SYLLABUS
EPID 696A: EPIDEMIOLOGY SEMINAR
Fall 2020

Time: Wednesdays, 12:00 – 12:50 p.m.

Location: This class is scheduled to be taught in the LIVE ONLINE modality with the entire class via Zoom

Course Instructors: Robin Harris, MPH, PhD
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Office Hours: By appointment via email

Catalogue Description: This seminar consists of presentations and active discussions led by a diverse range of speakers, including the course students, on topics in epidemiologic research and applied epidemiology that may not be available through other courses.

- Course Description: The Epidemiology Seminar is a forum for presentation and discussion of original research findings, methodologic approaches, and applied epidemiology (i.e., epidemiology in action), as well as career-development topics such as procurement of research funding, critical evaluation of scientific literature, communication of epidemiologic concepts or findings, practical considerations for internships, and job searching. Presentations may span a broad range of epidemiologic areas including injury, chronic disease, infectious disease, maternal-child health, and global health. This is also a forum for MS and PhD epidemiology students, as well as postdoctoral fellows, to present findings from their respective areas of research.
- The sessions will be held as synchronous Zoom meetings. They will be recorded and available for students to review if needed.

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:
- Increase their understanding of a broad range of epidemiological research
- Understand the application of epidemiologic principles by public health agencies to mitigate disease
- Contribute meaningfully to conversations regarding contemporary issues in epidemiology
Enhance their exposure to individuals with epidemiology-focused careers

Competencies Covered and Assessed for Each Education Program:

**MPH Program Competencies Covered:**
- Search, describe and summarize findings from the scientific literature to describe the epidemiology of a public health problem, identify health disparities and identify risk factors.

**Weekly Seminar Reflections:** Students will write a short reflection each week following the seminar. Students will reflect on the public health problem, presented literature, research findings, and epidemiological study design issues.

**MS Competencies Covered:**
- Critique and synthesize appropriate literature and research findings to address a research question.

**Weekly Seminar Reflection:** Students will write a short reflection each week following the seminar. Students will reflect on the public health problem, presented literature, and research findings.

**PhD Competencies Covered:**
- Develop research questions to address health problems by appraising and identifying gaps in the current scientific literature.
- Understand basic principles of educating professionals and the public on the fundamentals of epidemiological concepts.

**Weekly Seminar Reflection:** Students will write a short reflection each week following the seminar. Students will reflect on the public health problem, presented literature, and research findings and the presentation of the basic principles.

**Course Notes:** No notes will be provided.

**Recommended Texts/Readings:** Journal articles, if relevant, will be posted on D2L.

**Course Schedule:** The seminar schedule will be updated as needed on D2L. The seminar series will include the following range of activities: Epidemiology Program Grand Rounds (1/month), Public Health Grand Rounds seminars (1/month), monthly journal club around literature and methodologies for anti-racism in epidemiology. Once or twice a month, PhD students will be presenting current doctoral research presentations. Attendance at other seminars appropriate to the student are encouraged, including a 1/month seminar on race. Students are encouraged to attend 4 seminars (or webinars) per semester related to health disparities, racism, discrimination and social justice in epidemiology.

**Class Attendance and participation:** Students are expected to actively listen and participate. Students who arrive more than 10 minutes late or leave prior to 12:40 pm may be counted as absent.

Participation will be recorded by students submitting an Evaluation/Reflection report to the Assignment Folder at the end of each seminar session. If a student cannot attend a seminar session, substitution with another seminar/webinar may be appropriate and recommended. Students must provide documentation of attendance at the alternate seminar and a one-page description and reflection of the seminar. See the D2L site for a template.

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 Requirements and Evaluation:** *Pass-Fail Grading.* Based on attendance, there will be 5 points available per week for 16 weeks=80 total points. Students must attend and submit a reflection for
the seminar in at least 13 sessions to receive a grade of P. Note that students may attend other seminars; students must submit an evaluation/reflection of that seminar to the Assignment Folder in D2L.

**Note:** A monthly journal club/discussion around literature and methodologies for anti-racism in epidemiology. The Program Director will host a monthly discussion during the academic year. During the Fall semester these will be carried out during the same time-slot as Epidemiology seminar. They will continue indefinitely as an option to fulfill the seminar requirement but the time may shift to accommodate other seminar topics as needed. All individuals are welcome to these sessions even if they are not enrolled in Epidemiology seminar.

**Course requirements:**
- Participate by actively listening and asking questions
- Complete evaluation/reflection form following each presentation and upload to D2L at the end of seminar.
- When assigned, read preparatory materials and complete assignments before seminar.

**Communications:** You are responsible for reading emails sent to your UA account from your instructor 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: [https://www.registrar.arizona.edu/personal-information/official-student-email-policy-use-email-official-correspondence-students](https://www.registrar.arizona.edu/personal-information/official-student-email-policy-use-email-official-correspondence-students)

**Accessibility and Accommodations:**
At the University of Arizona, we strive to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability or pregnancy, you are welcome to let us know so that we can discuss options. You are also encouraged to contact Disability Resources (520-621-3268) to explore reasonable accommodation. If our class meets at a campus location: Please be aware that the accessible table and chairs in this room should remain available for students who find that standard classroom seating is not usable. For additional information on Disability Resources and reasonable accommodations, please visit [http://drc.arizona.edu/students](http://drc.arizona.edu/students)

**Code of Academic Integrity**
Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercise must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity, available through the office of the UA Dean Students: [http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/policies-and-codes/code-academic-integrity](http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/policies-and-codes/code-academic-integrity)

**Classroom Behavior:** (Statement of expected behavior and respectful exchange of ideas:
Present policies to foster a positive learning environment, including use of cell phones, mobile devices, etc.). Students are expected to be familiar with the UA Policy on Disruptive Student Behavior in an Instructional Setting found at: [http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/disruptive-behavior-instructional-setting](http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/disruptive-behavior-instructional-setting)

**Threatening Behavior Policy:** The UA Threatening Behavior by Students Policy prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to one’s self, [http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/threatening-behavior-students](http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/threatening-behavior-students)

**Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy:**
The University of Arizona is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of discrimination, [http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy](http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy)

**UA Smoking and Tobacco Policy:**
The purpose of this Policy is to establish the University of Arizona's (University) commitment to protect the health of University faculty, staff, students, and visitors on its campuses and in its vehicles, [http://policy.arizona.edu/ethics-and-conduct/smoking-and-tobacco-policy](http://policy.arizona.edu/ethics-and-conduct/smoking-and-tobacco-policy)

**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 by the instructor.

**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.

**Plagiarism will result in a grade of an “E”,** if it is throughout an assignment (in small or large amounts), or includes whole paragraphs or constitutes over 15% of the assignment.