Social epidemiology is a relatively new sub-field in epidemiology, which can be defined as “the branch of epidemiology that considers how social interactions and collective human activities affect health” (Oakes & Kaufman, 2006). “Social epidemiology looks at how society shapes, and is shaped by, the control and spread of disease. Understanding the role of geopolitics, national and nationalist politics, and economics—as well as inequalities based on race, gender, nationality, and immigrant status—is central to understanding disease in the world today, in the past, and in the future,” (Riley 2021) ”. Social epidemiologists are concerned about investigating the social determinants of health (Marmot & Wilkinson, 2006) and consider population-level rather than individual-level factors and outcomes. Social processes including social networks, social support, social capital, social cohesion, and other ways of understanding ecological factors will be discussed. This course provides a broad exposure to the field of social epidemiology and allows students an opportunity for a targeted study of a particular problem from a social epidemiological framework. Designed as a third class in epidemiological methods, students should already be familiar with basic epidemiologic research methods before they enroll.

Course Objectives and/or Goals
Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to
1. Discuss and evaluate the social determinants of health considered in the public health literature.
2. Describe at least two methods used in social epidemiology and the limitations of each.
3. Analyze the strengths and limitations of a variety of measurement strategies for the study of social processes.
4. Add to a meaningful scholarly debate on the need for community engaged and community-based participatory research methods in public health.
5. Describe approaches informed by social epidemiology, such as Health Impact Assessments, that have the potential to inform public policy and drive prevention programs and interventions.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT

Course Materials
All readings are cited under the topic and date for which they should be read. PDFs of each are available on the CANVAS page for this course on the elearning.ufl.edu web page. There is no required Text.

Recommended for Additional Reading:

Social Epidemiology
Edited by Lisa F. Berkman, Ichiro Kawachi and Glymour M. Maria.

Methods in Social Epidemiology
San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2006

All readings are subject to change. Readings will be published on the Canvas e-Learning website before the class session when they will be needed. 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

References


# Topical Outline/Course Schedule

**NOTE:** New readings will be posted on canvas a week ahead of the class. Please refer to canvas for updated readings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Date</th>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
<th>Required Reading (Should be read for class the day listed)</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Macintyre S. Deprivation amplification revisited: Or, it is always true that poorer places have poorer access to resources for health diets and physical activity? Int J Behav Nutr Phys Act. 2007;4:32. | #2. Research question(s) and hypotheses for final paper due |
Class cancelled due to Hurricane Ian |
| Week 12 11/17 | Student Presentations | In class student presentations – Final Project | #7. Student Presentations (in class) |
| Week 13 11/24 | | Thanksgiving No Class | |
| Week 14 12/01 | Student Presentations | In class student presentations – Final Project | #7. Student Presentations (in class) |
| Week 15 12/08 | Final Paper | FINAL PAPER DUE ON CANVAS | #8. Final Paper |

**ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

**Assignments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment #</th>
<th>Final paper</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students will complete a final paper (3000 to 3500 words) that can take one of the following two formats: 1) Narrative literature review 2) Empirical data analysis These papers should address an important and timely research topic in the field of social epidemiology and should follow the layout of a typical paper in an epidemiology journal: Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion. Detailed instructions for the format of the final paper will be provided throughout the semester. • Should incorporate social epidemiology concepts and terms discussed in class • The rationale for the investigation should be sufficiently supported by social epidemiology theories and socio-behavioral theories</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Topic proposal for the final paper</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1a</td>
<td><strong>Literature presentation.</strong> Present 5 – 7 slides on literature on your selected public health problem. Present basic facts and some critical analysis on at least 3 articles. Have the PowerPoint presentation ready to present in the class.</td>
<td>Sept. 15</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1b</td>
<td>Through Canvas, you will download a grading matrix and grade the person(s) assigned to you through Canvas.</td>
<td>Sept. 15</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Research question(s) and hypotheses for final paper</strong>&lt;br&gt;Draft one or two descriptive research questions guiding your final paper and present a hypothesis if any. &lt;br&gt;Your submission should not be more than one page, font size 12, double line spacing.</td>
<td>Sept 22</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Introduction to final paper (1st draft).</strong> Prepare a description on the social epidemiological perspective on your choice of public health problem. Discuss national/global variation. The rationale for the investigation should be sufficiently supported by social epidemiology theories and socio-behavioral theories. Three typewritten pages maximum, font size 12, and double line spacing. Provide at least 5 citations.</td>
<td>Sept 29</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>Methods of final paper (1st draft).</strong> Describe the methods of your final paper in detail. Two to three type-written pages maximum, double line spacing font size 12. Provide at least 5 citations.</td>
<td>Oct. 20</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Results of final paper (1st draft).</strong> Present your results (qualitative/quantitative findings if your paper is based on empirical data analysis), or your narrative review findings. Three to four type written pages maximum excluding tables/figures, double line spacing, font size 12. Tables and figures are to be presented on separate pages.</td>
<td>Nov 03</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td><strong>Discussion, Conclusion, and implications of final paper (1st draft).</strong> Discuss your findings in a succinct manner using background literature to support/explain your findings. Using an ecological or syndemic approach, consider what other problems/epidemics may act synergistically with the problem you investigated. &lt;br&gt;Include limitations, conclusion, and implications like any manuscript. &lt;br&gt;Four type written pages maximum, double line spacing and font size 12.</td>
<td>Nov. 10</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>Student Presentations.</strong> Each student gets 15 minutes (10 minutes presentation+5 minutes discussion and Q&amp;A) to present their project they worked on during the course. The presentation will be in a seminar format and includes: background to the public health problem, literature review, social epidemiological perspective of the problem, research question, hypothesis, methods, results, conclusion and implications. &lt;br&gt;Students peer evaluate and provide comments to each presenter on the peer evaluation form provided during presentations.</td>
<td>Nov 17 &amp; Dec 01</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please upload the PowerPoint presentation and final paper after you are done presenting in the class.

