

College of Public Health & Health Professions
Course Syllabus

(PHC 6937) Public Health Concepts in Infectious Diseases
Fall 2008

Instructor Information

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Course Overview or Purpose

The purpose of this course is to provide an in-depth understanding of the topics and methods used in modern infectious disease epidemiology.

Course Objectives and/or Goals

- 1) Identify specific research methods that can be used to address various types of research questions related to infectious diseases.
- 2) Interpret strengths and weaknesses of specific research design strategies as they apply to infectious disease epidemiology research.
- 3) Identify a specific research question related to infectious disease epidemiology, explain why it is important, and describe one possible research method to answer the research question.
- 4) Interpret key concepts related to some of the most common infectious disease conditions worldwide.
- 5) Communicate public health infectious disease issues orally and in writing.
- 6) Demonstrate and apply infectious disease research concepts in public health.

Course Materials

Textbook: Infectious Disease Epidemiology Theory and Practice, 2nd edition (2007). By Kenrad E. Nelson and Carolyn F. Masters Williams.

1-4 journal articles each week (will be available online on course web site).

Course Requirements/Evaluation/Grading

We will learn about research methods used to evaluate research questions related to infectious disease epidemiology. We will also include a more in-depth review of several key infectious disease conditions that are relevant in the early 21st century. These include malaria, HIV infection, hepatitis C, influenza, sexually transmitted diseases, emerging infectious diseases, zoonotic infections, and other conditions chosen by the students.

Each week, we will have two classes. In general, one class will provide a review of a specific infectious disease concept or condition, using the primary textbook and additional resources as needed. The second class will be a review of 1-2 journal articles, related to that topic, and that are representative of some key concepts. Each article will be assigned to a student who will lead the class discussion that will include:

1. Why is the research question significant?
2. What was known and unknown before the study started?
3. What is the specific aim(s) of the study?
4. What is the study design?
5. Who was the population?
6. What was the major outcome and how was it measured?
7. Were any novel research methods involved in the study?

In addition, each student will identify an infectious disease research topic of their own choosing, and prepare a 20-minute oral presentation and a 10-15 page (double spaced) concept paper outlining the rationale and general design for a potential research project in that area.

Students will become familiar with a variety of research papers and methods related to infectious disease epidemiology. They will also obtain a greater in-depth knowledge about specific conditions and the research needs in those areas. There will be frequent quizzes of 3-5 questions related to the assigned readings.

Grades:

- Quizzes (weekly) 20%
- Exam 1 20%
- Exam 2 20%
- Written Paper 15%
- Oral Presentation 15%
- In-class participation 10%

Course Outline (subject to modification)

Week 1	General principles, course overview, Surveillance (Herpes or Hepatitis infections)
Week 2	Arbovirus Infections (West Nile Virus)
Week 3	Microbiology- gene sequencing, Human Microbiome Project
Week 4	Behavioral Research in Infectious Diseases
Week 5	Vaccine Research, influenza
Week 6	HIV infection
Week 7	Ethical Issues in Infectious Disease Research and Exam 1
Week 8	Tuberculosis
Week 9	Hospital-associated infections and MRSA

Week 10	Sexually Transmitted Diseases, diagnostic testing
Week 11	Malaria
Week 12	Diarrheal Diseases, Helminth Infections
Week 13	Career options in infectious disease epidemiology
Week 14	Class Presentations
Week 15	Class Presentations and Final Exam

Statement of University’s Honesty Policy (cheating and use of copyrighted materials)

Academic Integrity – Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity (see Graduate Student Handbook for details). Cheating or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

*We, the members of the University of Florida community,
pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the
highest standards of honesty and integrity.*

Policy Related to Class Attendance:

10% of grade is related to class participation. 1-2 excused absences are allowed; additional absences will count against this grade. Quiz grades count 20% of the grade and cannot be made up after the class receives the quiz. The lowest 2 quiz grades may be dropped, and occasional bonus points will be offered.

Policy Related to Make-up Exams or Other Work

Example:

Attendance and Make-up Work –Personal issues with respect to class attendance or fulfillment of course requirements will be handled on an individual basis.

Statement Related to Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with Disabilities - Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office, which will provide documentation to the student. The student should then provide this documentation to me.

Phone Numbers and Contact Sites for University Counseling Services and Mental Health Services

University Counseling Services
<http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/services.asp>
 P301 Peabody Hall – 392-1575

Student Mental Health Services in the Student Health Care Center
<http://www.health.ufl.edu/shcc>
 Room 245, Infirmary Bldg.- 392-1171

Final Note

Course syllabi will be posted on a student accessible website that will be submitted to the departmental office to document compliance with this policy.