

University of Florida
College of Public Health & Health Professions Syllabus
PHC 6001: Principles of Epidemiology in Public Health (3 credit hours)
Summer: 2021

Delivery Format: e-Learning in Canvas

Instructor:

Krishna Vaddiparti, PhD, MPE, MSW

Phone Number: 352-273-5746

Email Address: kvaddiparti@ufl.edu

Office Hours: **11 am to 12 pm on Wednesdays via Zoom***

* Dr. Yiyang Liu, Postdoctoral fellow in Epidemiology will be joining the office hours along with Dr. Vaddiparti

Teaching Assistants:

Ms. Mingjing Chen

Doctoral Student

Department of Epidemiology

Phone Number: 202-573-4043

Email: mingjingchen@ufl.edu

Office Hours: **2 pm-3 pm on Tuesdays via Zoom**

Mr. Livingstone Aduse-Poku

Doctoral Student

Department of Epidemiology

Phone Number: 989-854-6266

Email: adusepokul@ufl.edu

Office hours: **4 pm-5 pm on Thursdays via Zoom**

Preferred Course Communications (e.g. canvas message, email, office phone): Email is the preferred means for contacting me. Use the e-mail function in Canvas, selecting Dr. Vaddiparti (as well as Ms. Mingjing Chen and/or Mr. Livingstone Aduse-Poku, if desired) as the recipient(s). Include "PHC 6001:" in the subject line. The fastest way to obtain a response to a query or comment will be to contact your assigned Teaching Assistant via canvas message or email, but please make sure to copy Dr. Vaddiparti on correspondence with the Teaching Assistants. This is to ensure a quick reply to you.

PREREQUISITES

None

PURPOSE AND OUTCOME**Course Overview**

This course is an introduction to epidemiology for students majoring in any aspect of the health sciences. This course presents the principles and methods of the epidemiological investigation of both infectious and non-infectious diseases. The purpose of this course is to equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills to explain the place of epidemiology in the general health thinking and to communicate and apply the basic principles of epidemiology. Examples of the use of the principles of epidemiology will be presented so that the student will have sufficient understanding to apply such principles in future health work. It is hoped that the course will allow the student to critically read and evaluate his/her public health work using epidemiological principles. This course is not intended to present the epidemiological aspects of any specific disease or class of diseases.

Course Objectives and/or Goals

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Explain the history, philosophy, and values of public health within the discipline of epidemiology,
2. Apply the basic terminology and definitions of epidemiology,

3. Calculate basic epidemiologic measures of frequency and comparisons of frequency between populations,
4. Identify key sources of data for epidemiologic purposes,
5. Utilize data sources to characterize leading causes of and trends in morbidity and mortality in the US and Florida,
6. Draw appropriate inferences from epidemiologic data,
7. Evaluate the strengths and limitations of epidemiologic reports,
8. Apply basic methods and data,
9. Identify the principles and limitations of public health screening programs,
10. Describe a public health problem in terms of magnitude, person, time, and place,
11. Explain the importance of epidemiology for informing scientific, ethical, economic, and political discussion of health issues,
12. Identify basic ethical and legal principles pertaining to the collection, maintenance, use, and dissemination of epidemiologic data, and
13. Communicate epidemiologic information to lay and professional audiences.

Instructional Methods

1. Lectures: are for general orientation. Students are responsible for all the material presented in the course and assigned readings.
2. Readings and Resources. In addition to the required text, supplementary readings and resources will be posted in the course as and when required. The reading list may be supplemented during the course.
3. Assessments: A variety of assessments will be used in this course, including but not limited to discussions, assignments and exams.

What is expected of you?

You are expected to actively engage in the course throughout the semester. Your participation fosters a rich course experience for you and your peers that facilitates overall mastery of the course objectives.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT

Topical Outline/Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic(s)	Assigned Reading	Homework
1	5/10 – 5/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syllabus and Course Introduction • Introduction to Epidemiology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course syllabus (on Canvas site) • Ashengrau and Seage, pages 1-32 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the Canvas and Syllabus Quizzes • Post a short introduction to yourself on the Introduce Yourself Discussion Board
2	5/17 – 5/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures of Disease Frequency • Comparing Disease Frequencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashengrau and Seage, pages 33-56 • Ashengrau and Seage, pages 57-76 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 2 Exercise 1 - due 5/24 by 11:59PM • Week 2 Discussion Board 1 – due 5/24 by 11:59PM

Week	Dates	Topic(s)	Assigned Reading	Homework
3	5/24 – 5/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sources of Public Health Data Descriptive Epidemiology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashengrau and Seage, pages 77-98 Ashengrau and Seage, pages 99-152 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 3 Exercise 2 – due 6/1* by 11:59PM Week 3 Discussion Board 2 – due 6/1 by 11:59PM * May 31st being holiday
4	5/31 – 6/06	Exam 1 - Open 6/03 through 6/06 via HonorLock. No lectures, exercises or discussion boards this week		
5	6/07 – 6/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of Epidemiologic Study Designs Experimental Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashengrau and Seage, pages 153-159 ; pages 181-210 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 5 Exercise 3 – due 6/14 by 11:59PM Week 5 Discussion Board 3 – due 6/14 by 11:59PM
6	6/14 – 6/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cohort Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashengrau and Seage, pages 159-163; pages 211-236 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 6 Exercise 4 – due 6/21 by 11:59PM Week 6 Discussion Board 4 – due 6/21 by 11:59PM
7	6/21 – 6/27	Summer Break Vacation – No lectures, exercises, or discussion boards		
8	6/28 – 7/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case Control Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashengrau and Seage, pages 163-180; pages 237-266 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 8 Exercise 5 – due 7/6 by 11:59PM Week 8 Discussion Board 5 – due 7/6 by 11:59PM
9	7/5 – 7/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bias Confounding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashengrau and Seage, pages 267-294; pages 295-314 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 9 Exercise 6 – due 7/12 by 11:59PM Week 9 Discussion Board 6 – due 7/12 by 11:59PM
10	7/12 – 7/18	Exam 2 – Open 7/15 through 7/18 via HonorLock. No lectures, exercises or discussion boards this week		
11	7/19 – 7/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critical Review of Epidemiologic Studies The Epidemiologic Approach to Causation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashengrau and Seage, pages 367-392; pages 393-417 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 11 Exercise 7 – due 7/26 by 11:59PM Week 11 Discussion Board 7 – due 7/26 by 11:59PM

Week	Dates	Topic(s)	Assigned Reading	Homework
12	7/26 – 8/01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening in Public Health Practice • Ethics in Research Involving Human Participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashengrau and Seage, pages 419-447; pages 449-467 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 12 Exercise 8 – due 8/2 by 11:59PM • Week 12 Discussion Board 8 – due 8/2 by 11:59PM
13	8/2 – 8/06	Exam 3 – Open 8/03 through 8/06 via HonorLock. No lectures, exercises or discussion boards this week		

Course Materials and Technology

Required Text: Aschengrau A and Seage III GR. Essentials of Epidemiology in Public Health, 4th Edition. Burlington, MA: Jones and Bartlett Learning, 2020.

Completion of the assigned readings from this text is mandatory. Lecture presentations will highlight, review, and expand upon the most important aspects of the assigned reading materials. Students are still responsible for mastering any content from the assigned readings, exercises, or discussion boards that is NOT covered in a lecture presentation. Exams will cover all course content covered in assigned readings, exercises, discussion boards, and lecture presentations.

Additional Readings: Will be posted on Canvas as and when needed.

Required Equipment

Computer with high-speed internet access and use of a supported browser. Please refer to the student computing requirements listed on the [Online Student Resources](#) page. This course is delivered entirely online using the University of Florida's [e-Learning in Canvas](#) Course Management System. To access this course, you will use your Gatorlink ID and password to login to the course (via Canvas).

Technical Support

For technical support for the materials posted in the course e-Learning site, activities, and assessments, please post in the appropriate discussion or contact:

Name: Truly Hardemon, MEd, Instructional Designer for Public Health Programs

Phone Number: 352-273-5822

Email Address: hardemont@ufl.edu

For all other technical support for this class, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk at:

Phone Number: (352) 392-HELP (4357) Option 2

Email: helpdesk@ufl.edu

Webpage with Chat: [UF Computing Help Desk](#)

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Assignments

One (1) Syllabus Quiz – 10 points; 2% of the course grade

At the start of the course you need to pass a syllabus quiz with a score of 10 points out of 10. This quiz may be retaken multiple times until you score 10 points. This quiz is worth 2% of your grade. At any time during the semester, corrections and/or addendums may be applied to the course syllabus at the discretion of the instructor. Any corrections/addendums to the syllabus will be promptly communicated to students via email and published on the course website and will take effect from the time of communication onward.

One (1) Canvas Quiz – 10 points; 2% of the course grade

At the start of the course you will view a video that will help you become familiar with the Canvas site for this course. You'll then take a quiz about the content of that video. You will need to pass that quiz with a score of 10 points out of 10. This quiz may be retaken multiple times until you score 10 points. This quiz is worth 2% of your grade.

Three (3) Exams – 100 points each (300 points total; 60% of the course grade)

There will be three exams, each worth 20% of your grade. The format for these exams is 40 multiple choice questions, and each question is worth 2.5 points. You will have two hours to complete the exam. Exams are not cumulative. See the section on [Exam Proctoring Service](#) below and the HonorLock link on the Canvas site for more information on computer requirements and registering for exams.

Eight (8) Student exercises – 12.5 points each (100 points total; 20% of the course grade)

There are 8 student exercises that will be completed as part of the course. Student exercises are not critically graded, but must be completed to earn 2.5% for each exercise. The instructor and TA's will determine whether an exercise has been completed sufficiently to earn credit. Students are welcome to work together on Exercises either through the Discussions section of the Canvas page or in-person, but your answers should be in your own words. Exercises are due on Mondays at 11:59 pm each week they are assigned. **No make-ups of missed Exercises will be permitted. Late submissions will not be graded. You are responsible for uploading the correct document. No credit will be given for uploading a wrong or blank submission.**

Eight (8) Discussion Board Topics – 10 points each (80 points total; 16% of the course grade)

There are a total of 8 discussion boards available and you are expected to participate in all the 8 discussion boards. Discussion boards are critically graded, with each response worth up to 2% of your grade. To earn your 2% you must post your discussion board in the discussions section **AND** submit your discussion board through the assignments section. Discussion boards close for grading on Mondays at 11:59 pm each week. **No make-ups of missed Discussion Boards will be permitted. Late postings will not be graded.**

About HonorLock and Exams

HonorLock Proctoring Services

We will be using HonorLock, a proctoring service for graded exams in this course. HonorLock ensures exam integrity and enables administration of remote online exams.

- The College of Public Health & Health Professions will pay your proctoring fees.
- No pre-scheduling is required. You can take your exam at any time during the window it is open in Canvas.
 - However, I caution you not to wait until the last minute, because you will run the extreme risk of having the exam close out automatically before you have had your full number of allowed minutes. The exam will close out at the time set in Canvas regardless of how many minutes you have left to take the exam, and you will not be able to finish.
- HonorLock will record and audit your entire exam session.
- All recorded exam sessions will be reviewed as part of your final grade.

- Instances of cheating or inappropriate behavior will be considered violations of the Student Honor Code and will result in disciplinary action.
- Students will need to have **Google Chrome**, a microphone and webcam in place during the test-taking period. An inexpensive webcam and microphone should work fine. Students will NOT be allowed to take a exam without a webcam.
- Students will need to have some administrative rights on the computer they are using for the exam to enable the proctoring service to function.
- It is recommended that students not use a wireless Internet connection for exams. Please consider wire connecting your wireless laptop to your modem for a more reliable Internet signal during the exam. Inexpensive modem cables are available in most electronic stores and online.

HonorLock Set-up

HonorLock is a user-friendly system, but you must follow these guidelines to register and take your exams:

1. Review the following HonorLock Student Information to obtain an overview of HonorLock:
 - [HonorLock Student Proctoring](#)
 - [HonorLock Student Guide](#)
 - [HonorLock Student Preparation Checklist](#)

Taking Exams

Again, no pre-scheduling is required. You can take your exam at any time during the window it is open in Canvas. However, as mentioned before, I caution you not to wait until the last minute, because you will run the extreme risk of having the exam close out automatically before you have had your full number of allowed minutes. The exam will close out at the time set in Canvas regardless of how many minutes you have left to take the exam, and you will not be able to finish.

- Please plan on extra time to complete your exam to accommodate connection time and any technical issues that arise.
- No human proctor will appear. You will take your exam with your camera recording the entire session.
- Once you finish and submit your exam, you will log out, and the exam session will be audited at HonorLock.

Keep the following in mind:

1. You must use Google Chrome browser with HonorLock
2. When it is available open your exam in Canvas.
3. Click "Get Started" and "Install Extension".
4. Click "Add extension" and then "Take the Exam".
5. Click "Launch Proctoring" and "Allow" (HonorLock to use your camera).
6. Take the required photo by clicking "Take Photo" and click "Accept" if there is a clear image of you on screen. Otherwise "Redo".
7. Take the required photo of your picture ID.
8. "Begin the Room Scan" by clicking and then scan the room with your camera. Click "I'm done once complete.
9. Take the exam as normal.
10. Finish the exam, and HonorLock will automatically save and close as well.

Exam Rules

Check your syllabus for other rules related to quizzes and exams. Examples:

- Exams will be administered as described in the course schedule.
- Exams are closed book, closed notes unless otherwise documented.
- A blank sheet of paper as scrap paper and a non-programmable (ordinary) calculator are allowed during exam, but you will be required to use your camera to show both sides of paper or calculator.
- Exams may be taken at a student's home. Students must plan to take their exams in an environment where other people are not in the room during the exam.

- You are required to pan your camera around the room and your desk and clear it of anything not allowed in the exam.

Support:

Call HonorLock at 855-828-4004 for 24/7 support assistance. Then contact Ms. Truly Hardemon hardemont@ufl.edu and your instructor to let them know you had an issue.

Grading

Requirement	Due date	Points or % of final grade
Syllabus Quiz	05/18/2018	2%
Canvas Quiz	05/18/2018	2%
3 Exams	See schedule above	60%
8 Exercises	See schedule above	20%
8 Discussions	See schedule above	16%

Point system used (i.e., how do course points translate into letter grades).

Total Course Points (out of 500)	Percent of Course Points (out of 100%)	Letter Grade	Grade Point Equivalent
465 – 500	93% - 100%	A	4.00
450 – 464	90% - 92%	A-	3.67
435 – 449	87% - 89%	B+	3.33
415 – 434	83% - 86%	B	3.00
400 – 414	80% - 82%	B-	2.67
385 – 399	77% - 79%	C+	2.33
365 – 384	73% - 76%	C	2.00
350 – 364	70% - 72%	C-	1.67
335 – 349	67% - 69%	D+	1.33
315 – 334	63% - 66%	D	1.00
300 – 314	60% - 62%	D-	0.67
Less than 300	Below 60%	E	0.00

Please be aware that a C- is not an acceptable grade for graduate students. In addition, a grade of C counts toward a graduate degree only if an equal number of credits in courses numbered 5000 or higher have been earned with an A.

Letter grade to grade point conversions are fixed by UF and cannot be changed.

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E	WF	I	NG	S-U
Grade	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Points																

For greater detail on the meaning of letter grades and university policies related to them, see the [Grading and Grade Policies](#) posted by the Registrar's Office.

Exam Policy

In general, taking an exam after the official closing time will only be permitted under extenuating circumstances. Late exams will only be permitted at the discretion of the instructor (advanced notice in writing required and per applicable University of Florida policies). At his/her discretion and in consultation with HonorLock representatives, the UF Director of Public Health Professional Education Programs may permit an extension of an exam that has already begun.

Syllabus and Canvas Quizzes: No late quizzes permitted.

Policy Related to Make up Exams or Other Work

Student exercises and Discussion Boards Topics: Submission of student exercises after the due time/date is not permitted, except at the discretion of the instructor (advanced notice in writing is required and per applicable University of Florida policies). Discussion Board submission will not be considered complete until it is submitted through BOTH the Discussion Section AND the Assignment Section.

Policy Related to Technical Issues

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues **must** be accompanied by the ticket number received from the UF Computing Help Desk created when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You **must** e-mail me and Truly Hardemon (hardemont@ufl.edu) within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Policy Related to Required Class Attendance

All faculty are bound by the UF policy for excused absences. For greater detail on excused absences, see the [Attendance Policies](#) posted by the Registrar's Office.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS, ROLES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

Expectations Regarding Course Behavior

Communication Guidelines

Online Participation

Professional and respectful behavior is expected of all students participating in this online course. Please be aware that all assignments and homework are due on the specified date and time. Late submissions are almost universally not accepted. [High speed internet and a web cam are essential for this online course and ensuring internet connectivity and bandwidth is your responsibility.](#) Late submissions and inability to participate in discussion boards or inability to take exams due to poor internet connectivity is not accepted. Therefore, please refrain from waiting until the due date to submit your assignments or taking exams as it will be difficult for us to accommodate your requests because of technical problems from your side.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity. As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge:

“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”

You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For additional information regarding Academic Integrity, please see [Student Conduct and Honor Codes](#) information at the Dean of Students Office website or the [Academic Expectations](#) information at the Graduate School website for additional details.

Please remember cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

Mid-Course Evaluation

Students in this course will be provided with the opportunity to provide feedback on the course mechanics and their learning experience. This evaluation will occur as a way to identify ways in which the course may be improved for this cohort during this semester.

Online Faculty Course Evaluation Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu by clicking on GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, you must register with the [Dean of Students Office Disability Resource Center](#) (DRC) within the first week of class. The DRC will provide documentation of accommodations to you, which you then give to me as the instructor of the course to receive accommodations. Please make sure you provide this letter to me by the end of the second week of the course. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

Counseling and Student Health

Students sometimes experience stress from academic expectations and/or personal and interpersonal issues that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing issues that have the potential to or are already negatively affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and/or seek help through University resources available to you.

[The Counseling and Wellness Center](#) (352-392-1575) offers a variety of support services such as psychological assessment and intervention and assistance for math and test anxiety. Online and in person assistance is available.

If you are feeling overwhelmed or stressed, you can reach out for help through the [You Matter We Care](#) website, which is staffed by Dean of Students and Counseling Center personnel.

The Student Health Care Center at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 392-0627 or check out the [Student Health Care Center](#) website.

Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from the [Alachua County Crisis Center](#) at (352) 264-6789.

Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.

INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Public health and health professions are based on belief in human dignity and on respect for the individual. As we share our personal beliefs inside or outside of the classroom, it is always with the understanding that we value and respect diversity of background, experience, and opinion, where every individual feels valued. We believe in, and promote, openness and tolerance of differences in ethnicity and culture, and we respect differing personal, spiritual, religious and political values. We further believe that celebrating such diversity enriches the quality of the educational experiences we provide our students and enhances our own personal and professional relationships. We embrace the University of Florida's Non-Discrimination Policy, which reads:

“The University shall actively promote equal opportunity policies and practices conforming to laws against discrimination. The University is committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans’ Readjustment Assistance Act.”

If you have questions or concerns about your rights and responsibilities for inclusive learning environment, please see your instructor or refer to the [Office of Multicultural & Diversity Affairs](#) website.