

**ALHS 4320
PRINCIPLES OF EPIDEMIOLOGY
SYLLABUS*
Fall 2024**

August 26 – December 14

FACULTY

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Office hours: by appointment only

Class Time: T TH 9:30 – 10:50

Classroom: 30



They fancied themselves free, and no one will ever be free so long as there are pestilences."

The Plague Part 1, pg. 37 (Albert Camus)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

ALHS 4320 is the study of the distribution and determinants of disease, disability, and disorders in human populations.

NOTE

**Current learning opportunities or needs may require that some components of this syllabus and/or the topic/activity schedule (a separate document) be revised over the course of the semester. This will be done at the discretion of the faculty of the School of Health professions .*

Any substantive changes will be communicated to enrolled students verbally (in class), by e mail, or as an announcement posted on Canvas ,before the change goes into effect, and in time for students to make adjustments in class preparation or learning activity schedules.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

1. Text: Gordis, L., *Epidemiology* **Sixth Edition** Elsevier Saunders
ISBN: 9780323552295
2. Internet access (UT Tyler student E mail address)
3. Enrollment in *Canvas* system for this course

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After successful completion of this course , should be able to:

1. summarize the evolution of epidemiology as a discipline and describe some of the major achievements of individuals who have contributed to the early development of the field.
2. explain the major concepts that are the basis for describing and explaining disease occurrence in communities, populations, or groups.
3. identify, describe, or explain the differences among, and give examples of the most common epidemiological study designs.
4. define, calculate, interpret and compare health indicators most commonly used in epidemiology.
5. define the term “health disparity” and be able to identify and discuss some historical and current disparities and some reasons these disparities exist.

6. explain the terms *association* and *causality* and how these concepts are applied in epidemiology. Explain the importance of developing causal explanations in epidemiology .Explain the meaning of the Latin phrase “post hoc ergo propter hoc” as it relates to causality .
7. explain the purpose and value of screening for disease detection; calculate compare and interpret the sensitivity and specificity of common screening tests and other related measures .
8. identify local, state, national and global resources that provide health related information about regions, countries, and populations. Utilize these resources to identify problems that may require disease prevention and/or health promotion efforts.
9. describe some specific examples of the application of epidemiological knowledge and skills to address health problems in human populations.

10. INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT (25 pts)

Complete a report on a selected communicable disease of global Or national regional significance .

List and additional information will be provided during week one .

REQUIRED LEARNING EXPERIENCES

1. Complete assigned readings from text and other learning activities as assigned

Class discussions and activities are based on the assumption that students have read the assigned chapters or learning /materials before class.

Not all of the assignments will be presented during class time .

Some Independent study is expected.

2. Regular attendance and participation in class discussions and other learning activities.

ABOUT EXAMS and GRADING

- NOTE All exams are open book/notes/everything. Overall, exams are designed to test your reading comprehension, your critical thinking ability, and your ability to analyze and synthesize information. Open book exams are usually strictly timed. Expect this! Part of the preparation for an open- book exam is to be very familiar with the material and have resources well organized. You should prepare in much the same way as you would for a closed-book exam.

NOTE WELL!

Some of you will be used to open book exams – some perhaps not.

Most students who have taken open book exams in this course have found them to be at least as challenging as closed book exams.

Exams (and quizzes) will consist primarily of objective, short answer, matching, true/false, and multiple choice questions, covering assigned readings, lectures, class discussions, audio- visual presentations, and guest speaker presentations. On each quiz or exam there will be 1-3 questions requiring a response in the form of a discussion (50-100 words). Many of the questions will require more complex thinking skills than simply regurgitating or recognizing facts. Several will require that you apply knowledge to a new situation, analyze a written statement, and synthesize knowledge to solve a problem, or evaluate ideas or materials.

- ****YOUR GRADE FOR THIS COURSE WILL BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:**

- o Quizzes 30%
- o Selected disease report 30 %
- o Final Exam 40%

** These percentages may be revised slightly (by not more than 5% (up or down) depending on our progress in the course

- 90-100%= A
- 80-89%= B
- 70-79%= C
- 60-69%= D
- <60%=F

MISCELLANEOUS POLICIES

1. LATE ASSIGNMENTS

- All assignments-written and oral-are due on the date assigned. I assume that late papers and assignments are a consequence of some event that is out of your control. Probability theory indicates that such an event is unlikely to happen to the same student during the same semester.

2. EXTRA CREDIT

- **Extra credit projects are not available.** Rather than do additional work on a different project, you are encouraged to focus more time and attention on the required course assignments.

3. WRITTEN WORK – QUALITY

- Work that is not professional – that is, messy, and/or laden with grammatical and spelling mistakes, will be returned for rewriting. The earned score of the rewritten paper will be reduced by 10%.

4. BACK-UP COPIES

- **It is each student's responsibility to keep and have available upon request back-up copies of all written assignments for this class. They should be retained until your final grade has been assigned. This is especially important if you have any questions regarding the accuracy of your final grade.**

ATTENDANCE and MISSED CLASSES

- Regular attendance is expected . Attendance will be taken daily for the first two weeks . and sporadically as the course progresses.
- The learning materials for this course include topics discussed in class that will not be addressed in your text. In my experience, students who show up regularly and engage in class discussions usually do well.
- **CLASS PARTICIPATION** - includes but is not limited to posing and/or responding to questions that relate to course material (readings, videos, presentations.) Questions in class
 - Questions after or before class
 - Questions in my office , by e mail or telephone
 - Answering questions in class
 - Participating in class discussions
 - Written or verbal responses to videos or speakers
 - Suggestions (politely offered) for making class time more meaningful, valuable or interesting for students (and teacher)
 - AND Last, but not least**Showing up**

Below is a list of University Policies .

University policies taken from the Handbook of Operating Procedures that you should be aware of and adhere to.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Responsibility for class attendance rests with the student. A student shall make every attempt to notify each instructor in advance, or as soon as possible thereafter, when there is a legitimate (unforeseen or unavoidable) reason for being absent.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

. . . Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student for any of the following acts or omissions:

. . . Scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

(i) "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

- copying from another student's test paper;
- using during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test, key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructor has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or information about an unadministered test, test key, homework solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of U. T. Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; . . .

“Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.

“Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

FOOD AND DRINK IN CLASSROOMS

Consumption of food and drink in university classrooms is prohibited.

SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS

The University of Texas at Tyler is an indoor and outdoor smoke-free campus. No smoking will be permitted in any building, hallway, classroom, laboratory, restroom, lounge, or other indoor/outdoor locations.

B. Religious Holy Days. In accordance with Texas Education Code, Section 51.911, a student may be excused from exams or assignments in observance of a religious holy day if at least 5 days before the date of absence the student delivers written notice of the absence to the instructor(s) of the class (es) by either (1) personal hand-delivery, with acknowledgement of receipt by instructor(s) or (2) certified mail, return receipt requested.

"Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under section.

A student shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after an absence due to observance of a religious holy day provided the student has met the conditions listed above.

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

If you have a disability, including a learning disability, for which you request disability support services/accommodation, please contact Ida MacDonald in the Disability Support Services office so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting disability support services/accommodation must provide documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Support Services counselor. For more information, call or visit the Student Services Office located in the University Center, Room 282. The telephone number is 566-7079 (TDD 565-5579).