

Department of Health and Kinesiology

HKH 514: Introduction to Epidemiology WebCT Credit Hours: 3

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Epidemiology is the study of the distribution of diseases in a population and the factors that determine the distribution. This course is an introductory course in the discipline of epidemiology. It will include an introduction to the definitions, concepts, techniques, and methodology necessary for understanding and conducting epidemiological research.

PREREQUISITE

Admission to graduate school or permission by the instructor

TEXTBOOK

Epidemiology, THIRD EDITION by Leon Gordis, Elsevier Saunders, 2004.

You can order the book by going to www.efollett.com. You will go to "Textbooks," "Mississippi" > "MUW" > "HKH" > "514." Contact me if you have any problems.

PURPOSE OF COURSE

The student will understand the role epidemiology plays in the various areas of public health including the challenges associated with understanding diseases and their distribution within a population. The student will also understand the basic techniques, definitions, and concepts associated with epidemiological studies.

CONCEPTUAL OUTLINE

- I. Foundations of Epidemiology
- II. Selected Historical Developments of Epidemiology
- III. Practical Disease Concepts in Epidemiology
- IV. Measures of Morbidity
- V. Measures of Mortality
- VI. Diagnostic Screening
- VII. Descriptive Statistics in Epidemiology
- VIII. Research Methods, Study Designs, and Analytical Studies
- IX. Assessing Risks
- X. Observational Methodology, Association, and Causality Development
- XI. Developing and Conducting Investigations and Studies
- XII. Applied Epidemiology

COURSE EVALUATION

Course Requirements:

Students are expected to:

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| 1. Participate in online discussions | 100 pts. |
| 2. Complete 4 modules | 400 pts. (100 each). |
| 3. Complete 4 online exams | 200 pts. (50 each) |
| 4. Trends in Epidemiology ROL | 100 |
| TOTAL | 800 pts. |

On-line discussion. This component of the course is designed to encourage your active participation in the class. I will ask a question or initiate a discussion periodically and you are simply expected to respond with an opinion or contribution. Obviously, it won't be necessary for everyone to respond every time, but hopefully everyone will have a chance to contribute during the course of the semester.

Modules. The modules should be self-explanatory. Please feel free to ask clarification questions if necessary. The modules are due on the dates presented below. The modules are designed to engage some of the broader concepts and issues of the class.

Exams The exams will consist of 25 questions worth 2 points each. The exams are designed to cover some of the more specific, fact-based content during the course. Each exam will cover the same material as the previous module and discussions. Your primary source will be your book. Other sources will include the PowerPoint and other presentations you have access to.

Trends in epidemiology Review of Literature (ROL). This is the "term project" for the course. The topic is very broad. You may review the current literature on any trend or current "happening" in epidemiology. . See the rubric for evaluation.

Final Grade:

The number of points earned divided by total possible points times 100 yields the final grade. This numerical score will then be converted into the corresponding letter grade.

A	90-100 %	D	60-69%	I	Incomplete
B	80-89%	F	59% or Below	W	Withdrawn
C	70-79%	WF	Withdrawn failing	WP	Withdrawn passing

PLAGIARISM/ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Plagiarism is defined as stealing and passing on information (ideas, words, writing, etc.) of another without giving credit to the author. Quotation marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. Credit for the source needs to be included in the text. Summarizing a passage or rearranging the order of a sentence and changing some of the words is paraphrasing. Each time a source is paraphrased, credit for the source needs to be included in the text. Academic dishonesty includes receiving or disseminating modules, exams or other materials used for course evaluation. Plagiarism or any form of academic dishonesty could result in removal from the program.