

Course Syllabus

Topic	CONTENT
Course Information	Epidemiology for Public Health Professionals (PUBH 5302) CRN: 21590 Graduate Credit Hours: 3
Semester/Year	Spring 2022
Scheduled Meetings	Health Science/School of Nursing (HSSN) Building Room 216 Tuesdays 5:30 pm - 8:20 pm
Instructor	Oralia Loza, Ph.D. oloza@utep.edu Health Science/School of Nursing (HSSN) Building Room 405
Office Hours	Tuesdays (1130a-1p) & Thursdays (1130a-1p) via Zoom
Course Description	Core graduate course in the public health curriculum considers the meaning, scope, and applications of epidemiology to the practice of public health and the uses of statistics for the scientific appraisal and dissemination of public health data.
Course Pre-Requisites	Admission to the MPH or Graduate Certificate in Public Health Program. One prior UG or GR statistics course with grade of B or better.
Textbooks	Epidemiology for Public Health Practice, Sixth Edition © 2021 Authors: Robert H. Friis and Thomas A. Sellers Publisher: Jones and Bartlett Publishers (ISBN-10: 128417543X) (ISBN-13: 9781284175431) https://www.jblearning.com/catalog/productdetails/9781284175431 Suggested Textbook: APA 6th Edition: Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Sixth Edition, By American Psychological Association, ISBN: 978-1-4338-0561-5, http://www.apa.org/pubs/books/4200066.aspx

Topic	CONTENT
<p>Software</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint): Download Microsoft Office programs for free via UTEP at Microsoft Office 365. 2. Zoom 3. Google Chrome <p>Suggested Software:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Reference Manager software 5. Example: EndNote Reference Manager: Buy a version that is compatible with the Microsoft Office Word version you have.
<p>University Resources</p>	<p>Health Science Librarian Team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marissa Testerman Access Services Instruction Librarian Nursing Public Health Social Work Office: 915-747-5269 Email: mtesterman@utep.edu http://libguides.utep.edu/public_health • Harvey Castellano Associate Library Director, Research, Instruction & Access Services for Nursing & Pharmacy Email: hcastell@utep.edu https://libguides.utep.edu/prf.php?account_id=81079 <p>Campus Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology Support Center (TSC) Computer Lab Workshops: https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/TSCenter/tsc_workshops.html • Help Desk: Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in-person on campus. • UTEP Library: Access resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students. • University Writing Center (UWC): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources. • Math Tutoring Center (MaRCS): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.

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<p>Research Resources</p>	<p>Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles in Epidemiology, Public Health, and other Health Sciences: <i>American Journal of Epidemiology, Annals of Epidemiology, Epidemiology, Epidemiologic Reviews, European Journal of Epidemiology, International Journal of Epidemiology, Journal of Clinical Epidemiology, Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, American Journal of Public Health, Nutrition Reviews, American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, Salud Pública de México.</i></p> <p>NOTE: Wikipedia or other similar websites do not serve as a valid reference</p> <p>Search Engines:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UTEP Health Science Library: http://libguides.utep.edu/public_health 2. PubMed for biomedical journal articles http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez 3. SciELO Public Health: health science articles in Ibero-American countries http://www.scielosp.org/ 4. Google Scholar: scholarly literature and pdfs http://scholar.google.com/ 5. U.S.-Mexico Border Virtual Health Library from PAHO http://infofrontera.homolog.bvsalud.org/php/index.php?lang=en 6. Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health (CINAHL EBSCO) http://www.ebscohost.com/academic/the-cinahl-database <p>Agencies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. United States-México Border Health Commission: https://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/oga/about-oga/what-we-do/international-relations-division/americas/border-health-commission/index.html 2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): https://www.cdc.gov/ 3. Pan American Health Organization (PAHO): https://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?lang=en 4. World Health Organization (WHO): http://www.who.int/health-topics
<p>Course Format</p>	<p>Course combines in-class lectures and homework exercises. Although students may sometimes work in groups while in the class, please note that all work done outside the class should be completed on an individual basis including homework exercises.</p> <p>Lecture notes, course material, assignments, graded assignments (with feedback), grades, and other selected materials will be available in class or on BlackBoard (BB).</p>

