

College of Public Health & Health Professions
Course Syllabus

(PHC 6937) Public Health Concepts in Infectious Diseases
Fall, 2007

Instructor Information

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Office hours Monday 11:30 – 12:30 and Thursday 11 - 12

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: Nelson KE, Williams CM, Graham NMH. Infectious Disease Epidemiology Theory and Practice.(2004 edition). Jones and Bartlett Publishers, Sudbury, MA

1-2 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 in the early 21st century. These will 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. One will be a review of a specific infectious disease concept or condition, using the primary textbook and additional resources as needed. The second 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 What were some of the major predictors

In addition, each student will identify an infectious disease research topic of their own choosing, and prepare an oral presentation and brief (4-page) 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. Quizzes will be 3-5 questions related to the assigned readings.

Grades:

- Quizzes (weekly) 10%
- Exam 1 20%
- Exam 2 20%
- Class presentation 30%
- In-class participation 20%

Topical Outline

This list must correspond with the number of weeks that the course is being offered. You must list week or dates and topics (not just a list of topics).

Week 1	General principles, course overview, Surveillance (Herpes or Hepatitis infections)
Week 2	Mathematical modeling (West Nile Virus)
Week 3	Collaborations with basic scientists (Molecular Epi, Microbiology, Immunology, Genetics)
Week 4	Behavioral Research in Infectious Diseases
Week 5	Vaccine Research
Week 6	Zoonotic infections and animal vectors
Week 7	Ethical Issues in Infectious Disease Research and Exam 1
Week 8	Fall Break
Week 9	Tuberculosis
Week 10	HIV infection
Week 11	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
Week 12	Malaria
Week 13	Diarrheal Diseases

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:

20% of grade is related to class participation. 1-2 excused absences are reasonable.

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.