Social Epidemiology Online
Sociology 3673-090
Fall Semester, 2010
University of Utah
Department of Sociology

Note: This syllabus is provisional, and will be updated when the course is about to begin.

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
TBA

I am available for consultation during office hours, or via email. E-mail will be responded to within 48 hours. Please use WebCT to communicate with me via email.

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 discussions. 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.

CLASS OBJECTIVES

• To be able to critically read and understand epidemiologic studies
• To be able to calculate and interpret simple measures of disease occurrence and measures of disease-exposure associations
• To understand the contributions of the science of epidemiology to clinical research, medicine and public health
• To understand the central questions of social epidemiology
**PREREQUISITES**

The course fulfills the Quantitative Reasoning (QB) or Quantitative Intensive (QI) requirement of the University of Utah. Knowledge of basic algebra and elementary statistics is required before taking this course.

**READINGS**

*Text:*  

*Additional Readings:*


*Note:* The textbook is on reserve in the Marriott library. The four additional required readings are available through the Marriott e-reserve which can be accessed through WebCT.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING**

*Homework (12%)*

There will be four homework assignments throughout the semester. Homework assignments will be posted on WebCT, and submitted via WebCT email before the due date. Homework will be graded much more leniently than quizzes or exams. Each assignment is worth three percent of your final grade.
Quizzes (12%)

There will be four open-book, timed quizzes posted and completed on WebCT. Quizzes will be accessible for about a week before the due date. 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 computer environment before you start it. Please note that no make-up quizzes will be given even under emergency situations; however, I will drop your lowest quiz score from your final grade. Each graded quiz is worth four percent of your final grade.

Exams (72%)

There will be four in-class, open-book exams (not comprehensive). The exams will be based on all the course contents including the text book, lecture notes, films, and additional required readings. All exams will be arranged through UOnline. You need to pre-register for the exams via UOnline. Make-up exams will be given only if you have a legitimate reason and have properly notified the instructor before the exam. Otherwise, no credit will be given for that exam. All make-up exams will be arranged through UOnline. If necessary, when you request a different test date, you need to contact U-online while cc’ing me (michael.hollingshaus@soc.utah.edu) on the message; I will then email UOnline back to approve of this request. This is the only way you can take the exams proctored by UOnline on a different test date. Each graded exam is worth eighteen percent of your final grade.

Online Discussion (4%)

There will be several online discussion sessions throughout the semester. Each session will run for a few days. Each student is expected to post at least one comment on the discussion thread to receive full credit. This activity will constitute four percent of your final grade. No extra credit is available.

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-76.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64-66.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-63.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>0-59.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AMERICAN WITH DISABILITY 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 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.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Please do your own work. Plagiarism, cheating, misrepresenting one’s work, and falsification of information are serious offenses. I will report any incidences of academic misconduct to the chair of the sociology department and the student will at least fail the assignment/quiz/exam, if not the course. 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.