

ALHS 4320
PRINCIPLES OF EPIDEMIOLOGY
SYLLABUS
FALL 2008

"They fancied themselves free, and no one will ever be free so long as there are pestilences."

Albert Camus The Plague Part 1, pg. 37

FACULTY

Cheryl M. Cooper, RN, MSN; PhD
Office hours: W 12:30 – 1:30
T TR 12:30 - 1:30
(Please make appointment if possible).

Class Time: T TH 11- 11:50

Classroom: HPC Rm # 3055
Pal 0114 (Palestine)
Luc0201 (Longview)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

ALHS 4320 is the study of concepts that are fundamental to the understanding of the distribution and determinants of disease, disability, and disorders in human populations

**Current learning opportunities or needs may require that some components of this syllabus be revised over the course of the semester. This will be done at the discretion of the faculty of the Department of Health and Kinesiology. Any substantive changes will be communicated to enrolled students verbally (in class) and/or by e mail, before the change goes into effect, and in time for students to make adjustments in class preparation or laboratory schedule..*

Required Course Materials

1. Text: Gordis, L., *Epidemiology* Third edition. Elsevier Saunders
ISBN 1-4160-2530-8
2. Internet access (UT Tyler student E mail address)
3. Enrolment in *BlackBoard* system for the course

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course students should be able to (verbally and/or in writing):

1. summarize the evolution of epidemiology as a discipline and describe some of the major achievements of individuals who have contributed to the early development of the field.
2. explain the major concepts that are the basis for describing and explaining disease occurrence in communities, populations, or groups.
3. identify, describe, explain the differences among, and give examples of the most common epidemiological study designs.
4. define, calculate, interpret and compare health indicators most commonly used in epidemiology.
5. explain the terms *association* and *causality* and how these concepts are applied in epidemiology. Explain the importance of developing causal explanations in epidemiology.
6. explain the purpose and value of common types of screening for disease detection; calculate compare and interpret the sensitivity and specificity of common screening tests.
7. identify local, state, national and global resources that provide health related information about regions, countries, and populations. Utilize these resources to identify problems that may require disease prevention and/or health promotion efforts.
8. describe some specific examples of the application of epidemiological knowledge and skills to address health problems in human populations.

9. function effectively as a group member or leader, in the preparation of a scholarly report on a selected topic from the field of epidemiology; participate in presenting “findings” in class.

Required Learning Experiences

1. Assigned readings from text and other assigned materials, including the internet.

Class discussions and activities are based on the assumption that students have read the assigned chapters/materials before class. Not all of the reading assignments will be discussed in class. Independent study is expected.

2. Regular attendance and participation in class discussions and activities.

**Attendance sheets: please sign for each class attended.
This is important!**

No specific points are offered or deducted relative to attendance. BUT - attendance could make a difference if a student lacks one or two points in making the desired grade. In such a case, pop quiz grades, the attendance record, and level of class participation may be considered. Each semester there are 3-4 instances when regular attendance has been considered and a borderline grade has been raised to reflect this.

In general, attendance records are used to evaluate the relationship between class attendance and success in the course. So far, there seems to be a powerful direct (positive) relationship!

N.B. (note well): as you know, physical attendance does not always mean psychological attendance.

Examples of psychological *absence*:

- Sleeping in class: this is distracting (and often annoying) to professors and sometimes to other students who are awake. Professors are human and will no doubt be boring from time to time... or often. This is part of the college experience. If you must sleep, please do not come to class! (Or do so quietly in the back of the room).
- Text messaging or connecting to the internet for purposes unrelated to classroom activities is often detectable by professors. It is considered rude by most.
- Private conversations with your neighbors in the classroom (unless a part of assigned activity) are distracting and considered rude by most professors and many students. When this occurs, I will stop the lecture and be silent. On days when I am able to finish a

presentation without such interruptions, I will try to end each class at least 5 minutes early.

