

**Sociology 3673-001  
Social Epidemiology  
3 credit hours  
Spring 2023  
Type: in-person  
Time: M&W 01:25PM-02:45PM  
Location: SW 134**

**Instructor: Dr. Akiko Kamimura, Ph.D., M.S.W., M.A.**

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• **I prefer to only be contacted through Canvas email.**

**Office Hours: By appointment (via ZOOM)**

**Course description:**

The course provides an overview of epidemiology and its role in theory and practice. The focuses of the course include the social determinants of health and how social conditions affect physical and mental health.

Epidemiology is defined as *the method used to find the causes of health outcomes and diseases in populations* (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2016). Social epidemiology is a subdivision of epidemiology and emphasizes *the effects of social-structural factors on states of health* (Honjo, 2004). The purpose of social epidemiology is to *identify social characteristics that affect the pattern of disease and health distribution in a society and to understand its mechanisms* (von dem Knesebeck, 2015).

The course fulfills the Quantitative Reasoning (QB) or Quantitative Intensive (QI) requirement of the University of Utah. Although there are no formal prerequisites for this course, you are expected to have a basic knowledge and understanding of algebra and elementary statistics before enrolling (e.g. passing one of these courses: SOC 3111, SOC 3112, FCS 3210, ECON 3640, PSY 3000).

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/careerpaths/k12teacherroadmap/epidemiology.html>

Honjo K. Social epidemiology: Definition, history, and research examples. *Environ Health Prev Med.* 2004;9(5):193-199.

doi:10.1007/BF02898100

von dem Knesebeck O. Concepts of social epidemiology in health services research. *BMC Health Serv Res.* 2015;15(1):357.

**Objectives & learning outcomes:**

- Understand the importance of social factors and social interactions in forming social disparity in health outcomes
- Explain the logic of, and problems with various epidemiological study designs
- Critically read, analyze and discuss epidemiological literature
- Calculate, interpret, and compare various measures of morbidity, mortality, disease-exposure associations and the validity and reliability of diagnostic tests

- Understand the importance of social factors and social interactions in forming social disparity in health outcomes

**Teaching and learning methods:**

This is a Hybrid course, which uses a mixture of online, face-to-face, and technology enhanced instruction. You will need reliable computer access. Students are expected to read course materials prior to the class, raise questions, and come prepared to discuss the issues on topics of the day.

**Grading:**

Class exercise/reflections on a guest lecture – 2 points*26 lectures	52
Assignment – 10 points*2	20
Analysis of public health documentaries – 7 points*4	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

**Grading Scale:**

100-92.5 points: A  
 92-89.5 points A-  
 89-86.5 points B+  
 86-82.5 points B  
 82-79.5 points B-  
 79-76.5 points C+  
 76-72.5 points C  
 72-69.5 points C-  
 69-66.5 points D+  
 66-62.5 points D  
 62-59.5 points D-  
 59 and below E

**Reading materials:**

Author: Berkman LF, Kawachi I, Glymour MM  
 Title: Social Epidemiology (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)  
 Publisher: Oxford  
 Year of publication: 2014

Author: Ann Aschengrau & George Seage  
 Title: Essentials of Epidemiology in Public Health (4<sup>th</sup> edition)  
 Publisher: Jones & Bartlett Learning  
 Year of publication: 2018

Additional reading materials will be posted on Canvas.

## **Canvas student guide**

<https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/tkb-p/student>

Please consult this guide or the U's helpdesk (801-581-4000, ext 1; or helpdesk@utah.edu) if you encounter tech-related difficulties.

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### **Class attendance**

For in person and IVC sessions, attendance is a necessary component of the course for class exercise and discussion.

### **Class exercise/ reflections on guest lectures**

**(28 exercises/reflections on guest lectures, 1.5 points each – 42 points in total): Due at 11:59 pm on Tuesday in the next week of the class**

In-person class: Pick up a handout at the beginning of class and submit it at the end of class. If you were unable to attend the class, review a recorded class and submit the exercise on Canvas.

IVC/online class: Some of the lectures may be offered via IVC (ZOOM) or online (pre-recorded). All reflections will be submitted on Canvas.

