



PubH 6387 - Section 001
Cancer Epidemiology
Spring/2018

Credits: 2
Meeting Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays
Meeting Time: 10:10 am – 12:05 pm
Meeting Place: Mayo D-199, EASTBANK
Instructor: Heather Nelson, MPH, PhD
Office Address: MCRB 554E
Office Phone: 612-626-9887
E-mail: hhnelson@umn.edu
Office Hours: After class, or by appointment

I. Course Description

This is a survey course that will cover fundamentals in cancer epidemiology, as well as specialized topics and current issues in cancer epidemiology research. Students will be given the tools to critically read primary cancer epidemiology literature, as well locate and interpret information related to cancer incidence and mortality, carcinogenesis, risk factors, and cancer prevention and control.

II. Course Prerequisites

PubH 6320, 6330 or permission of the instructor

III. Course Goals and Objectives

- An understanding of cancer epidemiology as a large field that includes: population burden, surveillance, etiology, prevention and control, screening, diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship.
- Knowledge of the general principles of the molecular and cellular basis of carcinogenesis
- Knowledge of cancer surveillance and cancer screening, and their relation to cancer prevention
- Critical evaluation of different methodological approaches used to study etiologic hypotheses in cancer research
- Knowledge of the major known and hypothesized associations between cancer and nutrition, hormones, reproduction, occupation, tobacco, alcohol, chemical exposures and radiation

IV. Methods of Instruction and Work Expectations

Teaching will include lectures, and group discussions (small and large) that involve student input. Case studies will be used extensively, as will critiques of the primary literature. There will be assigned readings, and these readings should be completed prior to class. Many class periods will include self-directed learning on a current topic in cancer epidemiology, followed by small group discussion in class. Students will turn in “talking points” that reflect their preparation for these group discussions, and these talking points will count towards the participation grade. In lieu of exams there will be a midterm group project, and a final culminating individual project that integrate the principles covered in the course.

V. Course Text and Readings

Course Readings/Helpful links: Optional text: *Fundamentals of Cancer Epidemiology* by Nasca and Pastides, Second Edition; other selected readings on specific topics will be posted on the website throughout the semester.

Other sources for information. Additional reading material may be sought from textbooks such as *Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention* (Schottenfeld and Fraumeni); *Human Cancer: Epidemiology and Environmental Causes* (Higginson, Muir, Munoz); *Cancer Epidemiology: Principles and Methods* (dos Santos Silva) and *Textbook of Cancer Epidemiology* (Adami, Hunter, Tricholopoulos).

VI. Course Outline/Weekly Schedule

Dates and topics of specific lectures may change.

		Items due at the time of class
Jan 16	Introduction and Overview Descriptive Cancer Epidemiology	
Jan 18	Cancer Registration Cancer Clusters	SIR calculation homework (turn in at class) 2 SEER graphs (upload to moodle) Identify a cancer cluster (upload to moodle)
Jan 23	Seminal cancer epidemiology studies	Manuscript review homework
Jan 25	Childhood Cancer Guest instructor: Erin Marcotte	Talking points for class discussion
Jan 30	Cancer Biology Immunity and Inflammation in cancer	Manuscript review homework
Feb 1	What is a carcinogen?	Talking points for cancer controversy discussion
Feb 6	Cancer in MN: MDS Guest instructor Jen Poynter	Manuscript review homework
	Midway through course	
Feb 8	Genetics, Is cancer bad luck	Talking points for “is cancer bad luck” discussion
Feb 13	Midterm project presentations	

Feb 15	Using data to refute the indoor tanning industry Guest instructor: DeAnn Lazovich Cancer Prevention	Talking points due: sunscreen, good or bad?
Feb 20	Screening	Overdiagnosis homework Talking points for screening discussion
Feb 22	Survivorship Guest instructor: Patricia Jewitt	Talking points for discussion "what is a survivor"
Feb 27	Clinical trials Metastasis	Talking points for discussion on preventative mastectomy
March 1	Student Fact Sheet Presentations	Fact Sheets due

VII. Evaluation and Grading

Student performance requirements:

25% - Group project (midterm)

25% - Final project (student fact sheet)

20% - Homework and manuscript reviews

30% - Class participation (attendance, talking points, participation in small and large group discussion)

Late assignments, if arranged prior to the due date, will receive partial credit.

