

ALHS 5347 - EPIDEMIOLOGY
Spring Semester 2021
traditional face-to-face or online sections

Course Dates: January 11 to May 1.

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 online students the course is all online. For traditional face-face students, consider this is a hybrid course where half the time is meeting in the classroom and half online. For both sections, Canvas is the platform for this course.

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 into Canvas several times each week. (Note that traditional and online students are using the same Canvas account.)

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 Monday Zoom meetings (these Zoom meetings are mandatory)

For online students, the schedule is set by the student at 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). For the other half of the "class" portion there will be Studio recordings posted. These are simply recorded lectures.

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 ratios), 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:

Assignments/Projects 40%

-7% 1st critique, 13% 2nd critique,

-Discussions: a.2% AIDS, b.8% MERS, c.5% Coronavirus, d.5% Science

Exams 55% (two: first at 25%; last at 30%)

Other participation 5%

Learning Philosophy: Knowledge is constructed, not necessarily “right” or “wrong”. Answers may be “correct” but interpreted differently. This seems to be the case particularly in a subject like Epidemiology (which will be critiqued at the end of the semester). Decisions concerning a design or protocol, and interpretation of data, may depend upon critical judgments, much like weighing pros and cons. 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.

Pandemic: The instructor does not foresee a coronavirus vaccine available to students or instructors before spring break. This explains why face-face meetings have been cut back for the traditional students, but also reinforces classroom 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).

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

Communications to the instructor: One means of communication is through Canvas (Canvas has its own messaging/notification system). However, because “replying” is rather “clumsy” using the Canvas system, a response will take longer than responding communications through regular e-mail messages. The instructor prefers regular e-mail messaging.

UTT POLICIES

Coronavirus: UT TYLER policies

Students are required to wear face masks covering their nose and mouth, and follow social distancing guidelines, at all times in public settings (including classrooms and laboratories), as specified by Procedures for Fall 2020 Return to Normal Operations (<https://www.uttyler.edu/reboot/files/ut-tyler-fall-2020-procedures-rev-10-07.pdf>). The UT Tyler community of Patriots views adoption of these practices consistent with its Honor Code and a sign of good citizenship and respectful care of fellow classmates, faculty, and staff.

Students who are feeling ill or experiencing symptoms such as sneezing, coughing, or a higher than normal temperature will be excused from class and should stay at home and may join the class remotely. Students who have difficulty adhering to the Covid-19 safety policies for health reasons are also encouraged to join the class remotely. Students needing additional accommodations may contact the Office of Student Accessibility and Resources at University Center 3150, or call (903) 566-7079 or email saroffice@uttyler.edu.

For a week by week breakdown of testing and results at UT Tyler: <https://www.uttyler.edu/coronavirus/>

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