

Syllabus

Sociology 3673: Social Epidemiology

Fall 2022

T/Th: 9:10 – 10:30 am
Professor: Anita E. Pascoe, PhD
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Office Hours: By appointment
Location: BEH S 116

Epidemiology is the study of the distribution and determinants of health-related states or events in a specified population. Epidemiology is also concerned with the application of health-related data to the control of health problems and the formation of public health interventions and policies. Using lectures, readings, videos, guest speakers, and homework assignments, this course will introduce students to the concepts and methods used in epidemiology. We will discuss topics such as how a disease spreads across a population and how public health interventions and medical technology help to control the spread of disease. We will use real-life data to explore how epidemiologists measure morbidity, mortality, and life expectancy across a population. We will explore the various types of research methods and designs epidemiologists use, as well as how to statistically calculate the risk factors or causes of disease. Finally, we will review epidemiology as a social science by reviewing the social causes and consequences of health.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS AN IN-PERSON COURSE.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Readings

- The required textbook is Epidemiology (6th edition) by Leon Gordis.
- Additional reading assignments will be made available through Canvas. I will also link additional readings in the class schedule that is part of this syllabus. **All readings should be completed prior to the week for which they are assigned.**
- Calculator
 - A calculator is strongly encouraged for this class. You will need a calculator for the two exams. Nothing fancy– just one that will add, subtract, multiply, and divide. Calculators can be used to complete assignments and problem sets. Only basic, non-graphing calculators will be allowed during exam period (no cell phones, computers, or other electronic devices).

Attendance & Participation

THIS IS AN IN-PERSON COURSE. Active participation in the course material is required. Active participation consists of regular attendance, asking and answering questions during lectures, participating in in-class exercises, and coming to class prepared. **Students are expected to check the course Canvas website frequently.**

GRADING

Assignments and activities will be graded throughout the semester. Details about each assignment will be posted on Canvas at least two weeks prior to the due date. No late assignments will be accepted.

Assignments (40%): There will be four homework assignments each worth 10% of your grade. The assignments will vary and will include completing calculation problems, as well as writing short responses to readings and incorporating course material. Grading rubrics will be published on Canvas for each assignment.

Attendance/Pop Quiz (20%): Short attendance-based quizzes and or activities will be given in class ten times during the semester. The quizzes/activities will occur during class.

Exams (40%): There will be two exams. Each exam is worth 20% of your total grade.

Course grades are determined by the sum of individual scores from

- 4 Assignments 160 points (**40 per assignment**) 40% of final grade
- 10 quizzes 40 points (**8 per quiz**) 20% of final grade
- 2 Exams 200 points (**100 per exam**) 40% of final grade

Letter grades will consequently be awarded as follows:

Points	Percent	Grade	
370-400	93	100%	A
358-369	90	92%	A-
346-357	87	89%	B+
330-345	83	86%	B
318-329	80	82%	B-
306-314	77	79%	C+
290-305	73	76%	C
278-289	70	72%	C-
238-277	60	69%	D
0-237	0	59%	E

Course Schedule (Note: Subject to adjustments throughout the semester)

Week	Dates	Section	Readings/assignments
1	Aug 23/25	I The Epidemiologic approach to disease & prevention	Read: Chapters 1 & 2
2	Aug 29/Sep 1		Read: Chapters 3 & 4
3	Sep 6/8		Read: Chapter 5
4	Sep 13/15		Read: Chapter 6 Assignment #1 due 9/15 by 11:59 pm (via Canvas)
5	Sep 20/22	II Using epidemiology to identify the cause of disease	Read: Chapter 7, 8 & 9
6	Sep 27/29		Read: Chapters 10 & 11
7	Oct 5/7		Read: Chapter 12, & 13 Assignment #2 due 10/7 by 11:59 pm (via Canvas)
8	Oct 11/13		FALL BREAK – NO CLASS
9	Oct 18/20		Read: Chapters 14, 15 & 16
10	Oct 25/27	III Applying epidemiology to evaluation & policy	Read: Chapter 17 Exam #1 in class on 10/25
11	Nov 1/3		Read: Chapter 18
12	Nov 8/10		Read: Chapters 19 & 20

			Assignment #3 due 11/10 by 11:59 pm (via Canvas)
13	Nov 15/17	IV Putting it all together	Read: Epidemiology Case studies
14	Nov 22		Assignment: Group case study analysis
15	Nov 29/Dec 1		Read: Mortality and morbidity in epidemiology
16	Dec 6/8		Read: Why policy matters Assignment #4 due 12/8 by 11:59 pm (via Canvas)

Exam #2 (final) is cumulative and will take place during the time the University designates for our course.

The Fine Print of your Syllabus

Please review the resources, policies and expectations associated with being a student at the U. Students are expected to speak with instructor ASAP if there is any issue or concern that may impede your ability to fully participate and complete the requirements of the course. We are committed to your success as a student at the University of Utah.