Course grading may be taken either as A/F or S/N. The minimum A/F equivalent for an S grade is a C; the requirements will be identical for students taking the course A/F and S/N. Epidemiology students must take the course A/F.

The University utilizes plus and minus grading on a 4.000 cumulative grade point scale in accordance with the following:

- A 4.000 - Represents achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements
- A- 3.667
- B+ 3.333
- B 3.000 - Represents achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements
- B- 2.667
- C+ 2.333
- C 2.000 - Represents achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect
- C- 1.667
- D+ 1.333

- D 1.000 - Represents achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements
- S Represents achievement that is satisfactory, which is equivalent to a C- or better.

For additional information, please refer to:

<http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/GRADINGTRANSCRIPTS.html>.

Course Evaluation

The SPH will collect student course evaluations electronically using a software system called CourseEval: www.sph.umn.edu/courseeval. The system will send email notifications to students when they can access and complete their course evaluations. Students who complete their course evaluations promptly will be able to access their final grades just as soon as the faculty member renders the grade in SPHGrades: www.sph.umn.edu/grades. All students will have access to their final grades through OneStop two weeks after the last day of the semester regardless of whether they completed their course evaluation or not. Student feedback on course content and faculty teaching skills are an important means for improving our work. Please take the time to complete a course evaluation for each of the courses for which you are registered.

Incomplete Contracts

A grade of incomplete "I" shall be assigned at the discretion of the instructor when, due to extraordinary circumstances (e.g., documented illness or hospitalization, death in family, etc.), the student was prevented from completing the work of the course on time. The assignment of an "I" requires that a contract be initiated and completed by the student before the last official day of class, and signed by both the student and instructor. If an incomplete is deemed appropriate by the instructor, the student in consultation with the instructor, will specify the time and manner in which the student will complete course requirements. Extension for completion of the work will not exceed one year (or earlier if designated by the student's college). For more information and to initiate an incomplete contract, students should go to SPHGrades at: www.sph.umn.edu/grades.

University of Minnesota Uniform Grading and Transcript Policy

A link to the policy can be found at onestop.umn.edu.

VIII. Other Course Information and Policies

Grade Option Change (if applicable):

For full-semester courses, students may change their grade option, if applicable, through the second week of the semester. Grade option change deadlines for other terms (i.e. summer and half-semester courses) can be found at onestop.umn.edu.

Course Withdrawal:

Students should refer to the Refund and Drop/Add Deadlines for the particular term at onestop.umn.edu for information and deadlines for withdrawing from a course. As a courtesy, students should notify their instructor and, if applicable, advisor of their intent to withdraw.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course after the noted final deadline for a particular term must contact the School of Public Health Office of Admissions and Student Resources at sph-ssc@umn.edu for further information.

Student Conduct Code:

The University seeks an environment that promotes academic achievement and integrity, that is protective of free inquiry, and that serves the educational mission of the University. Similarly, the University seeks a community that is free from violence, threats, and intimidation; that is respectful of the rights, opportunities, and welfare of students, faculty, staff, and guests of the University; and that does not threaten the physical or mental health or safety of members of the University community.

As a student at the University you are expected adhere to Board of Regents Policy: *Student Conduct Code*. To review the Student Conduct Code, please see:

http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf.

Note that the conduct code specifically addresses disruptive classroom conduct, which means "engaging in behavior that substantially or repeatedly interrupts either the instructor's ability to teach or student learning. The classroom extends to any setting where a student is engaged in work toward academic credit or satisfaction of program-based requirements or related activities."

Use of Personal Electronic Devices in the Classroom:

Using personal electronic devices in the classroom setting can hinder instruction and learning, not only for the student using the device but also for other students in the class. To this end, the University establishes the right of each faculty member to determine if and how personal electronic devices are allowed to be used in the classroom. For complete information, please reference:

<http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/STUDENTRESP.html>.

