

University of Florida
College of Public Health & Health Professions Syllabus
PHC 6001: Principles of Epidemiology in Public Health (3 credit hours)

Spring 2016
Delivery Format: E-Learning in Canvas

Instructor Name: Kelly K. Gurka, MPH, PhD
Room Number: CTRB Room 4219
Phone Number: 352-273-5362
Email Address: kgurka@ufl.edu
Office Hours: By appointment.

Teaching Assistants: Sadaf I. Milani
Email Address: smilani@ufl.edu
Office Hours: By appointment.

Course Communication: E-mail is the preferred mode of communication by which to contact Dr. Gurka. Use the e-mail function in Canvas, selecting both the instructor and teaching assistants as recipients. Include "PHC 6001:" in the subject line to facilitate a more timely response. Messages sent on business days prior to 5:00 PM are guaranteed a response by 11:59 PM EST that day. Otherwise, messages will receive responses by 11:59 PM EST the next business day. See *Communication Guidelines* for more information.

PREREQUISITES

None.

PURPOSE AND OUTCOME

Course Overview

This course is an introduction to epidemiology for students majoring in the health sciences. This course presents the principles and methods of the epidemiologic investigation of health-related events, states, and processes. The purpose of this course is to equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills to explain the place of epidemiology in the general health thinking and to communicate and apply the basic principles of epidemiology. Examples of the use of the principles of epidemiology will be presented so that students will have sufficient understanding to apply such principles in future health work. It is hoped that the course will allow the student to critically read and evaluate his or her public health work using epidemiologic principles. This course is not intended to present the epidemiologic aspects of any specific disease or class of diseases.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Apply the basic terminology and definitions of epidemiology,
2. Calculate basic epidemiologic measures of frequency and comparisons of frequency between populations,
3. Identify key sources of data for epidemiologic purposes,
4. Draw appropriate inferences from epidemiologic data,
5. Evaluate the strengths and limitations of epidemiologic reports,
6. Apply basic methods and data,
7. Identify the principles and limitations of public health screening programs,
8. Describe a public health problem in terms of magnitude, person, time, and place,
9. Explain the importance of epidemiology for informing scientific, ethical, economic, and political discussion of health issues,
10. Identify basic ethical and legal principles pertaining to the collection, maintenance, use, and dissemination of epidemiologic data, and
11. Communicate epidemiologic information to lay and professional audiences.

Instructional Methods

1. Readings. Reading assignments will include not only specified sections of the required text but also supplemental materials posted to the course website as and when required. The reading list will be supplemented throughout the semester. Students are responsible for the material presented in the assigned readings.
2. Lectures (including audio and slides). Lecture material is intended to augment and reinforce concepts presented in the course readings. Students are responsible for the material presented during the course lectures.
3. Assessment. A variety of methods will be used to assess understanding of the material including, but not limited to discussions, assignments and exams.

What is expected of you?

You are expected to actively engage in the course throughout the semester, including active participation in course activities such as discussions. Your participation fosters a rich course experience for you and your peers that facilitates overall mastery of the course objectives.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT

Course Schedule

Because the semester begins on Tuesday, the weeks for this course are defined as Tuesday through Monday. Assignments are due on Monday at 11:59 PM EST, and examinations will be available Friday – Monday at the end of examination weeks, due Monday at 11:59 PM EST.

The course schedule with topics, reading assignments, homework assignments, and the examination dates is shown on the next page.

