

**Public Health Epidemiology**  
**CMH 623**  
**4.0 Credit Hours**

**Course Description**

This course is an introduction to epidemiology; including historical foundations, basic concepts, study designs, and practical applications. Emphasis is placed on epidemiological principles, concepts, and methods used within public health settings. Students will use skills acquired in the course to complete an applied project. Class participation is expected and will contribute to the overall course grade.

**Learning Objectives**

1. To survey historical foundations in epidemiology and acquaint students with the development of epidemiology as a field of study.
2. To provide students with a foundation in the principles of epidemiology and methods.
3. To assist students in developing the ability to apply epidemiological design, analysis, and interpretation in public health.
4. To encourage students to review epidemiological studies and reports with a critical eye for strengths and weaknesses in application.
5. To complete an applied learning experience through the use of epidemiological methods.
6. To present epidemiological research findings effectively to a group of peers.

**Prerequisites**

Enrollment in this course requires: 1) Admission to the MPH Program; or 2) Permission of the instructor.

**Faculty Expectations and Learning Methods**

**A. Reading:**

Students are responsible for completing the assigned readings **prior to each class session**. Required texts for this course are covered by student fees and will be sent to students in advance of the first class session.

- Epidemiology for Public Health Practice (Third Edition), R.H. Friis and T.A. Sellers, Aspen Publishers, 1999 (506 pp).
- Field Epidemiology (Second Edition), Edited by M.B. Gregg, Oxford University Press, 2002 (451 pp).
- *The instructor will provide additional readings for some class sessions.*

The philosophical underpinnings of this course is that professionals within the broadly defined field of public health will come together to share insights, gain from the knowledge and experience of colleagues, and collectively come to a more complete understanding of the applications of epidemiological methods. Much of the learning in this course will be driven by the self-defined learning objectives of each student. This is a seminar in epidemiology, thus students are responsible for contributing substantially to the learning experience.

**B. Discussion:**

Students should be prepared to discuss and raise questions relating to both assigned readings and applications of readings within their work setting.

Twenty percent of the students final grade will be allocated to in-class participation.

**C. Written Assignments:**

There will be a midterm and final examination, each contributing 20% toward the student’s final course grade. Exams will be constructed with a mix of multiple choice, short answer, and simple calculation problems. Students are required to submit an applied epidemiology research paper, contributing 30% of the final grade. Papers will be submitted electronically to the instructor. Students will present their research to the class, contributing 10% toward the final grade. The remaining 20% of each student’s grade will consist of class participation.

**Grading System**

Students are expected to attend each class meeting session. If a student has a schedule conflict she/he should communicate this to the instructor prior to that class session. Class participation is a key component of this learning experience.

The Wright State University Grading Scale will be used to assign final course grades. Grades of incomplete are granted only if three conditions are met: 1) sixty percent of the work is already finished, 2) the request is made one week before the last class; and 3) the reason for the request is circumstances beyond the control of the student. Final grade assignments will be broken down as follows:

Midterm Exam	20%	
Final Exam	20%	
Research Project/Written	30%	
Research Project/Presentation		10%
Class Participation	20%	

<u>Grading Scale</u>	
A	90 -100
B	80 - 89
C	70 - 79
D	60 - 69
F	0-59

- *Late work will only be considered with, at least, one-week prior request, in writing, to the instructor. Late assignments are generally NOT accepted.*

**Academic Integrity:**

All student work is to be completed individually, unless stated otherwise in writing. Absolutely no academic misconduct will be tolerated in this course. Regardless of the type of assignment, students found responsible for violating the WSU Academic Integrity Policy will receive an "F" for the course. All violations will be forwarded to the Office of Judicial Affairs where a university disciplinary file will be created. Information regarding academic misconduct can be found in the Code of Student Conduct located at <http://www.wright.edu/students/judicial/stuintegrity.html> Please contact the instructor during office hours should you have any questions or concerns.