

ALHS 5347 - EPIDEMIOLOGY
Spring Semester 2023
traditional face-to-face / online sections

Course Dates: January 9 to April 29

Instructor Name and Title: William Sorensen, Ph.D., Professor

Office Location & Times: PAC UT Tyler Rm #3095, regular office hours but schedule a time beforehand (send instructor an e-mail to set up a time).

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Required Text: Webb, P., Bain, C., Page, A. Essential Epidemiology. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge UK, 4th edition. ISBN 978-1-108-76680-7

Format: For remote online students the course is all online. For traditional face-face students, consider this a hybrid course where 2/3's of the semester the class meets in a traditional setting (classroom) and the other third is conducted online. For both sections, Canvas is the platform for this course. (Note that traditional and online students are using the same Canvas account.)

All communication and posting assignments are done through Canvas or email. Please have your Canvas notifications set so that you receive Canvas announcements automatically through your email. Make a constant schedule whereby you log you're your Patriots account and Canvas several times each week.

Place/Time: For traditional face-face students, Room 3055 in HPC; some Mondays from 5:00pm to 7:45pm (see schedule). For the other weeks, the class will rely on online systems (Zoom or Studio through Canvas; the Zoom meetings are mandatory).

For online students, the schedule is set by the student at the student's convenience, except for assignment due dates. The online students are welcome to login to Monday Zoom meetings, but they are not mandatory (however, it is mandatory that either Zoom meetings are attended or Zoom recordings are viewed sometime that week). There will also be posted Studio recordings (lectures) to view.

Catalog Description: Study of the application of epidemiologic findings to the planning of health services, with emphasis on constructing a rational basis for setting priorities and allocating health resources.

Course Goal: The purpose of this course is to facilitate self-directed learning of the concepts and techniques of epidemiologic methods including the acquisition, analysis, and interpretation of data about diseases in human populations.

- Course Objectives:** To accomplish the purpose of the course the student will be able to:
1. Describe the types of study designs used in epidemiology, and their advantages and disadvantages.
 2. Explain the differences between outbreak or surveillance, descriptive or analytic approaches to epidemiology.
 3. Evaluate associations using epidemiologic data.
 4. Calculate measures of disease occurrence including: incidence, prevalence, morbidity, mortality, relative risk, odds ratio, and describe their inter-relationships and limitations.
 5. Critically interpret epidemiologic literature considering the roles of chance, bias, confounding, reliability, and validity, in order to judge the usefulness of a study.
 6. Explore biological explanations as causes to disease.
 7. Describe how epidemiologic methods and data can be useful in planning, implementing, and evaluating public health policies or public education efforts. Or vice versa.

Letter grade transcription

91-100 A

81- 90 B

71- 80 C

Grading Plan:

Projects 25%

-12% database, 13% article critique.

Discussions: 30%

-2% AIDS,

-6% Problems including Ababo/Oswego sets,

-6% MERS, coronavirus,

-5% Outbreaks vs. surveillance articles,

-6% Epi design articles (a. outbreaks, b. case-control, c. cohort),

-5% Epi as a science/What is it?

Exams 45%

-first at 25%; second at 20%.

Learning Philosophy: Knowledge is constructed, not necessarily “right” or “wrong”. Answers may be “correct” but interpreted differently by different people. Then there is an issue of expressing what you think is important (or “reporting”). These complications seem to be challenges particularly in a subject like Epidemiology. Decisions concerning a design or protocol, and interpretation of data, may depend upon critical judgments, much like weighing pros and cons of a situation. If a topic point or answer seems incorrect or implausible to you, or if you merely disagree, you are encouraged to bring these issues up for discussion.

No Make-ups: On the graduate level, the instructor expects no late projects (exceptions create stress and chaos).

Communications: In regards to questions about the “mechanics” of the class, please communicate through the Canvas discussion folder called “Administrative issues”. This allows both questions and responses to questions to be seen by everyone. More generally, please do not by send the instructor an e-mail message or a private Canvas-“inbox” message about the mechanics of the course. If you must communicate with the instructor privately, send him an email through the UT Tyler system, but not a Canvas-“inbox” message. A note about Zoom participation: If you do log into a Zoom meeting, please have your video screen on (at all times). Visuals of faces are a good form of communication.

Pandemic: This is our 4th spring since the pandemic began. The pandemic has caused academic disruption. Sometimes interruptions influence meeting space, sometimes the frequency of meetings, sometimes the amount of material that is delivered. It has influenced the hybrid course design and how students from one section (online) will interact with students from another section (face to face). In particular, a real challenge has been with the traditional face-to-face section. This explains why face-face meetings have been cut back for the traditional students, yet the instructor is trying to envision a traditional meet-once-a-week ideal as the pandemic “stabilizes” Even so, the traditional class must continue to consider prevention behaviors while in the classroom when there is a scheduled meeting, that is:

- Wear masks
- Socially distance from each other

The instructor cannot enforce traditional students from coming into or leaving the classroom; they will have the option to go online as much as they want, or even become 100% online (if this happens, please follow the “online” guidelines and let the instructor know).

UT Tyler POLICIES- See most University Policies and Information in the Canvas module “Getting Started”

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