Scholastic Dishonesty:

You are expected to do your own academic work and cite sources as necessary. Failing to do so is scholastic dishonesty. Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis. (Student Conduct Code:

http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf) If it is determined that a student has cheated, he or she may be given an "F" or an "N" for the course, and may face additional sanctions from the University. For additional information, please see:

<http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/INSTRUCTORRESP.html>.

The Office for Community Standards has compiled a useful list of Frequently Asked Questions pertaining to scholastic dishonesty <https://communitystandards.umn.edu>. If you have additional questions, please clarify with your instructor for the course. Your instructor can respond to your specific questions regarding what would constitute scholastic dishonesty in the context of a particular class-e.g., whether collaboration on assignments is permitted, requirements and methods for citing sources, if electronic aids are permitted or prohibited during an exam.

Makeup Work for Legitimate Absences:

Students will not be penalized for absence during the semester due to unavoidable or legitimate circumstances. Such circumstances include verified illness, participation in intercollegiate athletic events, subpoenas, jury duty, military service, bereavement, and religious observances. Such circumstances do not include voting in local, state, or national elections. For complete information, please see:

<http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/MAKEUPWORK.html>.

Appropriate Student Use of Class Notes and Course Materials:

Taking notes is a means of recording information but more importantly of personally absorbing and integrating the educational experience. However, broadly disseminating class notes beyond the classroom community or accepting compensation for taking and distributing classroom notes undermines instructor interests in their intellectual work product while not substantially furthering instructor and student interests in effective learning. Such actions violate shared norms and standards of the academic community. For additional information, please see: <http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/STUDENTRESP.html>.

Sexual Harassment:

"Sexual harassment" means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and/or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment in any University activity or program. Such behavior is not acceptable in the University setting. For additional information, please consult Board of Regents Policy:

<http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/SexHarassment.pdf>

Equity, Diversity, Equal Opportunity, and Affirmative Action:

The University will provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs and facilities, without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. For more information, please

consult Board of Regents Policy:
http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Equity_Diversity_EO_AA.pdf.

Disability Accommodations:

The University of Minnesota is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. The Disability Resource Center Student Services is the campus office that collaborates with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g., mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical), please contact DRC at 612-626-1333 or drc@umn.edu to arrange a confidential discussion regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations.

If you are registered with DS and have a current letter requesting reasonable accommodations, please contact your instructor as early in the semester as possible to discuss how the accommodations will be applied in the course.

For more information, please see the DS website, <https://diversity.umn.edu/disability/>.

Mental Health and Stress Management:

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance and may reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. University of Minnesota services are available to assist you. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Student Mental Health Website: <http://www.mentalhealth.umn.edu>.

The Office of Student Affairs at the University of Minnesota:

The Office for Student Affairs provides services, programs, and facilities that advance student success, inspire students to make life-long positive contributions to society, promote an inclusive environment, and enrich the University of Minnesota community.

Units within the Office for Student Affairs include, the Aurora Center for Advocacy & Education, Boynton Health Service, Central Career Initiatives (CCE, CDes, CFANS), Leadership Education and Development – Undergraduate Programs (LEAD-UP), the Office for Fraternity and Sorority Life, **the Office for Community Standards**, the Office for Student Engagement, the Parent Program, Recreational Sports, Student and Community Relations, the Student Conflict Resolution Center, the Student Parent HELP Center, Student Unions & Activities, University Counseling & Consulting Services, and University Student Legal Service.

For more information, please see the Office of Student Affairs at <https://osa.umn.edu/>.

Academic Freedom and Responsibility: *for courses that do not involve students in research:*

Academic freedom is a cornerstone of the University. Within the scope and content of the course as defined by the instructor, it includes the freedom to discuss relevant matters in the classroom. Along with this freedom comes responsibility. Students are encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgment and to engage in a sustained and independent search for truth. Students are free to take reasoned exception to the views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled.*

** Language adapted from the American Association of University Professors "Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students".*

Student Academic Success Services (SASS): <http://www.sass.umn.edu>:

Students who wish to improve their academic performance may find assistance from Student Academic Support Services. While tutoring and advising are not offered, SASS provides resources such as individual consultations, workshops, and self-help materials.

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