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The Council on Education for Public Health Foundational and Concentration Competencies (CEPH)	The UTEP MPH program is nationally accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). The CEPH has defined <u>22 foundational competencies</u> required for attainment of the MPH degree; in addition, our MPH program has defined <u>5 concentration competencies</u> that reflect the unique training that you will receive in our program in <i>Hispanic and Border Health</i> . During orientation, you were provided with the complete list of the foundational and concentration competencies. Each of your courses will address different competencies. The competencies that will be addressed in this course are listed below and during the first class session, your professor will review these with you. In different ways throughout the semester, you will be evaluated on your <u>knowledge</u> regarding the specific competencies addressed in this course, and you will be assessed on your <u>ability to apply</u> each of the competencies addressed in this course.
MPH Foundational Competencies	<u>Evidence-based Approaches to Public Health</u> 1. Apply epidemiological methods to the breadth of settings and situations in public health practice 4. Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy, or practice <u>Communication</u> 19. Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation

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Assessment Strategies	<p>Your <u>knowledge</u> of course content related to each competency addressed in this course will be tested in the following ways:</p> <p><u>Textbook Problems</u>: these involve definitions, word problems, and calculations. Students will be provided with scenarios, for which they need to identify appropriate methods (e.g., study design), problem-solving, and rates calculation and interpretation.</p> <p><u>Exercises</u>: Using online sources and resources (e.g., webinars, data sources, etc.) from key public health agencies and organizations on social, economic, or political public health (global, national, or local) issues.</p> <p><u>Quizzes and Exams</u>: Students will also be tested on the course material in quiz and exam format, reflecting the material presented in the lectures, textbook problems, and exercises.</p> <p>Research Proposal: Students will select a research topic that addresses a pressing public health issue, particularly affecting Hispanic population and/or the U.S.-Mexico border region. Students will conduct a literature search to gain an understanding of the current research on the topic and population then design an abbreviated research proposal. It is of particular importance that students accurately identify the best research methods (e.g., study design, measures, sample population) based on where their topic lies in the research (e.g., exploratory, longitudinal, etc.). This exercise is similar in its form to the development of a thesis research proposal and will be completed in separate assignments then merged for one culminating Oral Presentation as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Research Topicb. Literature Reviewc. Summary of Articled. Measures Presentatione. Outlinef. Background & Significance Articlesg. Aims and Methodsh. Oral Presentation

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<p>Learning Objectives</p>	<p>Upon completion of this course, the student will learn to identify the appropriate study design and measure of association to address a research question. These objectives contribute to students' ability to critically review the public health and epidemiologic literature and develop the methods section of a research proposal. Students will learn to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify common observational and experimental study designs used in epidemiologic research and their strengths and limitations. 2. Discuss epidemiologic aspects of infectious disease (e.g., variations in severity of illness, components of the infectious disease process, mechanism of disease transmission, and common source versus propagated). 3. Discuss epidemiologic aspects of chronic disease (e.g., multi-factorial nature of etiology, long latency period, indefinite onset, and differential effect of factors on incidence and course of disease). 4. Demonstrate knowledge and distinguish prevention efforts (e.g., primary, secondary and tertiary) and screening programs (e.g., detection of disease, sensitivity, and specificity). 5. Extract and organize data from online data sources for epidemiological data. 6. Define, calculate, summarize, and interpret prevalence, incidence, relative risk, odds ratio, and other rates and measures of association from appropriate data. 7. Identify the appropriate study design, sources for sample population, and measures for health outcomes and factors of interest (e.g., infectious versus chronic diseases; rare versus common health phenomenon; availability of population, etc.). 8. Summarize published epidemiological studies and reports. 9. Develop and orally present a research proposal topic including an outline for background and significance, results of a literature review, and proposed methods section as well as identify how their research topic relates to the objectives of public health frameworks (e.g., Health People 2020, Healthy Border, Paso Del Norte Regional Strategic Health Framework). 10. Identify research studies and interventions that have been adapted or developed for the U.S.-Mexico border or Hispanic population.
<p>Grading Scale</p>	<p>A (≥ 90%-exceptional graduate-level performance) B (80-89%-average graduate-level performance) C (70-79%-below average graduate-level performance) D (60-69%-unacceptable graduate-level performance) F (< 60%-very unacceptable graduate-level performance)</p>

