

**Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
College of Public Health
University of Georgia**

**SYLLABUS: EPID 8400/GRNT 8400
Chronic Disease Epidemiology
Fall 2009**

Course Information

Instructor: Claire Robb, Ph.D., MPH
Office Location: The Institute of Gerontology, 255 East Hancock Avenue, Athens
(located on the corner of College and Hancock downtown)
Phone: (706) 372-7541 For emergencies only
Email: crobb@uga.edu The BEST way to reach me
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Meeting Time and Location

Building: C. Paul D. Coverdell Center Auditorium
Room: 341 Conference Room
Day: Tuesday/Thursday
Time: 9:30-10:45 AM

Textbooks and Other Required Course Material

Brownson, R.C., Remington, P.L. & Davis, J.R. (Eds.), *Chronic Disease Epidemiology and Control* (2nd Edition) 1998, American Public Health Association ISBN 0-87553-237-3

Journal articles and other articles of interest will be posted on eLearning Commons as the class progresses.

Course Description

Examination of chronic disease from an epidemiologic perspective, with an emphasis on methodological and practical issues of study designs, exposure and outcome assessment, factors determining the distribution of selected chronic diseases and critical review of relevant epidemiologic literature. Students are introduced to disease registries, their purpose, benefits and limitations.

This course is listed as EPID 8400 by the Department of Epidemiology and Biotatistics and as GRNT 8400 by the Institute of Gerontology.

Course Learning Objectives

Students in the course will have the opportunity to:

- Learn how the principles and methods of epidemiology can be applied to the study of chronic disease.
- Examine underlying causes of selected chronic diseases.
- Learn about key methodological considerations for conducting epidemiologic studies of chronic disease and chronic disease surveillance.
- Review health assessment techniques which are used for conducting epidemiologic studies of chronic disease.
- Learn about the natural history of selected chronic diseases.
- Review primary, secondary and tertiary prevention of selected chronic disease.
- Learn how to critically evaluate epidemiologic reports of chronic disease research.
- Identify and access chronic disease registries and databases on a state and national level.

FOR MPH STUDENTS: *Chronic Disease Epidemiology* addresses the following competencies for epidemiology as set forth the College of Public Health and the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of Georgia.

- Demonstrate a working knowledge of current and emerging major public health issues related to communicable and non-communicable disease.
- Apply the basic terminology and definitions of epidemiology in oral presentations and written reports
- Critically review and summarize epidemiologic literature
- Access and utilize epidemiologic data available at the state, national and international level.
- Be sensitive to social, cultural and ethnic differences that may influence the conduct and execution of epidemiologic studies

FOR GERONTOLOGY CERTIFICATE STUDENTS: *Chronic Disease Epidemiology* is considered as an elective for those students in the Gerontology Certificate Program

Course Requirements for Grading Purposes

This course requires review of a journal article and functioning as discussion leader in class for the article under review; in-depth study and paper of some aspect of a chronic disease and preparation of a group video clip presentation on that disease, a midterm examination and a final examination. Details of the project presentation will be discussed during class. All reading assignments should be done prior to class and you are expected to come to class fully prepared to discuss what you have read. There will be two (2) tests. Both the midterm exam and the final exam will be taken in class and last approximately one-hour. The final exam will be comprehensive. Tests may be composed of multiple choice, true-false and/or essay questions. Their will be mini-quizzes administered throughout the course on the reading assignments.

Topical Outline

NOTE: * Indicates potential guest lecture**

WEEK 1:

Aug 17 CLASSES BEGIN

Aug 18 Review of syllabus, overview of class, explanation of class project.

Aug 20 Film: *PBS The Remaking of American Medicine, Episode 3 The Stealth Epidemic*

WEEK 2:

Aug 25 CH. 1 Introduction to Chronic Disease Epidemiology and Control

Aug 27 Journal Club:
1. Anderson G, Horvath J. The growing burden of chronic disease in America. *Public Health Rep* 2004;119(3):263-70.
2. Omran AR. The epidemiologic transition. A theory of the epidemiology of population change. *Milbank Mem Fund Q* 1971;49(4):509-38.

WEEK 3:

Sept 1 CH 2 Methods in Chronic Disease Epidemiology

Sept 3 Journal Club:
1. Ben-Shlomo Y, Kuh D. A life course approach to chronic disease epidemiology: conceptual models, empirical challenges and interdisciplinary perspectives. *Int J Epidemiol* 2002;31(2):285-93.
2. Mays VM, Ponce NA, Washington DL, Cochran SD. Classification of race and ethnicity: implications for public health. *Annu Rev Public Health* 2003;24:83-110

WEEK 4:

Sept 7 LABOR DAY: NO CLASSES

Sept 8 CH 3 Chronic Disease Surveillance

Guest lecturer(s): Colin Smith, DrPH Student, formerly of the Health Planning & Assessment Unit, Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health

NOTE: Class will be held in Ramsey Computer Lab Room 214

Sept 10 CH 3 Chronic Disease Surveillance (continued)

Guest lecturer(s): Colin Smith, DrPH Student, formerly of the Health Planning & Assessment Unit, Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health

NOTE: Class will be held in Ramsey Computer Lab Room 214

WEEK 5:

Sept 15 CH 4 Intervention Methods for Chronic Disease Control

Sept 17

Journal Club:

1. Woloshin S, Schwartz LM, Welch HG. The risk of death by age, sex, and smoking status in the United States: putting health risks in context. *J Natl Cancer Inst* 2008;100(12):845-53.

WEEK 6:

Sept 22 CH 5 Tobacco Use***

1. Rehm J, Mathers C, Popova S, Thavorncharoensap M, Teerawattananon Y, Patra J. Global burden of disease and injury and economic cost attributable to alcohol use and alcohol-use disorders. *Lancet*. Jun 27 2009;373(9682):2223-2233.

Sept 24

CH 6 Alcohol Use

Guest lecturer: Dr. Monica Gaughan, Department of Health Policy and Management

WEEK 7:

Sept 29 CH 7 Physical Inactivity***

Oct 1

CH 8 Diet and Nutrition***

WEEK 8:

Oct 6 MIDTERM EXAM;

Oct 8 Independent group project workgroups

WEEK 9:

Oct 13 CH 9 High Blood Pressure; CH 10 Cholesterol

Oct 15

Journal Club:

1. Ostchega Y, Dillon CF, Hughes JP, Carroll M, Yoon S. Trends in hypertension prevalence, awareness, treatment, and control in older U.S. adults: data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey 1988 to 2004. *J Am Geriatr Soc* 2007;55(7):1056-65.

2. Chiong JR. Controlling hypertension from a public health perspective. *Int J Cardiol* 2008;127(2):151-6

WEEK 10:

Oct 20 CH 11 Cardiovascular Disease

Oct 22

Journal Club:

1. Mozaffarian D, Kamineni A, Prineas RJ, Siscovick DS. Metabolic syndrome and mortality in older adults: the Cardiovascular Health Study. *Arch Intern Med* 2008;168(9):969-78

WEEK 11:

Oct 27 CH 12 Cancer***

Oct 29 Journal Club:

1. Rebecca D. Jackson, Md, Andrea Z. Lacroix, PhD, Jane A. Cauley, DrPH, And Joan McGowan, PhD The Women's Health Initiative Calcium-Vitamin D Trial: Overview and Baseline Characteristics of Participants, *Ann Epidemiol* 2003;13:S98-S106.

2. Diane R. Brown, PhD, Mona N. Fouad, Mad, Mph, Karen Basen-Engquist, PhD, And Guillermo Tortolero-Luna, Mad, PhD, Recruitment and Retention of Minority Women in Cancer Screening, Prevention, and Treatment Trials, *Ann Epidemiol* 2000;10:S13-S21.

WEEK 12:

Nov 3 CH 13 Chronic Lung Disease

Nov 5 CH 14 Diabetes

WEEK 13:

Nov 7-11 **APHA Philadelphia**

Nov 10 **NO CLASS: Students not attending APHA should use this time to work on your project/paper**

Nov 12 CH 15 Arthritis & Musculoskeletal Disease

Journal Club:

1. Robitaille J, Yoon PW, Moore CA, et al. Prevalence, family history, and prevention of reported osteoporosis in U.S. women. *Am J Prev Med*. Jul 2008;35(1):47-54.

WEEK 14:

Nov 17 CH 16 Chronic Neurological Disorders ***

Nov 19 Guest Lecture: Steve Valeika, DVM, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics; Topic: *Infectious disease as chronic disease*

WEEK 15 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY NO CLASSES

WEEK 16:

Dec 1 Project presentations: panel discussions

Dec 3 Project presentations: panel discussions (cont), Final Exam Review

Grading Policy

. Final grades will be based on the following grade point allotments:

• Midterm Exam (25%)		100 points
• Journal Club Presentation (10%)		40 points
• Sanjay Gupta Project (15%)		60 points
• A written paper based on SGP (15%)		60 points
• RAMs (10%)	(Approx.)	40 points
• FINAL EXAM (25%; Comprehensive)		100 points

	(Approx)	400 Total points

Percentage Points/Letter Grade

A = 100-93	B = 87-83	C = 77-73	D = 67-63
A- = 92-90	B- = 82-80	C- = 72-70	D- = 62-60
B+ = 89-88	C+ = 79-78	D = 69-68	F = <60

Make-Up Policy

Missing or failing to turn in a test on time counts as a zero until it is made-up. If you miss a test (i.e., the Midterm Exam), arrangements must be made to take it as soon as possible by calling me at 706-372-7541 and sending me a follow-up email. Make-up exams must be taken no later than one week after the scheduled test, or the student will get a zero for that test. All make-up exams will be given at my office.

Attendance Policy

While attendance is not mandatory, it is strongly suggested that all students attend every class session. Since we will be having guest lecturers throughout the semester, it is important for you to take complete notes on what is being said in the lectures. Test questions for both a midterm exam and final exam will include information from guest lectures.

Students who anticipate the necessity of being absent from class due to the observation of a major religious observance must provide notice of the date(s) to the instructor, in writing, by the second class meeting, August 20, 2009.

University Honor Code and Academic Honesty Policy

All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic careers. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and ignorance is not an acceptable defense. The full version of "A Culture of Honesty: Politics and

Procedures" detailing UGA's policies on this matter can be found on the Internet at <http://www.uga.edu/~vpaa>.

All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." All students are responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations in order to participate in course activities or meet course requirements should contact the instructor or designate during regular office hours or by appointment. If you have a disability and would like to request appropriate accommodations, please feel free to discuss this with me.

All individuals receiving accommodation in the classroom must be registered with Disability Services. Please visit their website at <http://www.dissvcs.uga.edu> for further information.

General Disclaimers

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

The syllabus, outside reading assignments and all course lectures will be posted on eLearning Commons. The syllabus is a guide only and dates may change. Changes in class assignments will be announced during class and will be posted as an announcement on eLearning Commons..