SYLLABUS: Introduction to Epidemiology – Fall, 2020

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-11:00 or by appointment
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COURSE MATERIALS:

Required Text*:

*Additional readings may be assigned as needed.

Recommended Text:

COURSE Description:

This course provides an introduction to epidemiology, i.e., to the study of the description and determinants of disease frequency in human populations. The course focuses on “how we know what we know” about the causes of disease in human populations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

At the completion of this course, the student will: Understand basic concepts in epidemiology, including measures of disease frequency and association; Appreciate the role of epidemiology as the basic science of public health; Recognize the distinction between descriptive and analytic epidemiology; Understand the difference between absolute, relative, and attributable risk; Understand the strengths and weaknesses of traditional epidemiologic study designs and their uses in hypothesis
testing; Understand the difference between association and causality; Be able to intelligently critique epidemiologic studies.

GRADING/EVALUATION:

Exam # 1 100 points  
Exam # 2 100 points  
Exam # 3 100 points  
Total 300 points  
Extra credit  
1st Day Attendance 3 point  
Mid-term Survey 10 points  

Although no points will be deducted as a result of student absences, class attendance is crucial to your success in this course. The grading scale is as follows:

300-270 = A;  
269-240 = B;  
239-210 = C;  
209-180 = D;  
179 or less = F.

ATTENDANCE:

Class attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. All students are expected to be present for scheduled classes and assignments. However, if a serious medical or family emergency arises, causing a student to miss class, please notify me prior to the class. If I cannot be reached, leave a message with the Departmental Secretary (644-6416) or e-mail me explaining the circumstances for your absence. No make-ups will be permitted for class quizzes. Students who miss four or more classes will receive an F on for their final grade.

University Attendance Policy:  
Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holidays, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.
Missed Work/Excused Make-ups

Students will be given two weeks to make-up exams missed because of an excused absence. Failure to meet these deadlines will result in the student receiving a grade of zero for that exam. There will be no makeup opportunities for the final exam.

COURSE CONTENT:

All weekly assignments are posted in the “assignment” section of your Canvas course website.

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE:

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in The Florida State University Bulletin and the Student Handbook. The Academic Honor System of The Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the university community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the university community.


COURTESY IN THE CLASSROOM

Classroom courtesy is necessary to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn without distractions. Therefore all students are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous manner that is respectful of others. Repeated disruption of class will lead to penalties that reduce your final grade.

Class discussions of political issues can often stimulate strong feelings and heated debate. Because this is a college classroom, all discussions need to be scholarly. Scholarly comments are:

Respectful of diverse opinions and open to follow up questions and/or disagreement.

Related to the class and course material. Scholarly comments advance the discussion about issues related to the course and/or course material rather than personal beliefs.

Finally, comments are to be delivered in normal tones and in a non-aggressive manner.

Food and beverages are not allowed in the classroom. If you bring them into class you will asked to leave. This policy will be strictly enforced.
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the Student Disability Resource Center
97 Woodward Avenue, South
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu
http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/StudentDisability/

(This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.)

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY:

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.