Sociology 3673-001: Social Epidemiology
Sociology Department
Fall 2019
Tuesdays and Thursday; 2:00-3:20; BEH S Room 110

Instructor: Maia Roberson
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Phone Number: 703-581-7766
Office Hours: Upon request
Office Location: SBEH 413

Email via Canvas is the best way to communicate with me. Emails will be responded to within 48 hours except on weekends or public holidays.

Required Materials

Course Description
Social Epidemiology is the study of impact of social determinants on health and on the spread of disease. This course will provide an analysis of some of the social variables that are studied within the realm of social epidemiology such as inequality, socioeconomic status, and race. An introduction to the research methods and tools of statistical analysis as they are applied to real life data will be provided in this course. This course fulfills the Quantitative Reasoning (QB) or Quantitative Intensive (QI) requirement of the University of Utah. You need to have a basic knowledge and understanding of algebra and elementary statistics before taking this course.

Course Outcomes
By the end of this course, you will be able to:
  • Demonstrate knowledge about the significance of social factors and social interactions in creating, spreading, and perpetuating disease
  • Discuss and analyze the strategies used to study health outcomes and health disparities
  • Apply epidemiological research methods to evaluate health services and policies
  • Use principles of epidemiology to identify the cause and spread of disease
  • Analyze data from epidemiologic studies and investigations

Evaluation Methods and Criteria
Evaluation of course outcomes will be assessed using the following methods:
  • Quizzes
    o Open book quizzes are administered intermittently and will cover the basic terminology and history of epidemiology (See schedule below for due dates)
    o All quizzes will be administered and turned in online via canvas
• Your 3 lowest quiz scores will be dropped to accommodate for any and all unexpected contingencies
• Quizzes will open after class on Thursday and will close Monday 11:59 PM

• Homework
  • These assignments will cover the mathematical and quantitative elements of social epidemiology
  • On weeks where homework is assigned there will be no weekly quiz
  • Homework is graded off of completion; a detailed answer key will be posted after the due date

• Exams
  • There will be 4 exams this semester that cover both terminology, history, and mathematics covered in class up to the point the exam is administered
  • After exams are submitted and graded students can submit corrections to receive half credit (with the exception of Exam 4)
  • The lowest exam score of the first three exams will be dropped
  • Exam 4 will be open answer and will be split in two pieces so that no one feels rushed
    • Open answer questions allow you the student to show me what you have learned, and what stood out to you or stuck with you the most

• Participation
  • Students are expected to participate in debates and discussions based off of film documentaries presented in class

• Group Presentation
  • Groups of five will present on a specific disease of their choosing
  • The presentation should include:
    • A description of the disease or illness. What do we already know? Describe the basic empirical data and statistics
    • Explain how social variables can explain the spread of disease or how the disease differentially impacts different social groups
    • What social constructions or conditions would need to change to alleviate the disease?
    • What public policy changes would be needed to change or alleviate the disease?
  • Each member of the group will be reviewing each other; these will be considered in your grade

• Extra Credit
  • At the end of each week you can submit up to 2 peer reviewed articles that applies to topics that have been covered in class
    • Submit the paper abstract and a paragraph about how it is applies to class content
  • Each article represents 1 point that will be added to Exam 4
  • Because of the opportunity to submit extra credit throughout the semester, I will not approve any requests for extra credit at the end of the semester
Late Assignment/missed assignments policy
  o No late submissions will be accepted without exception. Any late or missed quiz, homework, or activity will receive a score of zero automatically.
  o Your three lowest quiz scores and lowest exam score (not including Exam 4/Final Exam) will be dropped from your final grade to accommodate any and all unexpected contingencies. Additionally, there is ample extra credit offered throughout the semester.

Grade Breakdown
  • Homework 10%
  • Quizzes 10%
  • Exams 50%
    o Exam 1, 2, and 3 will each be 10%
    o Exam 4 will be 20%
  • In-class discussions 15%
  • Presentations 15%

Grading Scale
90-100  A
80-89   B
70-79   C
60-69   D
Below 60 F

Teaching and Learning Methods
Textbook and course lecions will be utilized to teach the basic terminology, foundational theories, and mathematical/statistical tools used to perform research within social epidemiology. Real life data will be used to teach mathematical and statistical methods of epidemiology. Films and documentaries will be the primary basis of class debates as they provide in-depth knowledge about the applications of the theories learned during lectures. This class relies heavily on student participation and team-based learning, specifically in the class debates and the class presentations. Your participation allows me to see what you have learned and allows each of you to learn from each other.

Course Policies
1. **Attendance:** Attendance and participation are necessary for doing well in this course. Attendance is not taken, but in-class debates and discussions cannot be made up.
2. **Food & Drink:** Eating and drinking during class is permitted as long as it is not “loud food” (chips or crackers).
3. **Electronic Devices in Class:** Feel free to use a computer or tablet to take notes during class.
4. **Canvas:** All quizzes and homework are submitted via canvas. Furthermore, you will find all documentaries, films, and supplemental files on canvas.
University Policies

1. The Americans with Disabilities Act. The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability & Access, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDA will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability & Access.