| 8 | Final paper. Incorporate instructor and student comments on all your assignments and submit final paper on Canvas. Your final paper should also have an abstract and keywords, and be no less than 15 typed pages (excluding references, tables, figures), font no smaller than size 12. | Dec. 08 | 10% |

Point system used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points earned</th>
<th>93-100</th>
<th>90-92</th>
<th>87-89</th>
<th>83-86</th>
<th>80-82</th>
<th>77-79</th>
<th>73-76</th>
<th>70-72</th>
<th>67-69</th>
<th>63-66</th>
<th>60-62</th>
<th>Below 60</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letter Grade</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>E</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3.33</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<td>2.33</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>1.33</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

Policy Related to Make up Exams or Other Work
Assignments are due by midnight on the date specified. Requests for extension should be made before the close of the assignment unless an emergency makes that impossible. Requests due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem.

Policy Related to Required Class Attendance
Please note all faculty members are bound by the UF policy for excused absences. For information regarding the UF Attendance Policy see the Registrar website for additional details:
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS, ROLES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT
Expectations Regarding Course Behavior
Communication Guidelines

COVID-19 policy
In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html), please stay home and use an at-home Covid test or make an appointment in the community for a Covid-19 PCR test: https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/testing-sites/ If you are feeling acutely ill then please contact your physician or the Student Health Care Center (see “When to Seek Emergency Medical Attention” at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html
If you test negative for COVID-19 but are still not feeling well, then please remain out of class until your symptoms resolve and you feel well enough to attend. If you test positive for COVID-19, you can use the CDC Quarantine and Isolation calculator to determine your isolation period and receive guidance on masking: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html. It is recommended but not required that you take an at-home test on Day 6 of isolation to determine if you are still infectious. If that test is positive then you should stay home until the test is negative or through Day 10 of isolation, whichever comes first. Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work (https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/).

Below expectations apply if we meet via Zoom/students participate via Zoom

**Online Participation**
Professional and respectful behavior is expected of all students participating when participating online. Please be aware that all assignments and homework are due on the specified date and time. High speed internet and a web cam are essential for online participation and ensuring internet connectivity and bandwidth is your responsibility.

**Zoom Professional Behavior: Remote Learning Expectations and Requirements**
As graduate students, you are expected to:

- Dress appropriately for attending class on Zoom- just like you would be attending in person. Your upper body is viewable through the webcam.
- Arrive on time for sessions.
- Mute your microphone on entry to Zoom and when not talking. Frame the camera on your face and ensure there is sufficient lighting.
- Keep your webcam on throughout the class- this will ensure that you are prepared when we use breakout rooms.
- Engage actively in class. Active participation includes sharing verbally, typing in the chat box, or sharing your screen with example work or content.
- Attend class in a conducive learning environment. The preferable environment is sitting in a chair at a desk or table. If this is not possible, you may sit on a sofa or bed, but you should not be under covers or lying down unless there are extenuating circumstances (i.e., medical). Maintain a non-distracting background.
- Minimize and prevent distractions by dedicating time and attention to the class and the online learning activities (i.e., do not allow “visitors” in your classroom environment, such as youth or pets, do not attend class in a vehicle; do not multi-task with household chores or by driving during class time).
- Maintain access to notes for reference during the virtual class time.
- Use electronic devices only for classroom activities. Refrain from additional emailing, texting, or browsing the internet during virtual class time.
- Direct conversations to class content and activities while in breakout sessions. The instructor will periodically join your breakout room. Feel free to request assistance at any point.

**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:

“Oh 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.

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 under GatorEvals, or via https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, it is strongly recommended you register with the Dean of Students Office http://www.dso.ufl.edu within the first week of class or as soon as you believe you might be eligible for accommodations. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation of accommodations to you, which you must then give to me as the instructor of the course to receive accommodations. Please do this as soon as possible after you receive the letter. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. 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.

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.