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Grading Components	Student performance will be evaluated on: Assignments (Textbook Problems and Exercises) (35%) Quizzes and Exams (30%) Proposal Project (30%) Participation (5%)
Incomplete Policy	The grade of "I" (incomplete) is considered only in very rare circumstances involving fully documented emergencies, must be requested at least <u>four weeks</u> prior to the last class of the fall term, and is allowed at the discretion of the instructor. Incomplete assignments will be graded for partial credit.
Attendance	It is <u>UTEP policy</u> that <u>all students attend all scheduled classes</u> . Attendance will be taken at each class. When a student registers for a course, it is assumed that she/he has made arrangements to avoid conflicts that would result in chronic tardiness or absence from class. Students are personally responsible for all information or activities presented in class discussions, lectures, assignments, and/or readings. If you are unable to attend class, <i>it is your responsibility to inform the instructor before the class session. <u>Students will be administratively withdrawn for excessive unexcused absences of 2 or more classes.</u></i> Compliance is mandatory with regard to assignment due dates, student-led discussions and class presentations, reading assignments, exams and all other activities. All emergency-related absences must be documented and verified by presentation of documents to the instructor. <i>Chronic tardiness not only reflects lack of commitment and professional behavior but also is disruptive to your classmates and the instructor. You are expected to be seated and ready to begin class at 5:00 PM.</i>
Reading Assignments	All assigned readings need to be completed prior to coming to the next scheduled class session. Example: The reading assignments for week 2 need to be completed prior to coming to the week 2 class session.
Writing Standards	Effective public health leaders and practitioners must have highly developed written and oral communication skills. Excellent writing skills are a critical element of communication and information dissemination. Our MPH graduate program expects good writing skills as the norm for coursework. Please speak with the instructor for resources on-campus that can help you develop necessary writing skills (e.g., UTEP Writing Center).
Late Assignment Policy	Late work will receive point reduction: 50% within two days of the deadline. Submissions will receive no credit if submitted after two days.
Permission to Record	Recording of lectures and discussions are permitted only with the approval of the instructor.

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Classroom Electronics	Use of electronic devices (i.e., laptops (except for online course), mobile phones, tablets, MP3 players) is not permitted during this course or lectures. If a situation should arise which necessitates a student to be contacted by a physician or family member, the instructor shall be notified and cell phone can be set to "vibrate." Please be advised that students who use unauthorized technology during class time will be dismissed from that week's class session.
Class Participation	Active student participation in this course is very important. Students must be prepared to come to class to discuss, answer questions, and participate in all class activities.
Special Accommodations	If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 915.747.5148, cass@utep.edu , or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, visit http://sa.utep.edu/cass/ . CASS Staff validate and authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.
UTEP MPH Program Handbook	Available at: https://www.utep.edu/chs/phs/Files/docs/MPHStudentHandbook_2021_2022.pdf

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Student Conduct	<p>“Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another student, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.” <u>University of Texas Regent’s Rules and Regulations</u>, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3.2, Subdivision 3.22.</p> <p>FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONAL, ETHICAL CONDUCT IS A CENTRAL TENET AND GUIDING PRINCIPLE OF ALL ACTIVITIES, DECISIONS, AND CRITICAL ANALYSES. STUDENTS IN THE MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM AT UTEP ARE EXPECTED TO BE <u>ABOVE REPROACH</u> IN ALL SCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES.</p> <p>Students who engage in scholastic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary penalties, including failure in the course and dismissal from the university. “It is an official policy of university that all suspected cases or acts of alleged scholastic dishonesty must be referred to the Dean of Students for investigation and appropriate disposition. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.” (http://studentaffairs.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=4386)</p> <p>“<u>CHEATING</u>” means copying from the work another student; possession and/or use during an exam or home test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test; using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program; falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit.</p> <p>“<u>PLAGIARISM</u>” means the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own academic work offered for credit, or using work in a paper or assignment for which the student had received credit in another course without direct permission of all involved instructors. NOTE: This includes cutting-and-pasting and photocopying from online and other material.</p> <p>“<u>COLLUSION</u>” means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to violate any provision of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.</p>

