

HLTH 4100: Epidemiology of Communicable and Non-Communicable Disease Spring 2015

INSTRUCTOR:

Larry Rapp, Ph.D.

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OFFICE HOURS:

- Anytime by email (usually will respond within 24 hours), or in person by appointment.

CLASS MEETING TIMES AND DAYS: 85% Online, 15% face-to-face. Meetings will be on Wednesdays, 10-11:20am in DAL2, 213. Dates for class meetings will be posted on Blackboard.

Blackboard Learn is the learning management platform. To access the course, go to <https://learn.untdallas.edu/> and enter your student ID and password.

REQUIRED TEXT*:

Title: Epidemiology for Public Health Practice

Authors: Robert H. Friis and Thomas A. Sellers

Edition: 5th

Copyright Year: 2013

Publisher: Jones & Bartlett

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Principles and methods of epidemiology and their applicability to public health. Topics include history and practical applications of epidemiology, mortality and morbidity, sources of data, epidemiologic study design, measurement of disease frequency and effect, data interpretation, and screening for disease.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Understand the fundamental role of epidemiology in public health.
- Be able to describe different approaches to understanding the causes of disease in population-based research.
- Be able to critically evaluate research literature in epidemiology.
- Be able to calculate and correctly interpret the measures of the occurrence of disease and measures of association between exposure and disease.
- Be aware of the major sources of health data and their limitations.
- Be able to identify whether a given association between exposure and disease is likely to be casual.
- Understand the general approaches to disease surveillance and outbreak investigation.
- Know the principles underlying the strategies for disease prevention and screening to detect early disease.
- Apply epidemiological strategies to current events (i.e., bioterrorism, Ebola).

COURSE SCHEDULE

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes will be posted on Blackboard.

Week	Dates	Textbook Chapters (assigned reading)	Activities/Assessments
1	1/20-1/25	Purchase Textbook/Class Introduction Meeting	Class Meets on 1/21
2	1/26-2/1	Chapter 1: History and Scope of Epidemiology	Quiz 1
3	2/1-2/8	Chapter 2: Practical Applications of Epidemiology	Quiz 2
4	2/9-2/15	Chapter 3: Measures of Morbidity and Mortality	Quiz 3
5	2/16-2/22	Chapter 4: Descriptive Epidemiology	Quiz 4 Case Study #1
6	2/23-3/1	Chapter 5: Sources of Data in Epidemiology	Quiz 5 Term Paper Proposal
7	3/2-3/8	Chapter 6: Study Designs: Ecologic, Cross-Sectional, Case-Control	Quiz 6
8	3/9-3/15	EXAM 1 (Chapters 1-6)	
9	3/16-3/22	<i>SPRING BREAK</i>	
10	3/23–3/29	Chapter 7: Study Designs: Cohort Studies	Quiz 7 Case Study #2
11	3/30– 4/5	Chapter 8: Experimental Study Designs	Quiz 8
12	4/6-4/12	Chapter 9: Measures of Effect	Quiz 9
13	4/13-4/19	Chapter 10: Data Interpretation Issues	Quiz 10 Term Paper Draft
14	4/20-4/26	Chapter 11: Screening for Disease in the Community	Quiz 11
15	4/27-5/3	Chapter 12: Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases	Quiz 12
16	5/4-5/8	Term Paper <i>(due by 5/8/15 at 8:00pm)</i>	
17	5/9-5/12	EXAM 2 (Chapters 7-12) <i>(no later than 5/12/15 at 8:00pm)</i>	

GRADE CALCULATION

Item	Points Possible
Exams (2 at 100pts. each)	200
Quizzes (12 @ 10pts. each, drop lowest 2)	50
Case Studies (2 @ 25 pts. each)	50
Assignments	50
Term Paper	100
TOTAL	450

Grade Determination:

- A = 90%+ (405-450 pts.)
- B = 80-89.9% (360-404 pts.)
- C = 70-79.9% (315-359 pts.)
- D = 60-69.9% (270-314 pts.)
- F = Below 60% (269 pts. or lower)

QUIZZES AND EXAMS

There is no final exam for the class, although the second exam will be scheduled during finals week. Exam 1 covers the material from Chapters 1-6 and Exam 2 from Chapters 7-12. There will be 12 weekly quizzes. Each quiz will cover the assigned reading for assigned reading for that particular week (see course schedule above). Exams and quizzes will include multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. Each exam or quiz will have a time limit based on the number of questions. You cannot exit Blackboard and return to finish the exam or quiz later.

No make-up exams will be given except for documented emergencies. Reasons for missed exams include severe illness, hospitalization, or death in the family. It is the **student's responsibility** to contact the instructor as soon as possible when an exam will be missed, and to show proof that the absence was unavoidable. An all essay make-up exam will be given for missed exams with an excused absence. A grade of zero is assigned for exams missed due to unexcused absences. There will be no make-up quizzes although the lowest quiz score will be dropped.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES AND POLICIES

Students with Disabilities <http://www.untDallas.edu/disability/about>

The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability are required to register with Disability Services each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from this office. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. Disability Services is located in DAL 2, Room 204 and is open 8:30-5:00p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number is (972) 338-1777.

Library Resources <https://www.untDallas.edu/library/resources>

UNT Dallas students have access to an extensive collection of electronic resources with over 31,000 electronic journals and databases, over 46,700 electronic books, and the ability to order books and journal articles from libraries across the United States through the Library's interlibrary loan program. The library has a comfortable reading room for studying and two group study rooms for collaborating. The study rooms have large monitors and tables with power and data connections, and Wi-Fi.

Writing Center <http://www.untDallas.edu/wc/students>

The goal of the Writing Center is to help you write a good paper, and most importantly, become a better writer. It is a FREE tutoring service for all registered UNT Dallas students that can advise and guide you with organizing and outlining ideas, revising an early draft, proofreading a final draft, and citations. The Writing Center can work with you on any type of written or oral college assignment, from a short reflection to a long research project. They can also help with professional and creative writing.

Academic Integrity <http://www.untDallas.edu/finaid/forms/policies/integrity>

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of conduct and Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the UNT Dallas Policy Code of Academic Integrity (link above) for complete provisions of this policy.

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT Dallas. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching.