

University of Florida
College of Public Health & Health Professions Syllabus
PHC 6937: Hospital Epidemiology (3 credit hours)

Semester: Fall 2017

Wednesdays 11:45 am to 1:40 pm

Delivery Format: On-Campus; HPNP G-210

Course Website: E-learning in Canvas

Instructor Name: Cindy Prins, PhD, MPH, CIC, CPH

Room Number: HPNP 4107

Phone Number: 352-294-8576

Email Address: capfive@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays, 11 am to 12 pm, or by appointment

Prerequisites: PHC 6001–Principles of Epidemiology in Public Health

PURPOSE AND OUTCOME

Course Overview

The purpose of this course is to discuss major topics in Hospital Epidemiology related to the control and prevention of healthcare-associated infections. This course is intended for graduate students who have taken at least one course in Epidemiology and who have familiarity with Microbiology terms and techniques (see pre-requisites for more details). Topics in hospital epidemiology will be presented through online lectures that will provide necessary background information about a particular topic, through in-class discussions of journal articles and CDC Guidelines for the Prevention of Healthcare-Associated Infections, and through experiential learning with visits to UF Health Shands.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify the major routes of infection in the healthcare setting
- Explain the practices and challenges involved in the control of multi-drug resistant organisms in healthcare
- Describe the role the healthcare environment plays in preventing or promoting infections
- Examine the benefits and drawbacks of mandatory public reporting of healthcare associated infections
- Design an epidemiologic investigation in a healthcare setting

Course Materials

There is no required text book for this course.

We will read one non-fiction book: The Checklist Manifesto: How to Get Things Right, by Atul Gawande, ISBN-13: 978-0312430009. This is available as a hard cover, paperback, e-book, or audio book. You should choose the version that best suits your needs.

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

- Learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT

Topical Outline/Course Schedule

Date	Topic
Wednesday, August 23	Introduction to Healthcare Epidemiology
Wednesday, August 30	Surveillance and Reporting of Healthcare-Associated Infections and Adverse Events
Wednesday, September 6	Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections; Urinary Tract Infections
Wednesday, September 13	Surgical Site Infections; Ventilator-Associated Events
Wednesday, September 20	Medical Microbiology
Wednesday, September 26	Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms (VRE, MRSA, C. difficile and resistant Gram-negatives)
Wednesday, October 4	Hospital tour
Wednesday, October 11	Isolation Precautions; Hand Hygiene; Class Debate
Wednesday, October 18	Epidemiological Investigations in Healthcare Settings
Wednesday, October 25	Safety Products; Personal Protective Equipment
Wednesday, November 1	Cleaning, Disinfection, and Sterilization
Wednesday, November 8	APHA Meeting - No Class
Wednesday, November 15	Environmental Aspects of Hospital Epidemiology, including construction
Wednesday, November 22	Thanksgiving Break – No Class
Wednesday, November 29	Book Discussion
Wednesday, December 6	Topics Related to Special Populations (e.g., NICU, Dialysis, Bone Marrow Transplant Unit)

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Requirements

The class will meet in-person for two hours each week varying activities which include a student-led discussions of the literature, case studies in hospital epidemiology, and visits to areas of interest at UF Health Shands hospital. Students should come to class prepared for that day's topic and activity. Preparation for class includes completing all assigned readings and assignments, and watching video presentations before class. In addition, students will complete a semester project which consists of a virtual investigation of an outbreak scenario. All due dates and requirements will be posted on the course site in Canvas.

Requirement	% of final grade
Lead and Participate in Journal article Discussions	30%
Homework	25%
Class Debate	10%
Semester Project	30%
Attendance	5%

Journal Article Discussions – As part of the in-person class meetings there will be a student-led discussion of the literature, based on the topic presented in the online portion of the course that week. Each student will present 2-3 articles over the course of the semester for the student-led discussion portion. Topics and dates will be assigned during the first class and the students will work with the instructor to identify appropriate articles to present. Discussion leaders will develop 8 to 10 discussion questions, due the week before class, which will be posed to students in class as a way to facilitate conversation about the article. In class, discussion leaders will give a short presentation on the context of the article within the field of Healthcare Epidemiology, including why they chose the article and other important research studies related to the article, and on the goals of the article itself. Each journal article discussion is expected to last approximately one class period and all students are expected to contribute to the discussions. The discussion leader will be graded on their level of preparation and ability to engage the class in conversation.

Homework – All students will be expected to complete the assigned reading before class and to prepare a one- to two-page summary of the article, due the Tuesday before class. The article summary should include a background section that explains the research question or topic, a summary of the articles findings, and an opinion section that discusses the strengths and weaknesses of the article, how the article relates to the online course content that was presented that week, and any points that the student was unclear about when reading the article.

Class Debate – Students will engage in a class debate on a controversial topic in hospital epidemiology. Students will be randomly assigned to support one side of the topic and will be expected to prepare for the debate with their group by researching the topic and developing effective arguments in favor of their side and effective rebuttals against the other team's points.

Semester Project - Each student will be assigned one healthcare epidemiology investigation project to complete over the course of the semester. Students will be given some background on a healthcare epidemiology outbreak or concern and will use current literature as well as their own imagination to act as a Healthcare Epidemiologist who has been tasked with developing and writing up a plan for investigating that outbreak or concern. This is meant to be an imaginative exercise that ties together several topics from the course and students should not simply borrow an investigation from the literature. Full details of the project will be discussed in class.

Grading

The grading scale for this course is as follows:

93% - 100% = A (4.00)
 90% - 92% = A- (3.67)
 87% - 89% = B+ (3.33)
 83% - 86% = B (3.00)
 80% - 82% = B- (2.67)
 77% - 79% = C+ (2.33)
 73% - 76% = C (2.00)
 70% - 72% = C- (1.67)
 67% - 69% = D+ (1.33)
 63% - 66% = D (1.00)
 60% - 62% = D- (0.67)
 Below 60% = E (0.00)

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E	W F	I	N G	S- U
Grade Points	4.00	3.67	3.33	3.00	2.67	2.33	2.00	1.67	1.33	1.00	0.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

For greater detail on the meaning of letter grades and university policies related to them, see the Registrar's Grade Policy regulations at:
<http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Policy Related to Make up Exams or Other Work

Make-up exams and opportunities to make up assignments will only be given in the event of illness that is documented by a physician.

Policy Related to Required Class Attendance

Attendance is required for all class sessions. Exceptions are made per the University's policy, including "illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Other reasons also may be approved."

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS, ROLES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

Expectations Regarding Course Behavior

Students are expected to arrive on time to class and remain throughout the scheduled class time. If you need to arrive late or leave early for any reason, please inform the instructor prior to class. The use of cell phones and laptops is prohibited in the classroom unless otherwise specified. You may use your laptop in the classroom but use should be limited to viewing course slides and taking notes. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in consequences up to and including failure of the course.

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 Code or the Graduate Student Website for additional details:

<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>
<http://gradschool.ufl.edu/students/introduction.html>

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

Turnitin

Academic integrity is a serious issue that has been a growing problem at Universities. I have a zero tolerance policy for breaches of academic integrity, including plagiarism and cheating. There are multiple video resources posted on our Canvas site that discuss plagiarism and how to properly quote and cite other people's work. With each assignment and exam you complete you are pledging that you hold yourself and your classmates to the highest standards of academic integrity. I use an online tool called Turnitin to check student work for originality; in other words, your work should be in your own words and not copied from any source. Every student needs to watch the videos on plagiarism and on using Turnitin and needs to check their own Turnitin report, made available through the Canvas site automatically when you submit anything through assignments. You should submit assignments early enough to have time before the due date to make revisions to them if your Turnitin report shows areas of high similarity to online resources. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will be reported to the Dean of Students Office and will be subject to academic penalties in the course, at minimum.

Online Faculty Course Evaluation Process

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/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 <http://www.dso.ufl.edu> within the first week of class. The Dean of Students Office 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. Visit their web site for more information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu>. On line and in person assistance is available.
- You Matter We Care website: <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>. 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 web site at: <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>

- Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from:
Alachua County Crisis Center
(352) 264-6789
<http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx>

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.

Incomplete Grades

Per the University Catalog, "An incomplete grade may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor as an interim grade for a course in which you have completed a major portion of the course with a passing grade, been unable to complete course requirements before the end of the term because of extenuating circumstances, and obtained agreement from the instructor and arranged for resolution of the incomplete grade. Instructors are not required to assign incomplete grades. If make-up work requires classroom or laboratory attendance in a subsequent term, you must not register for the course again. Instead, you should audit the course and pay course fees. If the make-up work does not require classroom or laboratory attendance, you and your instructor should decide on an appropriate plan and deadline for completing the course. When the course is completed, the instructor will initiate the change of grade. These procedures cannot be used to repeat a course for a different grade. An I grade should not be assigned to a student who never attended class; instead, instructors should assign a failing grade."

"A grade of I* or N* is not considered a failing grade for the term in which it is received, and it is not computed in the grade point average. However, if the I* or N* has not been changed by the end of the next term for which you are enrolled and receive grades, it will be counted as a failing grade and used in computation of your grade point average."
