Instructor: Jayme Day  
Email: jayme.day@soc.utah.edu (I am difficult to contact on weekends)

Class 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, and assignments. 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 epidemiologists use, 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.

Texts


Additional reading assignments will be available on WebCT.
Course Requirements and Grading

Note: All information for this course is provided on WebCT. Please check it often for announcements etc. Be sure to contact me immediately if you feel like you are struggling, waiting till the end of the course to ask for help or the day before an exam might be too late.

- **Homework (10%)** – There will be several homework assignments throughout the semester. Homework will not be graded for correctness, only completion and the answers will be reviewed in class. Assignments will be posted on WebCT and I will announce the due dates in class.

- **Participation (5%)** – Class attendance and participation are essential in order to pass this course.

- **Quizzes (25%)** – There will be several unannounced quizzes throughout the semester. The quizzes will resemble the style of the exams.

- **Exams (60%)** – There will be four exams (not comprehensive). The last exam will be short essays/multiple choice based on the social epidemiology readings assigned. This last exam may be substituted for a short paper (5-7 pages) on a health topic of your choice based on social epidemiology (cannot do both). All papers will be submitted to Social Dialogue for potential publication.

NOTE: Due to the size of the class, I will not allow students to make up quizzes or exams under ANY circumstances (emergencies included); however I will drop your lowest quiz and exam score from your final grade.

**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 need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice is needed 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.

All written information in the course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

**Academic Misconduct**

Don’t cheat. I will report any incidences of academic misconduct to the chair of the sociology department and the student will at least fail the assignment if not the course. A failed quiz or exam as the result of cheating will not be dropped from your final grade.