

University of Florida
College of Public Health & Health Professions Syllabus
PHC 6001: Principles of Epidemiology in Public Health (3 credit hours)
Summer: 2018
 Delivery Format: e-Learning in Canvas

Instructor:

Krishna Vaddiparti, PhD, MPE, MSW

Phone Number: 352-273-5746

Email Address: kvaddiparti@ufl.edu

Skype: krishna_vaddiparti

Office Hours: Since this is a completely online course, please contact me on phone or email to schedule an appointment. Otherwise, **I will make every effort to address any questions submitted via email or the Open Discussion boards within 72 hours.**

Teaching Assistants:

Mirsada Serdarevic

Doctoral Student

Department of Epidemiology

Phone Number: 802-522-7079

Email: mserdarevic@ufl.edu

Skype: mirsada.serdarevic1

Office Hours: Wednesday 11:00am to 12:00pm in the Department of Epidemiology either in person or via Skype.

Yiyang Liu

Doctoral Student

Department of Epidemiology

Phone Number: 504-388-7415

Email: yliu26@ufl.edu

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30pm to 2:30pm in the Department of Epidemiology, CTRB 4206 either in person or via Skype.

Preferred Course Communications (e.g. canvas message, email, office phone): Email is the preferred means for contacting me. The fastest way to obtain a response to a query or comment will be to contact your assigned Teaching Assistant via canvas message or email.

PREREQUISITES

None

PURPOSE AND OUTCOME**Course Overview**

This course is an introduction to epidemiology for students majoring in any aspect of the health sciences. This course presents the principles and methods of the epidemiological investigation of both infectious and non-infectious diseases. The purpose of this course is to equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills to explain the place of epidemiology in the general health thinking and to communicate and apply the basic principles of epidemiology. Examples of the use of the principles of epidemiology will be presented so that the student will have sufficient understanding to apply such principles in future health work. It is hoped that the course will allow the student to critically read and evaluate his/her public health work using epidemiological principles. This course is not intended to present the epidemiological aspects of any specific disease or class of diseases.

Course Objectives and/or Goals

1. Apply the basic terminology and definitions of epidemiology
2. Calculate basic epidemiology measures of disease frequency and comparisons of disease risk between populations
3. Identify key sources of data for epidemiologic purposes
4. Draw appropriate inferences from epidemiologic data
5. Evaluate the strengths and limitations of epidemiologic reports
6. Apply basic infectious and chronic disease methods and data

7. Identify the principles and limitations of public health screening programs
8. Describe a public health problem in terms of magnitude, person, time, and place
9. Explain the importance of epidemiology for informing scientific, ethical, economic, and political discussion of health issues
10. Identify basic ethical and legal principles pertaining to the collection, maintenance, use, and dissemination of epidemiologic data
11. Communicate epidemiologic information to lay and professional audiences

Instructional Methods

1. Lectures: are for general orientation. Students are responsible for all the material presented in the course and assigned readings.
2. Readings and Resources. In addition to the required text, supplementary readings and resources will be posted in the course as and when required. The reading list may be supplemented during the course.
3. Assessments: A variety of assessments will be used in this course, including but not limited to discussions, assignments and exams.

What is expected of you?

You are expected to actively engage in the course throughout the semester. Your participation fosters a rich course experience for you and your peers that facilitates overall mastery of the course objectives.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT

Topical Outline/Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic(s)	Assigned Reading	Homework
1	5/14 – 5/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syllabus and Course Intro • Introduction to Epidemiology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course syllabus (on Canvas site) • Ashengrau and Seage, Chapter 1, pages 1-32 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the Canvas and Syllabus Quizzes • Post a short introduction to yourself on the Introduce Yourself Discussion Board
2	5/21 – 5/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures of Disease Frequency • Comparing Disease Frequencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashengrau and Seage, Chapter 2, pages 33-57 • Ashengrau and Seage, Chapter 3, pages 59-76 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 2 Exercise 1 - due 5/29* by 11:59PM • Week 2 Discussion Board 1 – due 5/29* by 11:59PM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Due to holiday on 5/28
3	5/28 – 6/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sources of Public Health Data • Descriptive Epidemiology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashengrau and Seage, Chapter 4, pages 77-100 • Ashengrau and Seage, Chapter 5, pages 101-142 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 3 Exercise 2 – due 6/4 by 11:59PM • Week 3 Discussion Board 2 – due 6/4 by 11:59PM