PHC 6001: Principles of Epidemiology in Public Health

Spring 2016

Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic	Readings	Assignments
1	1/5-1/11	Introduction to Epidemiology	Syllabus Text, pages 1-32	Exercise 1 – due 1/11 Discussion 1 – due 1/11
2	1/12-1/18	Measures of Frequency	Text, pages 33-58	Exercise 2 – due 1/18
3	1/19-1/25	Comparing Frequencies	Text, pages 59-77	Exercise 3 – due 1/25 Discussion 2 – due 1/25
4	1/26-2/1	Sources of Public Health Data Descriptive Epidemiology	Text, pages 79-141	Exercise 4 – due 2/1
5	2/2-2/8	Examination One: Open 02/05 – 02/08/2016 via ProctorU. No new lectures, exercises or discussion boards this week.		
6	2/9-2/15	Experimental Studies	Text, pages 143-149, 173-203	Exercise 5 – due 2/15 Discussion 3 – due 2/15
7	2/16-2/22	Cohort Studies	Text, pages 149-153, 205-232	Exercise 6 – due 2/22 Discussion 4 – due 2/22
8	2/23-2/29	Case-Control Studies	Text, pages 153-171, 233-263	Exercise 7 – due 2/29 Discussion 5 – due 2/29
9	3/1-3/7	Spring Break (UF Spring Break: February 27 – March 5) No new lectures, exercises or discussion boards this week.		
10	3/8-3/14	Bias	Text, pages 265-311	Exercise 8 – due 3/14 Discussion 6 – due 3/14
11	3/15-3/21	Examination Two: Open 03/18 – 03/21/2016 via ProctorU. No new lectures, exercises or discussion boards this week.		
12	3/22-3/28	Critical Review of Epi Studies	Text, pages 363-388	Exercise 9 – due 3/28 Discussion 7 – due 3/28
13	3/29-4/4	Epi Approach to Causation	Text, pages 389-415	Exercise 10 – due 4/4 Discussion 8 – due 4/4
14	4/5-4/11	Screening in Public Health Practice	Text, pages 417-446	Exercise 11 – due 4/11 Discussion 9 – due 4/11
15	4/12-4/20	Ethics in Epi Research	Text, pages 447-465	Discussion 10 – due 4/18
16		Final Examination: Open 04/22 – 04/25/2016 via ProctorU.		

Course Materials and Technology

Required Text: Aschengrau A and Seage III GR. *Essentials of Epidemiology in Public Health, 3rd Edition*. Burlington, MA: Jones and Barlett Learning, 2014.

Completion of assigned readings from this text is mandatory. Lectures will augment and reinforce the most important aspects of these reading materials. However, students are still responsible for any content from the assigned readings, exercises, or discussion boards that is NOT covered in a lecture presentation. Exams may cover any course content covered in assigned readings, exercises, discussions, and lectures.

The course website is located in Canvas. On the course site, you can expect the week's modules to generally be available at 9:00 AM each Tuesday. The module will consist of lecture slides and audio. In addition, there may be supplemental reading. Additional reading required in the course, e.g. a manuscript, will be posted on the course website. The announcement feature in Canvas will also be utilized.

Students must have a working webcam and microphone to participate in this course. Consult the course website in the *Getting Started* section for other computing needs and specifications.

For technical support for this class, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Assignments

Exercises – 10 points each (100 total points; 20% of the course grade)

There are 11 exercises that students will complete throughout the course. The points from the ten exercises with the *highest* scores will be summed for the exercise portion of the course grade. Students are welcome to work together on exercises either through the discussion section of Canvas or in-person, but all of your responses must be in your own words. Exercises are due on Mondays at 11:59 pm EST at the end of each week they are assigned. **Late exercises will not be accepted.**

Exercise one is a quiz regarding the course website (view the video in the *Get Started* section) and syllabus. You will need to take the quiz repeatedly until you score 10 out of 10 points. At any time during the semester, corrections and/or addenda may be made or added to the course syllabus at the discretion of the instructor. Any changes to the syllabus will be promptly communicated to students via email and published on the course website, taking effect immediately from the time of communication until the end of the course or the next syllabus change.

