**Social Epidemiology**  
Sociology 3673-090  
Summer Semester, 2011  
Department of Sociology  
University of Utah

**Provisional Syllabus**

Credit Hours:  3

Meeting Time: There is no regular set meeting time for this course  
Course officially begins:  May 16  
Final Exam must be taken by:  August 7

Location:  Online; except for exams, which must be taken at a proctored testing center arranged through U-Online

**Instructor:**  
Michael S. Hollingshaus  
Department of Sociology  
University of Utah

**Contact:**  
Email: WebCT (preferred)  
or michael.hollingshaus@soc.utah.edu  
Office: 328 BEH S

Office Hours:  By appointment

E-mail will be responded to within 48 hours. Please use WebCT to communicate via email (to help the instructor keep emails organized).

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Epidemiology is the study of the distribution and determinants of health and disease in human populations. This course introduces the basic principles of epidemiologic study design, analysis and interpretation using lectures, readings, assignments, and critical discussion. We will discuss topics such as how a disease spreads across a population and how public health interventions or medical technology can help control or reduce the spread of disease. We will explore the various types of research methods used in epidemiology, as well as how to statistically identify the risk factors or causes of a disease. Finally, we will review epidemiology as a social science by reviewing the social causes and consequences of health. Since this course fulfills the Quantitative Reasoning (QB) or Quantitative Intensive (QI) requirement of the University of Utah, special emphasis will be placed upon quantitative calculations and logic.
CLASS OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- calculate, interpret, and compare simple measures of disease occurrence, disease-exposure associations, and the validity and reliability of diagnostic testing approaches
- critically read, analyze and discuss epidemiological studies
- critically discuss the central theoretical questions of social epidemiology
- explain the contributions of the science of epidemiology to clinical research, medicine and public health

PREREQUISITES

The instructor assumes each student has passed at least one of these courses:

- SOC 3112
- FCS 3210
- ECON 3640
- PSY 3000

If a student has not passed at least one of these courses, that student should contact the instructor for permission to enter the course.

EVALUATION METHODS & CRITERIA

Exams (40%)

There will two proctored exams: a Midterm and a Final. The exams will focus more specifically upon the elements of the course that involve quantitative calculations and logic. The exams will be timed and closed-book. You may bring a 3-inch by 5-inch notecard containing notes to refer to during the exam. You may use a simple, non-graphing calculator. Other than the simple calculator you may not use any electronic devices, including your phone. (Note: you may not use the calculator on your phone.)

You must preregister for the exams via U-Online. If you are uncertain how to do this, contact me as soon as possible so I can help you.

Each exam will be worth 20% of your final grade.

Late exam policy:
- If, for some reason, you know you will be unable to attend an exam for legitimate reasons, you must contact me by June 3 to make alternate arrangements.
- If you miss an exam because of a valid medical emergency, make-up exams will be offered if appropriate thorough documentation is provided.
Quizzes (24%)

There will be six timed quizzes completed on WebCT. The quizzes will focus more specifically upon the conceptual/factual information presented in the course. You may use whatever materials you wish to help you out, but you must not consult another person. Quizzes will be accessible from Thursday evening to the end of Sunday. Do not open the quiz before you plan on taking it! Once you begin a quiz, the timer starts and you will be unable to stop it. Make sure you are ready to take the quiz and you are in a stable computing environment before you start it.

Please note that no make-up quizzes will be given, even for emergency situations; however, I will drop your two lowest quiz scores from your final grade.

Each graded quiz is worth six percent of your final grade.

Homework (20%)

There will be several homework assignments throughout the semester, which will focus specifically upon quantitative calculations. These will be completed on, and electronically graded by, WebCT. Before the due date, you may recomplete the homework assignment as many times as you wish until you get a score you are happy with. This will help you practice for the exams.

Course Participation (16%)

Course participation will be measured by participation in online discussion boards related to the additional required readings. These discussions are designed to (1) give you experience in critically reading, analyzing and discussing epidemiological studies, and (2) facilitate critical discussion of the central theoretical questions of social epidemiology. More details on this discussion process will be provided later.

Grading Scale

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93.9%</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>84-86.9%</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83.9%</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73.9%</td>
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<td>D-</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69.9%</td>
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Exams must be arranged through U-Online to be taken during the following weeks:

Midterm: Week of June 20 – June 26
Final: Week of August 1 – August 7
The quizzes are completed online. Their dates are:

Quiz 1: May 26 to May 29
Quiz 2: June 2 to June 5
Quiz 3: June 16 to June 19
Quiz 4: July 7 to July 10
Quiz 5: July 14 to July 17
Quiz 6: July 28 to July 31

**READINGS**

*Required Text:*


*Additional Required Short Readings:*


*Two additional required readings to be determined, as the course progresses, based upon student interests.*
STUDENT & FACULTY RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of both students and the instructor to maintain an environment that is safe, respectful, and conducive to learning and critically thinking. Individuals in the course will have different backgrounds and viewpoints. Open and critical dialogue is essential to achieve the objectives of the course; but comments or actions that are hurtful, unkind, uncivil, or intimidating will hamper the learning process, and are not acceptable.

All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.

ONLINE COMPONENTS OF COURSE

Note that most portions of this course will be completed online. The following notes are important:

- Electronic or equipment failure:
  - It is your responsibility to maintain your computer and related equipment in order to participate in the online portion of the course.
  - Equipment failures will not be an acceptable excuse for late or absent assignments.

- Web-CT uses electronic dating, so you cannot submit assessments or quizzes late.
- Discussion threads, e-mails, and chat rooms are all considered to be equivalent to classrooms, and student behavior within those environments shall conform to the Student Code. Specifically:
  - Posting photos or comments that would be off-topic in a classroom are still off-topic in an online posting.
  - Using angry or abusive language is called "flaming", is not acceptable, and will be dealt with according to the Student Code.
  - Do not use ALL CAPS, except for titles, since it is the equivalent of shouting online, as is overuse of certain punctuation marks such as exclamation points !!!! and question marks ?????.
  - Off-color language and photos are never appropriate.
A SPECIFIC NOTE ABOUT ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Plagiarism, cheating, misrepresenting one’s work, and falsification of information are serious offenses. I take this very seriously. The perpetrating student will fail the individual assessment, and, very likely, the course. I will also report any incidences of academic misconduct to the chair of the sociology department. A failed quiz or exam as the result of cheating will not be dropped from your final grade. Students should also be familiar with the formal definitions of academic misconduct, as outlined in the University of Utah Student Code at http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html.

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 for this course, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. Please discuss any concerns with the instructor as soon as possible.