Week	Dates	Topic(s)	Assigned Reading	Homework
4	6/4 – 6/10	Exam 1 - Covers Chapters 1 through 5 (Open 6/8 through 6/11 during Proctor business hours) No lectures, exercises or discussion boards this week		
5	6/11 – 6/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Epidemiologic Study Designs • Experimental Studies • Randomized Trials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashengrau and Seage, Chapter 6, pages 143-172 • Ashengrau and Seage, Chapter 7, pages 173-204 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 5 Exercise 3 – due 6/18 by 11:59PM • Week 5 Discussion Board 3 – due 6/18 by 11:59PM
6	6/18 – 6/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cohort Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashengrau and Seage, Chapter 8, pages 205-232 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 6 Exercise 4 – due 6/25 by 11:59PM • Week 6 Discussion Board 4 – due 6/25 by 11:59PM
7	6/25 – 7/1	Summer Break Vacation – No lectures, exercises, or discussion boards		
8	7/2 – 7/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Control Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashengrau and Seage, Chapter 9, pages 233-264 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 8 Exercise 5 – due 7/9 by 11:59PM • Week 8 Discussion Board 5 – due 7/9 by 11:59PM
9	7/9 – 7/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bias • Confounding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashengrau and Seage, Chapter 10, pages 265-292 • Ashengrau and Seage, Chapter 11, pages 293-312 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 9 Exercise 6 – due 7/16 by 11:59PM • Week 9 Discussion Board 6 – due 7/16 by 11:59PM
10	7/16 – 7/22	Exam 2 – Covers Chapters 6 through 11 (Open 7/20 through 7/23 during Proctor business hours) No lectures, exercises or discussion boards this week		
11	7/23 – 7/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical Review of Epidemiologic Studies • The Epidemiologic Approach to Causation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashengrau and Seage, Chapter 14, pages 363-388 • Ashengrau and Seage, Chapter 15, pages 389-416 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 11 Exercise 7 – due 7/30 by 11:59PM • Week 11 Discussion Board 7 – due 7/30 by 11:59PM

Week	Dates	Topic(s)	Assigned Reading	Homework
12	7/30 – 8/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screening in Public Health Practice Ethics in Research Involving Human Participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashengrau and Seage, Chapter 16, pages 417-446 Ashengrau and Seage, Chapter 17, pages 447-466 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 12 Exercise 8 – due 8/6 by 11:59PM Week 12 Discussion Board 8 – due 8/6 by 11:59PM
13	8/6 – 8/10	Exam 3 – Covers Chapters 14 through 17 (Open 8/7 through 8/10 during Proctor business hours) No lectures, exercises or discussion boards this week		

Course Materials and Technology

Required Text: Essentials of Epidemiology, 3rd Edition by Ann Aschengrau, ScD, and George R. Seage III, DSc. Copyright 2014, ISBN: 978-1-284-02891-1.

Completion of the assigned readings from this text is mandatory. Lecture presentations will highlight, review, and expand upon the most important aspects of the assigned reading materials. Students are still responsible for mastering any content from the assigned readings, exercises, or discussion boards that is NOT covered in a lecture presentation. Exams will cover all course content covered in assigned readings, exercises, discussion boards, and lecture presentations.

Additional Readings (Will articles or other resources be posted on e-Learning?)

Required Equipment

Computer with high-speed internet access and use of a supported browser. Please refer to the student computing requirements listed on the [Online Student Resources](#) page. This course is delivered entirely online using the University of Florida's [e-Learning in Canvas](#) Course Management System. To access this course, you will use your Gatorlink ID and password to login to the course (via Canvas).

Technical Support

For technical support for the materials posted in the course e-Learning site, activities, and assessments, please post in the appropriate discussion or contact:

Name: Truly Hardemon, MEd, Instructional Designer for Public Health Programs

Phone Number: 352-273-5822

Email Address: hardemont@ufl.edu

For all other technical support for this class, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk at:

Phone Number: (352) 392-HELP (4357) Option 2

Email: helpdesk@ufl.edu

Webpage with Chat: [UF Computing Help Desk](#)

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Assignments

One (1) Syllabus Quiz – 10 points; 2% of the course grade

At the start of the course you need to pass a syllabus quiz with a score of 10 points out of 10. This quiz may be retaken multiple times until you score 10 points. This quiz is worth 2% of your grade. At any time during the semester, corrections and/or addendums may be applied to the course syllabus at the discretion of the

instructor. Any corrections/addendums to the syllabus will be promptly communicated to students via email and published on the course website and will take effect from the time of communication onward.

One (1) Canvas Quiz – 10 points; 2% of the course grade

At the start of the course you will view a video that will help you become familiar with the Canvas site for this course. You'll then take a quiz about the content of that video. You will need to pass that quiz with a score of 10 points out of 10. This quiz may be retaken multiple times until you score 10 points. This quiz is worth 2% of your grade.