Participation Via Discussion Boards – 10 points each (100 total points; 20% of the course grade)

There are 10 discussions in which you are required to participate. Discussions are not critically graded, but must be completed to earn points for each discussion. The instructor and TAs will determine whether an assignment has been completed sufficiently; more information about the requirements for each discussion will be provided at the time of assignment. To earn the full 10 points for the assignment, you must not only post to the discussion board but *also* submit your discussion board entries in a Word document in the assignments section. Discussion boards close for grading on Mondays at 11:59 pm EST at the end of each week. **Late discussion posts and submissions will not be accepted.**

Examinations – 100 points each (300 total points; 60% of the course grade)

Three closed-book, proctored examinations will be administered in this course (see course schedule). The examinations will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and quantitative problems intended to assess depth of understanding of the material. Examinations will focus on the course content covered since the previous examination; however, due to the nature of the discipline, you will be responsible for content presented earlier in the course as well. Calculators can be used during the examination, and you will be allotted two hours to complete the exam. See the section *Examination Proctoring Service* below and the ProctorU link on the Canvas site for more information on computing requirements and registration for examinations.

Grading

Requirement	Due Date	Points (% of total grade)
Exercises	See Schedule Above	100 (20%)
Participation via Discussions	See Schedule Above	100 (20%)
Examinations	See Schedule Above	300 (60%)
Total		500

Point System Used (i.e., how do course points translate into letter grades).

Total Points Earned	% of Total Points Earned	Letter Grade	Grade Point Equivalent
≥ 465	≥ 93%	A	4.00
450 – 464	90 – 92%	A-	3.67
435 – 449	87 – 89%	B+	3.33
415 – 434	83 – 86%	B	3.00
400 – 414	80 – 82%	B-	2.67
385 – 399	77 – 79%	C+	2.33
365 – 384	73 – 76%	C	2.00
350 – 364	70 – 72%	C-	1.67
335 – 349	67 – 69%	D+	1.33
315 – 334	63 – 66%	D	1.00
300 - 314	60 – 62%	D-	0.67
< 300	< 60%	E	0.00

Be aware that a C- is not an acceptable grade for graduate students. In addition, a grade of C counts toward a graduate degree only if an equal number of credits in courses numbered 5000 or higher have been earned with an A.

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E	WF	I	NG	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	0.0	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://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Exam Policy

Refer to the *Assignments* section for more detailed information regarding the composition of the course examinations. Each student will need to schedule three times during which to take the three course

examinations. Each of these three times must be scheduled within the window of time during which each respective examination is open. Read more about the on-line proctoring services below, and refer to the course website for additional resources related to ProctorU.

Examination Proctoring Service

The online MPH program will be using ProctorU for online proctoring services. ProctorU will be used by all students taking this course regardless of whether you are an on-campus student or not. You can access ProctorU at www.proctoru.com. Detailed guidelines for this proctoring system are available on the course website. Below is a short overview, please view the file online.

- Students are **REQUIRED** to have a microphone and webcam in place during the test-taking period,
- Students will **NOT** be allowed to take an exam without a webcam,
- Students must register for a time slot for their course examinations with ProctorU starting the second week of the semester and no later than 3 days prior to an exam,
- Examinations may be scheduled at any time during the 24 hours of the four days during which the examination is open; however, technical support will only be available from 8:00 am EST – 11:59 pm EST. Examinations will **CLOSE** at the posted time in the course, so **do NOT schedule an exam appointment with ProctorU that will run past 11:59 pm EST on the last day of the examination, even if they allow it**, i.e. do NOT sign up for an appointment at 11:00PM on the last day of the exam as your exam time will be limited to only 59 minutes.
- Exams scheduled **AFTER** midnight (EST) will not have access to program assistance during your exam – it is highly recommended that you schedule your exams between 8:00 am EST and 11:59 pm EST on one of the four examination days.
- No one is allowed in the room with you while you take your exam, so be sure to make proper arrangements.
- The proctor will ask you for two forms of picture ID and may ask some public record questions to verify your identity.
- Please plan for three hours for completing the examination to allow time for interfacing with ProctorU.
- Proctoring fees are prepaid. For exams scheduled less than 3 days before an exam, you will be charged a \$5.00 late fee.

