College of Public Health & Health Professions
Biology and Epidemiology of HIV/AIDS
Summer 2014
Online Course
E-learning in Sakai

Instructor Information

Cindy Prins, PhD, MPH, CIC, CPH
CTRB Room 4229
352-273-5934
Through e-learning
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Overview or Purpose

The overall goals of this course are: 1) To provide a basic understanding of the biological process by which HIV causes infection and AIDS, including the physiologic processes and cellular process involved in HIV infection and treatment; 2) To promote the development of skills in finding and interpreting current epidemiologic data on HIV/AIDS, including risk factors, comorbid health issues, special populations, and health outcomes; 3) To present an overview of HIV prevention strategies and their effectiveness; 4) To discuss issues specific to the epidemiology of HIV/AIDS in the rural south

Course Objectives and/or Goals

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Describe the emergence of HIV as a new pathogen, particularly within the US
- Discuss the pathogenesis of HIV and its effect on the immune system
- Identify current treatment strategies for HIV infection
- Identify current behavioral and biomedical strategies to prevent HIV transmission
- Analyze and interpret epidemiologic data related to HIV/AIDS to measure the burden of disease in their respective geographic areas and among populations of interest
- Develop epidemiologic studies related to the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS overall and within specific groups of persons.
- Explain the role of public health in the prevention and management of HIV in Florida
- Apply knowledge of legal and ethical issues related to HIV-infected individuals and prevention of infection

Course Materials

Required course readings will be drawn from multiple open-access sources and posted on the course website.

The required book for the book discussion is *My Own Country*, by Abraham Verghese, (ISBN 0-679-75292-7).

Quizzes

There will be three online quizzes during the semester to assess overall understanding of the material presented during lectures. The quizzes will be open book/open note, with a mixed format of short answer, long answer, and multiple choice. Each quiz is worth 10% of the course grade.

Course Discussions

There will be nine **homework** assignments during the semester, each worth 2% of the course grade. Instructions for completing homework assignments can be found on the Sakai site

Book Discussion

All students will read *My Own Country*, by Abraham Verghese, (ISBN 0-679-75292-7) for the book discussion during week 10 of the course. Write and answer three **book discussion questions** that we will use during our **group discussion**. You will participate in a live book discussion during the week of October 21 through October 27, and will have an opportunity to sign-up for a discussion time that fits your schedule. The book discussion questions are worth 5% of your grade and your participation in and contribution toward the book discussion is worth 5% of your grade.

Final Project

Students will design an original epidemiologic study related to HIV/AIDS prevention, transmission, treatment, potential associations in high-risk groups, or other topics as approved by the instructor. As part of this requirement, students will submit an **Epidemiology Study Description Paper,** a **Research Paper Question**, an **Outline of Research Paper**, and a **Peer evaluation of each other's rough drafts**. The final project will be the write-up of the study proposal, including one to two study aims, a brief literature review relevant to the proposed study, and a description of the proposed study. The write-up should be 5 to 8 pages, double-spaced, and is due on August 8. More detail will be provided in the Sakai course site.

Course Requirements

Requirement	Due date	% of final grade
Week 1 Reflection Paper	May 16	2%
Week 2 Epidemiology Study Design Paper Week 2 State Surveillance Report	May 23 May 23	2% 2%
Week 3 Research Paper Question Week 3 Homework	May 30 May 30	5% 2%
Week 4 Homework	June 6	2%
Week 5 Outline of Research Paper Week 5 Quiz 1 (open 6/12 – 6/14)	June 13 June 14	5% 10%
Week 6 Homework Week 6 Homework #2	June 20	2% 2%
Week 7 – Summer Break		
Week 8 Rough Draft of Paper Week 8 Homework	July 4 July 4	5% 2%
Week 9 Quiz #2 (open 7/10 – 7/12) Week 9 Book Discussion Writing Assignment	July 12 July 11	10% 5%
Week 10 Book Discussion	Week of 7/14 to 7/18	5%
Week 11 Homework	July 25	2%
Week 12 Peer evaluation of rough drafts Week 12 World Country Profile	August 1 August 1	5% 2%
Week 13 Quiz 3 (open 8/5 – 8/8) Week 13 Final Project Paper Due	August 8 August 8	10% 20%

