Public Health Experience – Student Aid for Field Epidemiology Response (SAFER)
EPID 596D
Fall 2019
SYLLABUS

Time: Friday 10 am-12 am
Location: Drachman Hall A120
Instructor: Kristen Pogreba-Brown, PhD MPH
kpogreba@email.arizona.edu
520-626-3076
520-275-3945 (cell)
A220
Office Hours: After class sessions (typically) and available by appointment
Laboratory Manager: Erika Barrett, MPH
barrette@email.arizona.edu
Teaching Research Assistant: Kasey Busick caseym2@email.arizona.edu
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 Objectives and Learning Outcomes:
Course 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.

Learning Outcomes:
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

Epidemiology Program Competencies Covered
1. Compare the relative strengths and weaknesses of epidemiological study designs, and choose the most appropriate design for specific research questions.
   a. As part of the final outbreak investigation exercise, students will be asked to assess which study design is most appropriate, explain their reasoning and apply the appropriate statistical approach to determine the measure of risk.

2. Calculate appropriate measures of disease frequency and excess risk.
   a. Throughout the semester, students will be given data and asked to calculate measures of risk. This will specifically be addressed in the ‘Data Cleaning Project’, ‘Outbreak Exercise 1’ and ‘Final Outbreak Exercise’.

One Health Program Competencies Covered
(1) Articulate appropriate methods and data sources to investigate the interdependency and interconnectedness of humans, animals, and the environment in health and disease development.
   a. As part of the training at the Arizona Department of Health Services, students will interact with the Zoonotic epidemiologist for the state and work as a group to describe the various One Health issues, partners and data available across the state.

(2) Describe sentinel events in humans, animals, and the environment for detection of hazardous exposures and prevention of long-term negative effects.
   a. This information will be covered in the ‘Introductory Lecture’ as well as various examples given throughout the semester. This is particularly important in relation to pandemic influenza, which is also an inter-professional activity students will participate in with students from the 3 other health science colleges.

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) 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
3) Being available for 2- two hour sessions each month to work in the call center for routine enteric investigations or outbreak responses.
4) 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:  
   Class Attendance  40%  
   Call Center Hours/Outbreak Response  50%  
   Presentation  10%

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 70% of sessions to receive a grade of P (holidays are not taken into account). For example, in a semester with 13 class sessions, a student must attend at least 9 to pass. 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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>SAFER – In Class</th>
<th>SAFER Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-24</td>
<td>Introduction/Review of Syllabus and Assignments</td>
<td>Complete video and power point trainings on D2L</td>
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<td>- Introduction/Review of Syllabus and Assignments</td>
<td>(1) CoE video on interviewing – complete by 8/31</td>
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<td>- Routine vs. Outbreak</td>
<td>(2) 12 Steps to an Outbreak Investigation – 3 to 5 questions due by Mon 9/3 at noon</td>
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<td>- Call Center Tour</td>
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<td>8-31</td>
<td>Survey Training in Computer Lab</td>
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<td>(1) Practice Questionnaire – due by 9/5</td>
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<td>9-7</td>
<td>Maricopa County Dept of Public Health in Phoenix</td>
<td>Register for IPE Pandemic Flu Exercise</td>
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<td>ALL DAY</td>
<td>Read RMSF materials on D2L</td>
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<td>9-14</td>
<td>RMSF- Field Experience – ALL DAY (options available multiple days this week)</td>
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<td>9-21</td>
<td>AZ Dept of Health Services Training in Phoenix – ALL DAY</td>
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<td>9-28</td>
<td>Outbreak exercise</td>
<td>Start your questionnaire!</td>
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<td>Questionnaires – How to build one that works</td>
<td>Send your Questionnaire to your review partner by 10/12</td>
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<td>Review submitted questions</td>
<td>Submit to D2L by October 26th</td>
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<td>Introduce Questionnaire Assignment</td>
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<td>10-5</td>
<td><em>Chasing the Dragon in Oklahoma: Responding to an Opiate and Methamphetamine-Fueled Syphilis Outbreak</em> – Portia King and Erin Williamms – OK State Health Dept.</td>
<td>BEFORE THIS CLASS – Complete the readings posted on D2L on Syphilis</td>
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<td>10-12</td>
<td>Pima County Health Department Training (10am-12pm – please meet at Drachman at 9:45 for carpool)</td>
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<td>10-19</td>
<td>Pandemic Flu exercise 1pm-4pm Location to be assigned following online sign up – regular class time 10-12 canceled</td>
<td>To be determined...</td>
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<td>10-26</td>
<td>Nogales Field Trip – Details to be confirmed</td>
<td>Submit Questionnaire to D2L by October 26th</td>
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<td>11-2</td>
<td>Present Questionnaires</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-9</td>
<td>Present Questionnaires</td>
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<td>11-16</td>
<td>Exercise Day 1</td>
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<td>11-23</td>
<td>THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS</td>
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<td>11-30</td>
<td>Exercise Day 2</td>
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**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/2013%2D14/policies/disability.htm](http://catalog.arizona.edu/2013%2D14/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/2013-14/policies/gradappeal.htm](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.