

ALHS 4320 - PRINCIPLES OF EPIDEMIOLOGY
Spring Semester 2023

Instructor Name: William Sorensen, Ph.D.

Office Location & Times: PAC Rm #3095- schedule a time beforehand with the instructor for a meeting (send the instructor an e-mail to set up a time).

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Teaching Assistant:

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Required Text: Gordis Epidemiology, by Celentano & Szklo; Elsevier Publishers, 6th edition; ISBN 0323552293, EAN13 9780323552295

Prerequisites: None

Classroom Location: HPC room 3010

Course Time and Dates: Jan 10 – Apr 27 (or so)

Traditional class: 11:00am-12:20pm, Tuesday/Thursdays

Date to withdraw without penalty: March 23rd

Catalog Description: Study of the distribution and determinants of disease in human populations, morbidity, mortality and life expectancy measures, as well as research design concepts. Along with this subject is a primer in demographics.

Course Goal: The purpose of this course is to provide theoretical and practical information regarding the study of diseases in human populations. Therefore, we will take these ideas and collectively engage each other in learning, communicating, and solving problems regarding the study of diseases in human populations.

Course Objectives: The student will be able to:

1. Apply past contexts of epidemiology to current techniques and envision possible future situations. .
2. Apply and discuss theoretical concepts of epidemiology (disease, risk, causality, data limitations, etc.).
3. Analyze basic issues in demographics (birth, death, migration).
4. Apply graphing and mathematics skills to solve and interpret epidemiologic problems.
5. Apply research knowledge to create research designs in new situations.

Letter grade transcription

90-100 A, 80-89 B, 70-79 C, 60-69 D, <60 F

Grading Plan:

Projects	30% (4 projects in this order: 6, 7, 8, 9 points)
Exams	44% (2 exams @ 22 each)
Group participation	8% (4 assignments @ 2 pts each)
Extra Handout participation	8% (4 discussions @ 2 pts each)
Regular In-class participation	10% (attendance, punctuality, being vocal)

Course Format: This is a face-to-face, in-person course (not even a Canvas account). Classes will consist of a mixture of lecture, class discussions, group work, and problem solving. Some sessions may include guest lecturers. Students should be prepared to write about insights from these components about specific epidemiology meaning, or reflection on learning in general. Also, students must be prepared to discuss the assigned readings (including handouts). That is- READ beforehand!

A gauge of your excellence: Writing and speaking skills, organization of information, attending and being on time, being prepared.

Class Philosophy: This subject demands a comprehensive approach-- reading, writing, discussing, and a little math; you are expected to stretch yourself in each of these branches of learning.

Many questions raised during discussion may not have a single right or wrong answer. Decisions concerning the study design and interpretation of data may depend upon judgments such as “how big is big?” or “is it worth it?” As will soon be apparent, everyone in the class (including your instructor) is fallible and may not always have a “perfect” answer. But this is not a reflection of their lack of study or expertise, but of the complexity of many epidemiologic questions. IF A TOPIC POINT OR ANSWER SEEMS INCORRECT OR IMPLAUSIBLE TO YOU, YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING THESE ISSUES UP FOR DISCUSSION; go ahead, be heard.

Particular Formats:

Exams: These are given to assess knowledge, skill, memory. The questions are either multiple choice, short essay, true false questions, or problem solving questions (including graph making and interpretation). Students need a calculator for exam/quizzes. An unexcused, missed exam has no chance for make-up (plan ahead).

Projects: Projects are assignments that are more open, elaborate and individualized than exams, and require more time to let critical thinking mature. Students will have several days, if not weeks, to work on projects. Late projects will be penalized 50% if submitted within the first week of being late, after one week they will not be accepted at all.

Class or Group Participation: Students will be called upon during class and asked to provide insights into a particular question or problem. Students’ attention and readiness in responding reflects on one’s grade- this is participation. And it is not just about waiting for the instructor to ask, it is also an invitation for students to be leaders and initiate conversation. Also, attendance and lateness is a form of participation. After

two face-to-face absences, the participation grade will decrease 1 point per every absence.

UTT POLICIES

Students Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: <http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, PTSD or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources office and schedule an interview with the Accessibility Case Manager/ADA Coordinator, Cynthia Lowery Staples. If you are unsure if the above criteria applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to cstaples@uttyler.edu

Student Absence due to Religious Observance

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement:

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation:

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Academic Dishonesty:

At The University of Texas at Tyler, students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an environment that encourages academic integrity. Student and faculty members are required to report an observed or suspected case of academic dishonesty immediately to the faculty member in charge of an examination, classroom or laboratory research project, or other academic exercise.

Since the value of an academic degree depends on the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for the degree, it is imperative that the student maintains a high standard of individual honor in scholastic work. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and collusion:

"Cheating" includes:

1. Copying from the paper of another student, engaging in written, oral, or any other means of communication with another student, or giving aid to or seeding aid from another student when not permitted by the instructor;
2. Using material during an examination or when completing an assignment that is not authorized by the person giving the examination or making the work assignment;
3. Taking or attempting to take an examination for another student, or allowing another student to take an examination for oneself;
4. Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means, the whole or any part of, an unadministered examination or work assignment.

"Plagiarism" includes the unacknowledged incorporation of the work of another person in work that a student offers for credit.

"Collusion" includes the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work that a student offers for credit.

Tobacco-Free Campus:

- All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors.
- Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products.
- There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free