Weekly Topics

Week	Dates	Topic	Requirement	Due date	% of final grade
1	5/12 – 5/16	Intro and History	1. Reflection Paper	5/16	2%
2	5/17 – 5/23	• Study designs and HIV •HIV/AIDS surveillance	1. Study Description Paper 2. State Surveillance Report	5/23 5/23	2% 2%
3	5/24 – 5/30	• Virology basics and intro to biology of HIV • HIV and the immune system	1. Research Paper Question 2. Homework	5/30 5/30	5% 2%
4	5/31 – 6/6	• Vaccines	1. Homework	6/6	2%
5	6/7 – 6/13	• No Lecture	1. Outline of Research Paper 2. Quiz #1	6/13 6/14	5% 10%
6	6/14 – 6/20	• Biomedical prevention strategies and behavioral prevention strategies • Clinical overview of HIV/AIDS management and treatment	1. Homework #1 2. Homework #2	6/20 6/20	2% 2%
7	6/21 – 6/27	Summer Break			
8	6/28 – 7/4	• HIV testing	1. Rough Draft of Paper 2. Homework	7/4 7/4	5% 2%
9	7/5 – 7/11	• No Lecture	1. Book Discussion Writing Assignment 2. Quiz #2	7/11 7/12	5% 10%
10	7/12 – 7/18	• HIV in the rural south •Book Discussion	1. Peer evaluation of rough drafts 2. Book Discussion	7/18 Times TBA	5% 5%
11	7/19 – 7/25	• Infections associated with HIV/AIDS, including TB, HCV, and STD's; or HIV and TB	1. Homework	7/25	2%
12	7/26 – 8/1	• MSM and HIV • Substance abuse and HIV • Worldwide epidemiology of HIV/AIDS	2. World Country Profile	8/1	2%
13	8/2 – 8/8	• The AIDS-free generation • Quiz 3	1. Final Paper due 2. Quiz #3	8/8 8/8	20% 10%

Grading

Percentage or points earned in class	**93%-100%**	**90%-92%**	**87%-89%**	**83%-86%**	**80%-82%**	**77%-79%**	**73%-76%**	**70%-72%**	**67%-69%**	**63%-66%**	**60%-62%**	**<60%**
Letter Grade equivalent	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E

Letter Grade	**A**	**A-**	**B+**	**B**	**B-**	**C+**	**C**	**C-**	**D+**	**D**	**D-**	**E**	**W F**	**I**	**N G**	**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

For greater detail on the meaning of letter grades and university policies related to them, see the Registrar's Grade Policy regulations at:

http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=2&navoid=762#grades

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 Student Conduct Code, the Graduate Student Handbook or these web sites for more details:

http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php

http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studenthandbook/studentrights.php

http://gradschool.ufl.edu/students/introduction.html

Cheating, lying, misrepresentation, 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
Students are expected to access online lectures during the week they are assigned, to prepare for and participate in online discussions in a professional manner, and to complete quizzes and assignments by the due date posted.

Policy Related to Make-up Exams or Other Work
Make-up exams or make-ups of assignments will only be given in the event of illness that is documented by a physician.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, you must first register with the Dean of Students Office (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to you, which you then give to the instructor when requesting accommodation. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

Counseling and Student Health

Students may occasionally have personal issues that arise in the course of pursuing higher education or that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing problems affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and to seek confidential assistance at the UF Counseling & Wellness Center, 352-392-1575. Visit their web site for more information: http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/. They are located on campus at 3190 Radio Road and are open from 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday. You can also get emergency walk-in crisis stabilization at the Counseling and Wellness Center's (CERC) on-campus "Crisis and Emergency Response Center" in Peabody Hall.

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, including primary care, women's health care, immunizations, and pharmacy 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 352-294-5700 or check out the web site at: www.health.ufl.edu/shcc

Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from:

Alachua County Crisis Center:
(352) 264-6789
http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx

"BUT – 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."