*No late submission will be accepted unless you have an official accommodation or submit the evidence (e.g. a note from a health care facility) to verify your situation.*

*There won't be any make-up or bonus points.*

*If the students are asked to write "approximately one paragraph", the approximate amount of "one paragraph" refers to 1/3 of a letter size paper (single spaced, Times New Roman 12 points).*

### **Assignments**

**(20 points in total – 2 assignments – 10 points/ each) – Due 2/28 Tue, 4/25 Tue**

Specific questions will be posted on Canvas.

*No late submission will be accepted unless you have an official accommodation or submit the evidence (e.g. a note from a health care facility) to verify your situation.*

*There won't be any make-up or bonus points.*

*If the students are asked to write "approximately one paragraph", the approximate amount of "one paragraph" refers to 1/3 of a letter size paper (single spaced, Times New Roman 12 points).*

### **Analysis of public health documentaries**

**(28 points in total – 4 analyses – 7 points/each) – Due 1/31 Tue, 2/28 Tue, 4/2 Tue, 4/25 Tue**

Specific reflection questions will be posted on Canvas.

*No late submission will be accepted unless you have an official accommodation or submit the evidence (e.g. a note from a health care facility) to verify your situation.*

*There won't be any make-up or bonus points.*

*If the students are asked to write "approximately one paragraph", the approximate amount of "one paragraph" refers to 1/3 of a letter size paper (single spaced, Times New Roman 12 points).*

Class schedule (\*This schedule is tentative and subject to change at any time.)

Week	Date	Format	Topic	Reading (Additional reading materials will be posted on Canvas)
1	1/9 M	In person	Introduction	Aschengrau Ch 1
	1/11 W	In person	Historical framework & social determinants	Berkman Ch 1
2	1/16 M	<b>No Class</b>	<b>Holiday</b>	
	1/18 W	In person	Socioeconomic status & health	Berkman Ch 2
3	1/23 M	In person	Discrimination & health inequities	Berkman Ch 3
	1/25 W	In person	Measures of disease frequency	Aschengrau Ch 2
4	1/30 M	In person	Income inequality	Berkman Ch 4
	2/1 W	In person	Comparing disease frequencies	Aschengrau Ch 3
5	2/6 M	In person	Working conditions & health	Berkman Ch 5
	2/8 W	In person	Sources of Public Health Data	Aschengrau Ch 4
6	2/13 M	In person	Labor Markets, Employment Policies & Health	Berkman Ch 6
	2/15 W	In person	Descriptive Epidemiology	Aschengrau Ch 5
7	2/20 M	<b>No class</b>	<b>Holiday</b>	
	2/22 W	In person	Dr. Leisha Nolan (Utah Department of Health)	
8	2/27 M	In person	Social Network, Social Capital & Cohesion	Berkman Ch 7 & 8
	3/1 W	In person	Epidemiological Study Design	Aschengrau Ch 6
	3/6 M	<b>No class</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>	
9	3/8 W			
	3/13 M	In person	Affective states	Berkman Ch 9
	3/15 W	In person	Mr. Ian Buchta (SLC Department of Health)	
10	3/20 M	In person	Health behaviors	Berkman Ch 10
	3/22 W	In person	Experimental studies	Aschengrau Ch 7
11	3/27 M	In person	Experimental Psychosocial Interventions	Berkman Ch 11
	3/29 W	In person	Cohort Studies	Aschengrau Ch 8
12	4/3 M	IVC	Dr. Samin Panahi (VA/School of Medicine)	
	4/5 W	In person	Dr. Esther Chang (Huntsman Cancer Institute)	
13	4/10 M	In person	Policies, Behavioral economics	Berkman Ch 12 & 13
	4/12 W	In person	Case-Control Studies	Aschengrau Ch 9
14	4/17 M	In person	Biological Pathways	Berkman Ch 14
	4/19 W	In person	Screening	Aschengrau Ch 16

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## In person classes

According to the Spring 2023 Instructional Guidelines, “Masking remains required in Utah Health facilities. In non-University of Utah Health facilities, indoor masking recommendations are based on current conditions and health department recommendations.”

Based on the Spring 2023 Instructional Guidelines, the recordings of lectures will be available for students who were unable to attend in-person class due to health or other legitimate reasons (e.g. formal accommodations through the Center for Disability & Access).