ABOUT EXAMS and GRADING

- All exams are open book/notes/everything. Overall, exams are designed to test your organizational skills, your critical thinking ability and your ability to synthesize information. Exams will be strictly timed .Expect this! Part of the preparation for an open- book exam is to be very familiar with the material and have resources well organized. You should prepare in much the same way as you would for a closed-book exam.
- NOTE WELL! most students who have taken open book exams in this course have found them to be **at least** as challenging as closed book exams. (See *Taking an Open Book* exam document on BB under course documents).
- .Exams (and quizzes) will consist **primarily** of objective, matching, true/false or multiple choice questions, covering class readings, class lectures, class discussions, a-v presentations, and guest speakers' remarks. It is **very likely** that there will be one or two questions requiring a response in the form of a brief discussion.
- You may ask any question of me during the exam. If I perceive your question to be too close to what I am trying to test, I may ask you to “buy” the answer for the same number of points I would give for the correct answer. You may refuse this.

Your grade for this course will be calculated as follows:

Midterm exam and pop quizzes	40 pts
Final Exam	35 pts
Project	25 pts

Final Grade # points earned X 100
100 (points possible)

90 - 100% = A
80 - 89% = B
70 - 79% = C
60 - 69% = D
<59 = F

*There will be **no make-up exams** except under **VERY UNUSUAL** circumstances.*

Miscellaneous Policies

1. LATE ASSIGNMENTS.

All assignments-written and oral-are due on the date assigned. I assume that late papers and assignments are a consequence of some event that is out of your control. Probability theory indicates that such an event is unlikely to happen to the same student during the same semester.

2. EXTRA CREDIT.

Extra credit projects are not available. Rather than do additional work on a different project, you are encouraged to focus more time and attention on the required course assignments.

3. WRITTEN WORK - QUALITY

Work that is not professional – that is, messy, and/or laden with grammatical and spelling mistakes, will be returned for rewriting. The earned score of the rewritten paper will be reduced by 10%.

4. BACK-UP COPIES

It is each student's responsibility to keep and have available upon request back-up copies of all written assignments for this class. They should be retained until your final grade has been assigned. This is especially important if you have any questions regarding the accuracy of your final grade. Hundreds of papers are submitted during the course of a semester. It is possible that some will be misplaced by me (or even that a student may have mistakenly thought s/he submitted a document).

5. ATTENDANCE and MISSED CLASSES

Attendance will be taken daily (see above)

Students who must miss class **for any reason**, are responsible for obtaining missed information **from other students**. Please do not ask the instructor to provide this information.

6. CLASS PARTICIPATION - includes but is not limited to the following:

- Questions in class
- Questions after or before class
- Questions in my office
- Questions by e mail or telephone (that involve clarification of class material)
- Answering questions in class
- Participating in class discussions
- Written or verbal responses to videos or speakers
- Suggestions (politely offered) for making class time more meaningful, valuable or interesting for students (and teacher)
- AND last but not least**Showing up**

University policies taken from the Handbook of Operating Procedures that you should be aware of and adhere to.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Responsibility for class attendance rests with the student. A student shall make every attempt to notify each instructor in advance, or as soon as possible thereafter, when there is a legitimate (unforeseen or unavoidable) reason for being absent.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

. . . Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student for any of the following acts or omissions:

. . . Scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for

another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

- (i) "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:
- copying from another student's test paper;
 - using during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
 - failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
 - possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
 - using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test, key, homework solution, or computer program;
 - collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
 - discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
 - divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructor has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
 - substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
 - paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or information about an unadministered test, test key, homework solution or computer program;
 - falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
 - taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of U. T. Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; . . .

"Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit.

"Collusion" includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

FOOD AND DRINK IN CLASSROOMS

Consumption of food and drink in university classrooms is prohibited.

INDOOR SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS

The University of Texas at Tyler is an indoor smoke-free campus. No smoking will be permitted in any building, hallway, classroom, laboratory, restroom, lounge, or other indoor location.

B. Religious Holy Days. In accordance with Texas Education Code, Section 51.911, a student may be excused from exams or assignments in observance of a religious holy day if at least 5 days before the date of absence the student delivers written notice of the absence to the instructor(s) of the class (es) by either (1) personal hand-delivery, with acknowledgement of receipt by instructor(s) or (2) certified mail, return receipt requested.

"Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under section.

A student shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after an absence due to observance of a religious holy day provided the student has met the conditions listed above.

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

If you have a disability, including a learning disability, for which you request disability support services/accommodation, please contact Ida MacDonald in the Disability Support Services office so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting disability support services/accommodation must provide documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Support Services counselor. For more information, call or visit the Student Services Office located in the University Center, Room 282. The telephone number is 566-7079 (TDD 565-5579).