Topic	CONTENT
COVID-19 Precaution Statement	<p>Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.</p> <p>The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org.</p>

COURSE SCHEDULE *

Dates Tuesdays	Topics and Textbook Chapter (READ BEFORE CLASS)	Assignments Due (5 pm)	MPH Foundational Competencies
WEEK 1 Jan 18	Chapter 16. Epidemiology as a Profession Chapter 1. History & Scope of Epidemiology		Apply epidemiological methods to the breadth of settings and situations in public health practice.
WEEK 2 Jan 25	Chapter 1. History & Scope of Epidemiology Chapter 2. Practical Applications of Epidemiology	Syllabus Contract	
WEEK 3 Feb 1	Chapter 2. Practical Applications of Epidemiology: Prevention of Disease Proposal: Outline and Project Overview	Exercises: CDC WONDER Proposal: Research Topic DRAFT	
WEEK 4 Feb 8	Chapter 3. Measures of Morbidity and Mortality Used in Epidemiology Special Topics: NIH Podcasts	Proposal: Research Topic	
WEEK 5 Feb 15	Chapter 3. Measures of Morbidity and Mortality Used in Epidemiology Special Topics: AMA	Exercises: NIH Podcasts	
WEEK 6 Feb 22	Chapter 4. Descriptive Epidemiology: Person, Place, Time Guest Speaker: MPH Alumni Proposal: Summary of Article (In-Class Activity)	Proposal: Literature Review	Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy, or practice.
WEEK 7 Mar 1	Chapter 4. Descriptive Epidemiology: Person, Place, Time Review Exercises: CHAPTERS 01-04	Exercises: CHAPTERS 01-04 Proposal: Summary of Article	
WEEK 8 Mar 8	MIDTERM EXAM: CHAPTERS 01-04 (ONLINE)		
WEEK 9 Mar 15	SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS	Exercises: Rethinking the Hispanic Paradox	
WEEK 10 Mar 22	Chapter 5. Sources of Epidemiological Data Proposal: Measures Presentation Special Topics: Rethinking the Hispanic Paradox (discussion)	Proposal: Measures Presentation	Apply epidemiological methods to the breadth of settings and situations in public health practice.
WEEK 11 Mar 29	Chapter 6-7. Ecologic, Cross-Sectional, Case-Control, Cohort Study Designs Special Topics: Eradication and Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation	Exercises: Gates Foundation Annual Letter Proposal: Outline	
WEEK 12 April 5	Chapter 6-7. Ecologic, Cross-Sectional, Case-Control, Cohort Study Designs	Proposal: Background and Significance Articles	Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy, or practice.

Dates Tuesdays	Topics and Textbook Chapter (READ BEFORE CLASS)	Assignments Due (5 pm)	MPH Foundational Competencies
	Special Topics: Strategic Frameworks		Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation
WEEK 13 April 12	Chapter 6-7. Ecologic, Cross-Sectional, Case-Control, Cohort Study Designs Guest Speaker: Health Science Librarian	Proposal: Aims and Methods (DRAFT)	
WEEK 14 April 19	Review of Study Designs (observational) Chapter 8. Experimental Study Designs	Proposal: Aims and Methods	
WEEK 15 April 26	Review Exercises: CHAPTERS 05-08 Special Topics: Paso del Norte Healthy Communities Network and Texas Primary Care Consortium	Exercises: CHAPTERS 05-08 Proposal: Oral PP Presentation (DRAFT)	
WEEK 16 May 3	Proposal: Oral Presentations	Proposal: Oral PP Presentation	
WEEK 17 May 9-13	FINAL EXAM: CHAPTERS 05-08 (ONLINE)		

* Please note, the instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus during the semester (e.g., deadlines, grading scheme). If a change is made, you will be notified. Assignments and due dates are provided on BlackBoard. University calendar: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/registrar/Academic%20Calendars/academic-calendar.html>