## IVC (synchronous - live)

Some of the classes may be taught via IVC (Interactive Video Conferencing). IVC classes will meet on **ZOOM**. A reliable, high-speed internet connection will be needed to participate in this class. If you anticipate any problems in this regard, please notify the instructor as soon as possible. Please consult this guide or the U's helpdesk (801-581-4000, ext 1; or helpdesk@utah.edu) if you encounter tech-related difficulties. A guide for joining a zoom meeting is available <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-How-Do-I-Join-A-Meeting->

IVC classes/ guest lectures will be recorded.

Video expectations: Please turn on video. If you prefer to participate via audio only, please discuss the option with the instructor.

The instructor has the ability to track analytics.

Please use chat to let the instructor know you want to speak or ask questions.

Please mute audio unless you have a permission from the instructor.

To support students who may have technology access challenges, the Marriott Library, UIT, and TLT are expanding the number of laptops and hotspots available for checkout; see: <https://lib.utah.edu/coronavirus/checkout-equipment.php>

## Online (asynchronous – pre-recorded)

There may be a couple of lectures which will be offered via online (pre-recorded). A link to a pre-recorded lecture will be posted on Canvas.

## Institutional policies and resources

### Spring 2023 Instructional Guidelines:

<https://coronavirus.utah.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/12/spring-2023-Instructional-GuidelinesS1.pdf>

### The ADA statement:

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 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS 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.

### The Academic Misconduct statement:

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>).

### **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).

### **Emergency Preparedness Information CSBS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SYLLABUS PAGES**

<https://uofu.app.box.com/s/ebev5m2bornu831lnvyfx2jir0vzm0s>

### **R-1 statement:**

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.

### **University Safety Statement:**

The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). 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](http://safeu.utah.edu).

### **Wellness Statement:**

Your personal health and wellness are essential to your success as a student. Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student’s ability to succeed and thrive in this course and at the University of Utah. Please speak with the instructor or TA before issues become problems. And, for helpful resources, contact the Center for Student wellness at [www.wellness.utah.edu](http://www.wellness.utah.edu) or 801-581-7776.



### **Veterans Support Center:**

The Veterans Support Center is a “one stop shop” for student veterans to find services, support, advocacy, and camaraderie. They are located in the Park Building Room 201. You can visit their website for more information about their services and support at <http://veteranscenter.utah.edu>.

### **LGBT Resource Center:**

The University of Utah has an LGBT Resource Center on campus. They are located in Room 409 of the Olpin Union Building. Hours: M-F 8-5pm. You can visit their website to find more information about the support they can offer, a list of events through the center and links to additional resources: <http://lgbt.utah.edu>.

