

Professor: Colin Farrell (colin.farrell@wku.edu)

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Course: PH 384-701

Required Text: 'Essentials of Epidemiology in Public Health, 3rd Ed' (ISBN: 978-1284028911)

Office: 127A (Academic Complex, Department of Public Health)

Office Hours: TR: 2:00-5:00, W: 1:00-4:00, and by appointment

Epidemiologists are often referred to as the 'health detectives' of Public Health. Epidemiology, as a discipline, provides us with the necessary tools to identify multiple aspects of disease/illness – the mechanism of transmission/infection, the rate of infection, the proportion of those suffering from a condition that can be attributed to a specific factor, the number of individuals who would not be suffering if the condition was eliminated. However, in order to be able to evaluate these aspects of disease, we first must have an understanding of how disease occurs and how to measure/evaluate disease. As such, we will need to have a basic understanding of biology and statistics in order to adequately comprehend the discipline of epidemiology. In a very practical sense, epidemiology is a multi-disciplinary science. By understanding this simple fact, we can gain a better grasp on the reach, and the diverse application, of epidemiology.

Grading Policy

A: 100%-90%

B: 89.99%-80%

C: 79.99%-70%

D: 69.99%-60%

FAIL: <60%

Your grade will be calculated using the following weights:

End-of-Lecture Review: 10%

Assignments: 20%

Quizzes: 25%

Midterm Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 25%

I enforce a strict no-discrimination policy within my classroom and within my office. This means that there will be no discriminating or disparaging of individuals based on any characteristic – race, gender, gender identity, religion, age, or sexuality. Anyone that does discriminate will be subject to the policies defined in the code of conduct within the Western Kentucky University handbook.

End-of-Lecture Reviews: Following each lecture, you will be asked to complete a lecture review. Each review will evaluate whether you were attentive to the provided lecture. The lecture review *must* be completed by the end of the week of the lecture, with no late completions accepted. Each review is assessed based on your ability to answer the questions correctly.

Assignments: Throughout the semester, you will be required to complete multiple assignments. These assignments are to be submitted as directed. Late submissions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. *You must contact me regarding the reason for a late submission. Failure to inform me of a late submission will result in a zero.*

Quizzes: You will have two quizzes during the course. These quizzes will be structured in such a way as to evaluate your understanding of the content we have covered up to the end of the designated week (*example: Quiz 1 will cover materials from Chapters 1-4*). Any missed quiz will be scored as a zero, and a make-up will only be permitted in the case of family or personal emergency.

STUDENTS WILL HAVE ONE WEEK FROM THE DATE OF THE QUIZ TO MAKE-UP THE MISSED ASSESMENT, AND ARE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE THE IN-CLASS PORTION DURING MY OFFICE HOURS. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO MEET THESE GUIDELINES, YOU MUST CONTACT ME WITHIN THAT WEEK TO INFORM ME. IF THE EXAM IS NOT TAKEN, OR MADE-UP WITHIN THE FIRST WEEK FOLLOWING THE MISSED DATE, IT WILL BE COUNTED AS A ZERO. I reserve the right to adjust the dates and formats of the quizzes as I see fit.

Exams: You will have two exams during the course – a Midterm Exam and a Final Exam. These exams will be structured in such a way as to evaluate your understanding of the content we have covered. Any missed exam will be scored as a zero, and a make-up will only be permitted in the case of family or personal emergency. **STUDENTS WILL HAVE ONE WEEK FROM THE DATE OF THE EXAM TO MAKE-UP THE MISSED ASSESMENT, AND ARE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE THE IN-CLASS PORTION DURING MY OFFICE HOURS. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO MEET THESE GUIDELINES, YOU MUST CONTACT ME WITHIN THAT WEEK TO INFORM ME. IF THE EXAM IS NOT TAKEN, OR MADE-UP WITHIN THE FIRST WEEK FOLLOWING THE MISSED DATE, IT WILL BE COUNTED AS A ZERO. I reserve the right to adjust the dates and formats of the exams as I see fit.**

Academic Honesty: You know the drill – if you are caught attempting to cheat in any way, there will be repercussions. If I find that you have cheated, you will receive a zero (0%) for the assessment (assignment, quiz, or test). Under the umbrella term of ‘cheating’ would fall cooperating on exams, looking on another student’s exam, bringing in material to utilize during the test, submitting an assessment for another student, and any other action that would provide the student with an unfair advantage.

This course will adhere to the guidelines put forth by Western Kentucky University in the ‘Code of Conduct’ within the Student Handbook.

Access to Course Material: Any and all course material, other than your textbook, will be made available on Blackboard. If you are unable to access the course material, it is your responsibility to notify me. Inability to access material will not be an acceptable excuse for failing to perform up to standards on assignments, quizzes, exams, or lecture reviews.

Course Schedule

Jan 25	General Introduction of Content; Additional Material
Feb 01	Chapter 1 & 4
Feb 08	Chapter 2 & 3
Feb 15	Chapter 5 (QUIZ 1)
Feb 22	Chapter 6 & 7
Feb 29	Chapter 8 & 9
Mar 07	SPRING BREAK
Mar 14	MIDTERM EXAM
Mar 21	Chapter 15
Mar 28	Chapter 16
Apr 04	Infectious Disease and Outbreaks (<i>Continued</i>)
Apr 11	Social Epidemiology (QUIZ 2)
Apr 18	Genetic Epidemiology
Apr 25	Environmental Epidemiology
May 01	Occupational Health & Unintentional Injury
May 08	FINAL EXAM WEEK

The above schedule is subject to change, based on a number of factors – class comprehension, class performance, unforeseen events, and class interest in specific topics. As circumstances arise, changes will obviously need to be made to the subsequent weeks. Those changes will be addressed as the need presents itself.

Competency	Course Objective	Content and Activity	Assessment
Explain the importance of epidemiology for informing scientific, ethical, economic and political discussion of health issues		Class lecture, Assigned reading	- Assignment 1
Describe a public health problem in terms of magnitude, person, time and place		Class lecture & demonstrations, Assigned reading	- Assignments - End of Lecture Review - Quiz 1 - Midterm Exam - Final Exam
Use the basic terminology and definitions of epidemiology		Class lecture & demonstrations, Assigned reading	- Assignments - End of Lecture Review - Quizzes - Midterm Exam - Final Exam
Identify key sources of data for epidemiological purposes		Class lecture & demonstrations, Assigned reading	- Assignments
Interpret basic epidemiological outputs		Class lecture & demonstrations, Assigned reading	- Assignments - End of Lecture Review - Quizzes - Midterm Exam - Final Exam
Identify the strengths and limitations of epidemiological reports		Class lecture & demonstrations, Assigned reading	- Assignments
Draw appropriate inferences from epidemiological data		Class lecture & demonstrations, Assigned reading	- Assignments - End of Lecture Review - Quizzes - Midterm Exam - Final Exam
Explain basic epidemiological information to lay and professional audiences		Class lecture & demonstrations, Assigned reading	- Assignments - Quizzes - Midterm Exam - Final Exam
Identify the principles and limitations of public health screening programs		Class lecture & demonstrations, Assigned reading	- Assignments - Final Exam