Policy Related to Make-up Examinations or Other Work

If you have a scheduling conflict with the dates of any of the course examinations, please discuss it with Dr. Gurka as soon as you are aware of the conflict. For rare and acceptable situations, arrangements may be made for an alternative time at which to take the examination. These arrangements need to be made as soon as possible but no later than two weeks prior to the scheduled examination date. Late examinations will only be permitted at the discretion of the instructor (advanced notice in writing required and per applicable University of Florida policies). For unforeseen and exceedingly-rare circumstances, taking a make-up examination after the official closing time may be permitted. Failing to schedule an exam time with ProctorU will *not* be considered a valid reason for requesting to take a late examination. At Dr. Gurka's discretion and in consultation with ProctorU representatives, the UF Director of Public Health Professional Education Programs may permit an extension of an exam that has already begun.

Note that any requests for make-ups due to technical issues **MUST** be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You **MUST** e-mail Dr. Gurka and Ms. Hardemon (hardemont@ufl.edu) within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

No exercises or discussion posts will be accepted past the deadline. Discussion Board posts will not earn full credit unless the responses are included in a Word document and submitted as an assignment in Canvas.

Policy Related to Required Class Attendance

Please note all faculty are bound by the UF policy for excused absences. For information regarding the UF Attendance Policy see the Registrar website for additional details:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS, ROLES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

Expectations Regarding Course Behavior

Professional and respectful behavior is expected of all students participating in this online course. Be aware that all assignments and homework are due on the specified date and time. High speed internet and a web cam are essential for this online course and ensuring internet connectivity and bandwidth is your responsibility. Late submissions and/or inability to participate in discussion boards or take examinations due to poor internet connectivity is unacceptable. Therefore, refrain from waiting until the due date to submit your assignments or take examinations as it will be difficult to impossible to accommodate your requests because of technical problems arising from your equipment. Other guidance regarding etiquette and expectations for course behavior is discussed on the course website.

Communication Guidelines

E-mail is the preferred mode of communication by which to contact Dr. Gurka. Use the e-mail function in Canvas, selecting both the instructor and teaching assistant as the recipients. Messages sent on business days prior to 5:00 PM are should receive a response by 11:59 PM EST that day. Otherwise, messages will receive responses by 11:59 PM EST the next business day. If you do not receive a response, this was an oversight, and you should send the message again to the instructor and teaching assistants. In all correspondence related to this course, please type "PHC 6001:" in the subject line of your message followed by a more specific subject to be discussed in the body of the e-mail message. This will assist Dr. Gurka and the other instructors in quickly identifying messages that relate to the course and facilitate timely feedback.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity. As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge:

"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity."

You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For additional information regarding Academic Integrity, please see Student Conduct and Honor Code or the Graduate Student Website for additional details:

- <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>
- <http://gradschool.ufl.edu/students/introduction.html>

Remember cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

Online Faculty Course Evaluation Process

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Constructive feedback will be utilized to make improvement to the course for future iterations. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, you must register with the Dean of Student's Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu>) within the first week of class. The Dean of Student's Office will provide documentation of accommodations to you, which you must then give to Dr. Gurka, as the instructor of the course, to receive accommodations. Please make sure you provide this letter to Dr. Gurka by the end of the second week of the course. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

Counseling and Student Health

Students sometimes experience stress from academic expectations and/or personal and interpersonal issues that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing issues that have the potential to or are already negatively affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and/or seek help through University resources available to you.

- The Counseling and Wellness Center (352-392-1575) offers a variety of support services such as psychological assessment and intervention and assistance for math and test anxiety. Visit their web site for more information (<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu>). On-line and in-person assistance available.
- You Matter We Care. If you are feeling overwhelmed or stressed, you can reach out for help through the You Matter We Care website (<http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>), which is staffed by Dean of Students and Counseling Center personnel.
- 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. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic (352-392-0627 or <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>).
- Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from the Alachua County Crisis Center (352-264-6789 or <http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx>).

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.