### **Learners of English as an Additional/Second Language:**

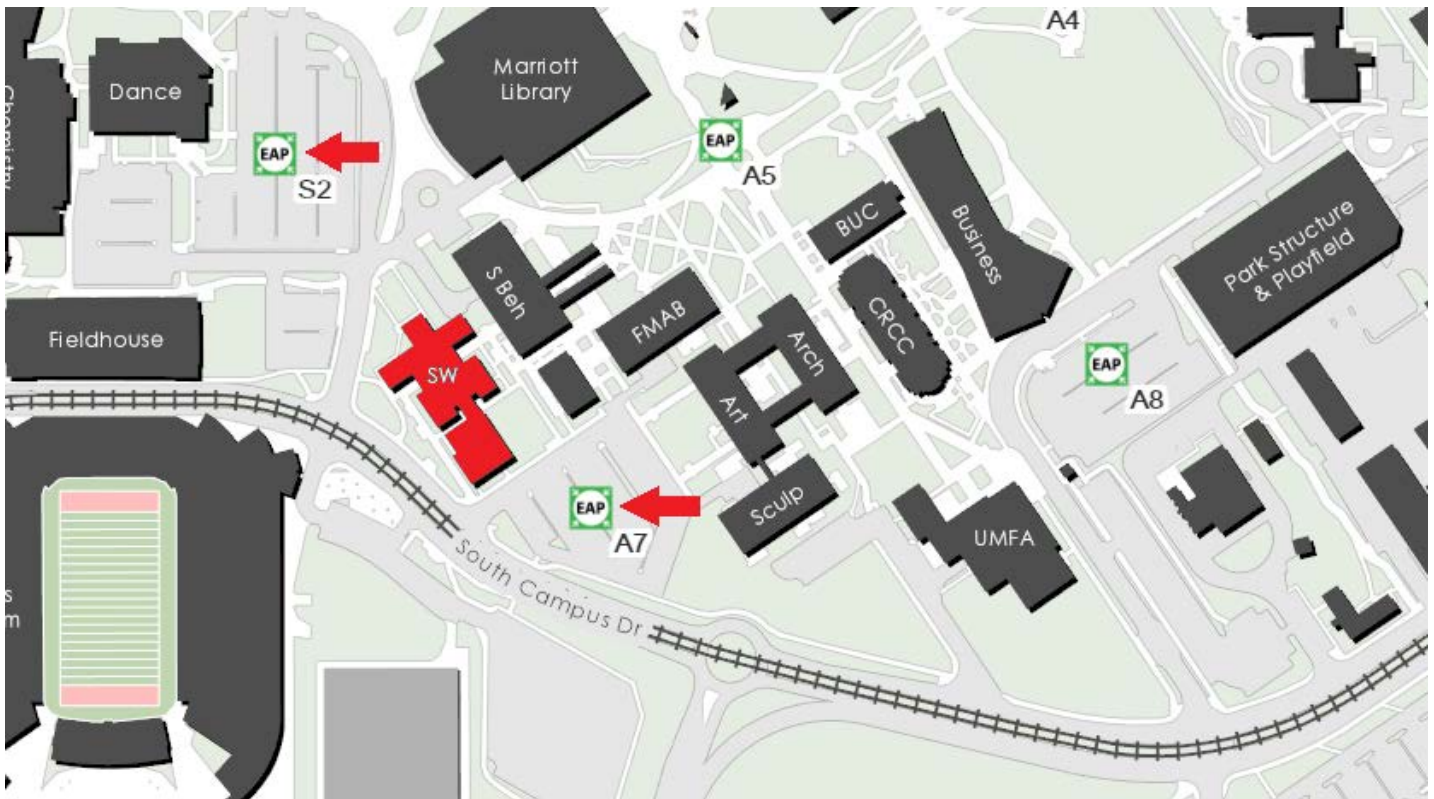
If you are an English language learner, please be aware of several resources on campus that will support you with your language and writing development. These resources include: the Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.utah.edu>); the Writing Program (<http://writingprogram.utah.edu>); the English Language Institute (<http://continue.utah.edu/eli>).

### **U Heads Up App:**

Download the app on your smartphone at <http://alert.utah.edu/headsup> to access the following resources.

- **Emergency Response Guide:** Provides instructions on how to handle any type of emergency, such as earthquake, utility failure, fire, active shooter, etc. Flip charts with this information are also available around campus.
- **See Something, Say Something:** Report unsafe or hazardous conditions on campus if you see a life threatening or emergency situation, please call 911!
- **Safety Escorts:** For students who are on campus at night or past business hours and would like an escort to your care, please call 801-585-2677. You can call 24/7 and a security officer will be sent to walk with you or give you a ride to your desired on-campus location.

# CSBS EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN



## BUILDING EVACUATION



EAP (Emergency Assembly Point) – When you receive a notification to evacuate the building either by campus text alert system or by building fire alarm, please follow your instructor in an orderly fashion to the EAP marked on the map below. Once everyone is at the EAP, you will receive further instructions from Emergency Management personnel. You can also look up the EAP for any building you may be in on campus at <http://emergencymanagement.utah.edu/eap>.

## CAMPUS RESOURCES



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- **Emergency Response Guide:** Provides instructions on how to handle any type of emergency, such as earthquake, utility failure, fire, active shooter, etc. Flip charts with this information are also available around campus.
- **See Something, Say Something:** Report unsafe or hazardous conditions on campus. If you see a life threatening or emergency situation, please call 911!

**Safety Escorts:** For students who are on campus at night or past business hours and would like an escort to your car, please call **801-585-2677**. You can call 24/7 and a security officer will be sent to walk with you or give you a ride to your desired on-campus location.