Three (3) Exams – 100 points each (300 points total; 60% of the course grade)

There will be three exams, each worth 20% of your grade. The format for these exams is 40 multiple choice questions, and each question is worth 2.5 points. You will have two hours to complete the exam. Exams are not cumulative. See the section on Exam Proctoring Service below and the ProctorFree link on the Canvas site for more information on computer requirements and registering for exams.

Eight (8) Student exercises – 12.5 points each (100 points total; 20% of the course grade)

There are 8 student exercises that will be completed as part of the course. Student exercises are not critically graded, but must be completed to earn 2.5% for each exercise. The instructor and TA's will determine whether an exercise has been completed sufficiently to earn credit. Students are welcome to work together on Exercises either through the Discussions section of the Canvas page or in-person, but your answers should be in your own words. Exercises are due on Mondays at 11:59 pm each week they are assigned. **No make-ups of missed Exercises will be permitted. Late submissions will not be graded.**

Eight (8) Discussion Board Topics – 10 points each (80 points total; 16% of the course grade)

There are a total of 8 discussion boards available and you are expected to participate in all the 8 discussion boards. Discussion boards are critically graded, with each response worth up to 2% of your grade. To earn your 2% you must post your discussion board in the discussions section **AND** submit your discussion board through the assignments section. Discussion boards close for grading on Mondays at 11:59 pm each week. **No make-ups of missed Discussion Boards will be permitted. Late postings will not be graded.**

Note: Week 11 Exercise Requirement

For week 11 Exercise, you are expected to review an epidemiological article as though you are an editor of a journal and give your recommendations and critique. The research article will be on a topic related to human health and will be assigned by the course instructor prior to review. Below is the format of review:

Review of Article	
Article Title:	
Reviewer Name:	
Recommendation:	Accept as is; Accept with Minor Revision; Accept with Major Revision; Reject
Review of Article (no longer than 1 page, single spaced): Beginning with Abstract and ending with Discussion, critically evaluate the methods, results and discussion; list the limitations of the article not addressed by the authors and your suggestions to overcome these limitations.	

Exam Proctoring Service

This course will be using ProctorFree, a proctoring service for graded exams. ProctorFree ensures exam integrity and enables administration of remote online exams. All exam sessions will be reviewed as part of your final grade. Instances of cheating or appropriate behavior will be considered violations of the Student Honor Code and will result in disciplinary action. ProctorFree is a user-friendly system, but you must follow these guidelines to register and take your exams:

1. You must first create a profile with ProctorFree, which will be your permanent student record with the service.
2. When it is available (watch out for an announcement on eLearning), follow the link to launch your practice quiz in ProctorFree.
3. Exams will be administered as described in the course schedule. Also, refer to the ProctorFree technology requirements for the web application.
4. Students will need to have a microphone and webcam in place during the test-taking period. An inexpensive webcam and microphone should work fine. Students will NOT be allowed to take an exam without a webcam. (Note: a microphone and webcam are program requirements for the online MPH program, see computer requirements on the program website). Exams are closed book, closed notes. Students may use two blank sheets of paper as scrap paper, but must use their camera to show both sides of each sheet and to pan around their desk/room with their camera prior to starting the exam.
5. Exams may be taken at a student's home. Students must plan to take their exams in an environment where other people are not in the room during the exam. You will be asked for two forms of ID. You may be asked some questions to identify yourself, to test your microphone and camera, and you will be asked to pan your desk and clear it of anything not allowed in the exam.
6. Students will need to have some administrative rights on the computer they are using for the exam to enable the proctoring service to function. Please plan on extra time to complete your exam to accommodate connection time and any technical issues that arise. Please use the ProctorFree portal to test your computer before exams.
7. The College of Public Health & Health Professions will pay your proctoring fees.
8. It is recommended that students not use a wireless Internet connection for exams. Please consider wire connecting your wireless laptop to your modem for a more reliable Internet signal during the exam. Inexpensive modem cables are available in most electronic stores and online.

Grading

<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Due date</i>	<i>Points or % of final grade</i>
Syllabus Quiz	05/18/2018	2%
Canvas Quiz	05/18/2018	2%
3 Exams	See schedule above	60%
8 Exercises	See schedule above	20%
8 Discussions	See schedule above	16%

Point system used (i.e., how do course points translate into letter grades).

Total Course Points (out of 500)	Percent of Course Points (out of 100%)	Letter Grade	Grade Point Equivalent
465 – 500	93% - 100%	A	4.00
450 – 464	90% - 92%	A-	3.67
435 – 449	87% - 89%	B+	3.33
415 – 434	83% - 86%	B	3.00
400 – 414	80% - 82%	B-	2.67
385 – 399	77% - 79%	C+	2.33
365 – 384	73% - 76%	C	2.00
350 – 364	70% - 72%	C-	1.67
335 – 349	67% - 69%	D+	1.33
315 – 334	63% - 66%	D	1.00
300 – 314	60% - 62%	D-	0.67
Less than 300	Below 60%	E	0.00

Please be aware that a C- is not an acceptable grade for graduate students. In addition, a grade of C counts toward a graduate degree only if an equal number of credits in courses numbered 5000 or higher have been earned with an A.