- **Be Present.** This is an in-person course. Regular attendance and participation in the course are expected. Students are expected to read course materials prior to class, show respect to guest speakers by listening and not being distracted by other devices or activities, and participate in discussions and in-class activities.
- **Go Online.** Students are expected to log-in and access our course webpage (Canvas) and their UMail, regularly and frequently. Most readings and course materials will be posted on our Canvas page. Be sure to check "Announcements" – this is where all course-related announcements will be posted and archived. If you have problems with Canvas, please contact Uonline Help Desk at classhelp@utah.edu or call 801-581-6112 press 2 (M-F 8:00am-5:00pm MST).
- **Be Respectful.** In order to maintain a positive, civil environment for learning, students shall strive to meet the goals described in the University of Utah's Student Code, which states "the mission of the University of Utah is to educate the individual and to discover, refine and disseminate knowledge. The University supports the intellectual, personal, social and ethical development of members of the University community. These goals can best be achieved in an open and supportive environment that encourages reasoned discourse, honesty, and respect for the rights of all individuals. Students at the University of Utah are encouraged to exercise personal responsibility and self-discipline and engage in the rigors of discovery and scholarship." Students are also expected to follow general "netiquette" guidelines when interacting online.
- **Don't Cheat.** Per University of Utah regulations (Policy # 6-400). "A student who engages in academic misconduct," as defined in Part I.B. and including, but not limited to, cheating, falsification, or plagiarism, "may be subject to academic sanctions including but not limited to a grade reduction, failing grade, probation, suspension or dismissal from the program or the University, or revocation of the student's degree or certificate. Sanctions may also include community service, a written reprimand, and/or a written statement of misconduct that can be put into an appropriate record maintained for purposes of the profession or discipline for which the student is preparing."
- Please refer to the Student Code for full elaboration of student academic and behavioral misconduct policies (<http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>).
- **Keep an Open Mind.** Some of the readings, lectures, films, or presentations in this course may include material that conflicts with the core beliefs of some students. Please review the syllabus carefully to see if the course is one that you are committed to taking.
- **Take a Deep Breath - You will be doing group work!** Assignments in this course may require you to work in groups. Group-work is an essential and important skill, especially

as you transition from college and into your next stage of training or career, thus, students are required to develop and practice group-work skills.

Course Material & Copyright. Course content is made available only for your personal, noncommercial, educational, and scholarly use. **You may not use the Content for any other purpose, or distribute, post or make the Content available to others, unless you obtain any required permission from the copyright holder.** Some Content may be provided via streaming or other means that restrict copying; you may not circumvent those restrictions. You may not alter or remove any copyright or other proprietary notices included in the Content. Please see the [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#), Section III.A.5 regarding use and distribution of class Content and materials: Sale or distribution of information representing the work product of a faculty member to a commercial entity for financial gain without the express written permission of the faculty member responsible for the course.

Drop/Withdrawal Policies. Students may drop a course within the first two weeks of a given semester without any penalties. Students may officially withdraw (W) from a class or all classes after the drop deadline through the midpoint of a course. A "W" grade is recorded on the transcript and appropriate tuition/fees are assessed. The grade "W" is not used in calculating the student's GPA. For deadlines to withdraw from full-term, first, and second session classes, see the U's [Academic Calendar](#).

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). *The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability & Access (<https://disability.utah.edu/>), 162 Olpin Union Building, 801-581-5020. CDA will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability & Access.*

Safety at the U. The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, contact Campus Police & Department of Public Safety 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677) dps.utah.edu You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu

Wellness at the U. Your personal health and wellness are essential to your success as a student. Personal concerns like stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, or cross-cultural differences can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive in this course and at the University of Utah. Please feel welcome to reach out to your instructor or TA to handle issues regarding your coursework. For helpful resources to manage your personal wellness and counseling options, contact: Center for Student Wellness 801-581-7776 wellness.utah.edu

Addressing Sexual Misconduct. Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

Inclusive Excellence. The Office for Inclusive Excellence is here to engage, support, and advance an environment fostering the values of respect, diversity, equity, inclusivity, and academic excellence for students in our increasingly global campus community. They also handle reports of bias in the classroom as outlined below: *Bias or hate incidents consist of speech, conduct, or some other form of expression or action that is motivated wholly or in part by prejudice or bias whose impact discriminates, demeans, embarrasses, assigns stereotypes, harasses, or excludes individuals because of their race, color, ethnicity, national origin, language, sex, size, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability, age, or religion.* For more information about what support they provide and links to other resources, or to report a bias incident, view their website or contact: Office for Inclusive Excellence, 801-581-460,0 inclusive-excellence.utah.edu

Student Success. Your success at the University of Utah is important to all of us here! If you feel like you need extra support in academics, overcoming personal difficulties, or finding community, please reach out to your instructor who can put you in touch with relevant student support services. Check out the following websites to learn more about the resource groups available at the U

- getinvolved.utah.edu/
- studentsuccess.utah.edu/resources/student-support

As the only institution in the state classified in the highest research category (R1), at the University of Utah you will have access to state-of-the-art research facilities and be able to be part of the knowledge creation process. You will have the opportunity to do research of your own with faculty who are leading experts in their field, engaging in programs that match your research interests. Further, you will interact with and often take classes with graduate students that provide an advanced understanding of the knowledge in your field