2. Academic Misconduct Statement. Per University of Utah regulations (Policy # 6-400). “A student who engages in academic misconduct,” as defined in Part I.B. and including, but not limited to, cheating, falsification, or plagiarism, “may be subject to academic sanctions including but not limited to a grade reduction, failing grade, probation, suspension or dismissal from the program or the University, or revocation of the student’s degree or certificate. Sanctions may also include community service, a written reprimand, and/or a written statement of misconduct that can be put into an appropriate record maintained for purposes of the profession or discipline for which the student is preparing.” Please refer to the Student Code for full elaboration of student academic and behavioral misconduct policies (http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php).

3. Addressing Sexual Misconduct. Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran’s status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677 (COPS).

4. University Safety Statement
The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu.
5. **BUILDING EVACUATION**: EAP (Emergency Assembly Point) – When you receive a notification to evacuate the building either by campus text alert system or by building fire alarm, please follow your instructor in an orderly fashion to the EAP marked on the map below. Once everyone is at the EAP, you will receive further instructions from Emergency Management personnel. You can also look up the EAP for any building you may be in on campus at http://emergencymanagement.utah.edu/eap.

   a. **CAMPUS RESOURCES: U Heads Up App**: There’s an app for that. Download the app on your smartphone at alert.utah.edu/headsup to access the following resources:

   b. **Emergency Response Guide**: Provides instructions on how to handle any type of emergency, such as earthquake, utility failure, fire, active shooter, etc. Flip charts with this information are also available around campus.

   c. **See Something, Say Something**: Report unsafe or hazardous conditions on campus. If you see a life threatening or emergency situation, please call 911!

   d. **Safety Escorts**: For students who are on campus at night or past business hours and would like an escort to your car, please call 801-585-2677. You can call 24/7 and a security officer will be sent to walk with you or give you a ride to your desired on-campus location.

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**Course Schedule**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment due at end of week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong></td>
<td>Syllabus and Chapter 1: Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 20th</td>
<td>Chapter 2: The Dynamics of Disease Transmission</td>
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<td>August 22nd</td>
<td>Quiz 1</td>
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<td><strong>Week 2</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 3: Measures of Morbidity</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 27th</td>
<td>Chapter 4: Measures of Mortality</td>
<td>Homework 1</td>
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<td>August 29th</td>
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<td><strong>Week 3</strong></td>
<td>Film: &quot;Rx For Survival: How safe are we?&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 3rd</td>
<td>Class Discussion/Debate</td>
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<td>September 5th</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 4</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 5: Diagnostic and Screening Tests</td>
<td>Quiz 2</td>
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<td>September 10th</td>
<td>Chapter 6: Prognosis</td>
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<td>September 12th</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 5</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 7: Randomized Trials</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 17th</td>
<td>Chapter 8: Randomized Trial Cont.</td>
<td>Homework 2</td>
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<td>September 19th</td>
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<td><strong>Week 6</strong></td>
<td>Rx for Survival: Back to the Basics</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 24th</td>
<td>Class Discussion/Debate</td>
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<td>September 26th</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 7</strong></td>
<td>FALL BREAK!!!</td>
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<td>October 1st</td>
<td>ENJOY YOURSELVES!!!</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 3rd</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 8</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 9 and 10: Study Designs</td>
<td>Quiz 3</td>
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<td>October 8th</td>
<td>Chapter 13: Comparing Study Designs</td>
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<td>October 10th</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 9</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 11: Estimating Risk</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 15th</td>
<td>Chapter 12: Estimating Risk Cont.</td>
<td>Homework 3</td>
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<td>October 17th</td>
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<td><strong>Week 10</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 15 Causal Inferences</td>
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<td>October 22nd</td>
<td>Chapter 16 Genetics and Environment</td>
<td>Homework 4</td>
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<td>October 24th</td>
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<td><strong>Week 11</strong></td>
<td>Rx for Survival: How Safe are We?</td>
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<td>October 29th</td>
<td>Class Discussion/Debate</td>
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<td>October 31st</td>
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Week 12
November 5th  Chapter 17: Evaluating Health Services
November 7th  Chapter 18: Evaluate Screening Programs

Week 13
November 12th  Chapter 19: Public Policy
November 14th  Chapter 20 Ethics

Week 14
November 19th  Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?
November 21st  Class Discussion/Debate

Week 15
November 26th  Final Presentations
November 28th  Review for Final

Week 16
December 3rd  Exam 4 Part 1
December 5th  Exam 4 Part 2

Note: This syllabus is meant to serve as an outline and guide for our course. Please note that I may modify it with reasonable notice to you. I may also modify the Course Schedule to accommodate the needs of our class. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Canvas under Announcements.