Letter grade to grade point conversions are fixed by UF and cannot be changed.

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E	WF	I	NG	S-U
Grade Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

For greater detail on the meaning of letter grades and university policies related to them, see the [Grading and Grade Policies](#) posted by the Registrar's Office.

Exam Policy

In general, taking an exam after the official closing time will only be permitted under extenuating circumstances. Late exams will only be permitted at the discretion of the instructor (advanced notice in writing required and per applicable University of Florida policies). Failing to schedule an exam time with ProctorFree will not be considered a valid reason for requesting to take an exam late. At his/her discretion and in consultation with ProctorFree representatives, the UF Director of Public Health Professional Education Programs may permit an extension of an exam that has already begun.

Syllabus and Canvas Quizzes: No late quizzes permitted.

Policy Related to Make up Exams or Other Work

Student exercises and Discussion Boards Topics: Submission of student exercises after the due time/date is not permitted, except at the discretion of the instructor (advanced notice in writing is required and per applicable

University of Florida policies). Discussion Board submission will not be considered complete until it is submitted through BOTH the Discussion Section AND the Assignment Section.

Policy Related to Technical Issues

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues **must** be accompanied by the ticket number received from the UF Computing Help Desk created when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You **must** e-mail me and Truly Hardemon (hardemont@ufl.edu) within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Policy Related to Required Class Attendance

All faculty are bound by the UF policy for excused absences. For greater detail on excused absences, see the [Attendance Policies](#) posted by the Registrar's Office.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS, ROLES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

Expectations Regarding Course Behavior

Communication Guidelines

Online Participation

Professional and respectful behavior is expected of all students participating in this online course. Please be aware that all assignments and homework are due on the specified date and time. Late submissions are almost universally not accepted. **High speed internet and a web cam are essential for this online course and ensuring internet connectivity and bandwidth is your responsibility.** Late submissions and inability to participate in discussion boards or inability to take exams due to poor internet connectivity is not accepted. Therefore, please refrain from waiting until the due date to submit your assignments or taking exams as it will be difficult for us to accommodate your requests because of technical problems from your side. Academic Integrity

Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity. As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge:

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

You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For additional information regarding Academic Integrity, please see [Student Conduct and Honor Codes](#) information at the Dean of Students Office website or the [Academic Expectations](#) information at the Graduate School website for additional details.

Please remember cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

Online Faculty Course Evaluation Process

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online [Faculty Course Evaluations](#). Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. [Summary Results](#) of these assessments are available to students.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, you must register with the [Dean of Students Office Disability Resource Center](#) (DRC) within the first week of class. The DRC will provide documentation of accommodations to you, which you then give to me as the instructor of the course to receive accommodations. Please make sure you provide this letter to me by the end of the second week of the course. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

Counseling and Student Health

Students sometimes experience stress from academic expectations and/or personal and interpersonal issues that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing issues that have the potential to or are already negatively affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and/or seek help through University resources available to you.

[The Counseling and Wellness Center](#) (352-392-1575) offers a variety of support services such as psychological assessment and intervention and assistance for math and test anxiety. Online and in person assistance is available.

If you are feeling overwhelmed or stressed, you can reach out for help through the [You Matter We Care](#) website, which is staffed by Dean of Students and Counseling Center personnel.

The Student Health Care Center at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 392-0627 or check out the [Student Health Care Center](#) website.

Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from the [Alachua County Crisis Center](#) at (352) 264-6789.

Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.

INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Public health and health professions are based on belief in human dignity and on respect for the individual. As we share our personal beliefs inside or outside of the classroom, it is always with the understanding that we value and respect diversity of background, experience, and opinion, where every individual feels valued. We believe in, and promote, openness and tolerance of differences in ethnicity and culture, and we respect differing personal, spiritual, religious and political values. We further believe that celebrating such diversity enriches the quality of the educational experiences we provide our students and enhances our own personal and professional relationships. We embrace the University of Florida's Non-Discrimination Policy, which reads:

“The University shall actively promote equal opportunity policies and practices conforming to laws against discrimination. The University is committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans’ Readjustment Assistance Act.”

If you have questions or concerns about your rights and responsibilities for inclusive learning environment, please see your instructor or refer to the [Office of Multicultural & Diversity Affairs](#) website.