policy Implications &amp; Opportunities”</td>
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<td>Thursday September 20</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<td>Thursday September 27</td>
<td>Lower Respiratory Illnesses And Diesel Exposure In Tucson</td>
<td>Paloma Beamer, PhD Assistant Professor, Environmental Health Sciences</td>
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<td>Thursday October 4</td>
<td>Molecular Epidemiology of Vitamin D Delivery &amp; Uptake in Colon Cancer Cells</td>
<td>Elizabeth Hibler, PhD, MPH Cancer Prevention and Control Fellow Arizona Cancer Center</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>MEZCOPH seminar in A114 instead of Epi Seminar on 10/11</strong></td>
<td>- MEZCOPH Speaker TBA -</td>
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<td>Thursday October 18</td>
<td>Title TBA</td>
<td>Margaret Kurzious-Spencer PhD, MPH Associate Research Scientist, Community, Environment &amp; Policy Division</td>
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<td>Thursday October 25</td>
<td>The Border Community and Immigration Stress Scale: A Preliminary Examination of a Community Responsive Measure in Two Southwest Samples (see posted article)</td>
<td>Scott Carvajal, PhD, MPH Associate Professor, Section Chair of Health Behavior and Health Promotion</td>
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<td>Thursday November 1</td>
<td>CVD and firefighters</td>
<td>Jeff Burgess, MD, MS, MPH Professor, Division Director of Community, Environment Policy</td>
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<td>Thursday November 8</td>
<td>Tentatively: Epidemiology students</td>
<td>Applied Biostatistics Analysis Projects (CPH576C; instructor Bonnie LaFleur)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>MEZCOPH seminar in A114 instead of Epi Seminar on 11/15</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Charles E. Drum, MPA, JD, PhD, Health Promotion Sciences Speaker</td>
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<td>Thursday November 15</td>
<td>Make-up Seminar Epidemiology students</td>
<td>Applied Biostatistics Analysis Projects (CPH576C; instructor Bonnie LaFleur)</td>
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<td>November 22</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday November 29</td>
<td>Epidemiology students</td>
<td>Applied Biostatistics Analysis Projects (CPH576C; instructor Bonnie LaFleur)</td>
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TBA – to be announced