Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Epidemiology 2200B
Introduction to Epidemiology

Lecture: Tuesday: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Location: North Campus Building NCB-113

Tutorial: Thursday 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Location: North Campus Building NCB-113

Instructor: Neil Klar
Office Hours: By appointment
E-mail: nklar@uwo.ca
Phone Extension: 86275

Course Information

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from the Undergraduate Chair to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Syllabus

Date Topics and Readings (Gordis) Tutorials and Assignments

Jan. 7 Introduction to Epidemiology (Chapter 1)
Jan. 9 Tutorial 1 – John Snow Movie and Assignment 1 Posted
Jan. 14 Dynamics of Disease Transmission (*Chapter 2)*
Jan. 16 Tutorial 2 – Assignment 1 due and Assignment 2 Posted
Jan. 21 Occurrence of Disease (Chapters 3 & 4)
Jan. 23 Tutorial 3 – Assignment 2 due and Assignment 3 Posted
Jan. 28 Validity and Reliability of Diagnostic and Screening Tests *(Chapter 5)*
Jan. 30 Tutorial 4 – Assignment 3 due
Feb. 4 Natural History of Disease *(Chapter 6)*
Feb. 6 Tutorial 5 – Midterm Review
Feb. 11 Mid-Term Exam (In Class)
Feb. 13 Tutorial Cancelled
CONFERENCE WEEK Feb. 17-21
Feb. 25 Observational Studies *(Chapter 7)*
Feb. 27 Tutorial 6 - Assignment 4 posted
March 3 Cohort Studies and comparison to case-control studies (Chapters 8 & 9)
March 5 Tutorial 7 – Assignment 4 due and Assignment 5 posted
March 10 Randomized Trials *(Chapters 10 & 11)*
March 12 Tutorial 8 – Assignment 5 due and Assignment 6 Posted
March 17 Estimating Risk *(Chapters 12 & 13)*
March 19 Tutorial 9 – Assignment 6 due

March 24 From Association to Causation (Chapter 14)
March 26 Tutorial 10
March 31 Bias, confounding and interaction (Chapter 15)
April 2 Tutorial 11
April 7 Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (Chapter 19, pp. 387-389)
April 9 Course Review
Notes will be posted on OWL before each lecture.
Assignments may make use of additional readings not listed above.

Course Materials

Celentano DD, Szklo M.
Gordis *Epidemiology, 6th Edition*,
Philadelphia: Elsevier Saunders 2019.

Methods of Evaluation

Weekly Tutorial One Question Quiz (Best Seven of Ten) 10% of course grade

Assignments 6 in all for a total of 20% of course grade

Mid-term exam* (multiple choice/short answer) 25% of course grade

Final exam* (multiple choice/short answer) 45% of course grade
Must pass final exam to pass the course

Policy on Accommodation for Medical and Non-Medical Absences

Refer to Western's Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf (updated as of September 1, 2019).

All non-medical absences must be approved in advance. In the case of an unexpected absence on compassionate grounds, documentation may be requested. If documentation is required by the instructor for either medical or non-medical academic accommodation, then such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean's office and not to the instructor. It will be the Dean's office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence:

- Undergraduate students: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

- Graduate students: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com).

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Support Services

As part of a successful student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. Please check out the Faculty of Music web page http://www.music.uwo.ca/, and our own McIntosh Gallery http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/. Information regarding health- and wellness-related services available to students may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/

Registrarial Services: http://www.registrar.uwo.ca
USC Student Support Services: http://westernusc.ca/services/
Student Development Centre: http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/

Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate or undergraduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Department & Faculty Offices

The Epidemiology & Biostatistics main office is located in K201 in the Kresge Building on Main campus.

For undergraduate academic counseling assistance, students will need to speak with the Bachelor of Medical Sciences Office: http://www.schulich.uwo.ca/bmsc/general-counselling.

Technology Requirements

You are responsible for all required course materials and announcements posted to the course's OWL website. Please ensure after the first class that when you log in you are able to access the course site. A copy of the course outline will be available on both OWL and the departmental website.

Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy

The Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry is committed to ensuring that testing and evaluation are undertaken fairly across all our departments and programs. For all tests and exams, it is the policy of the School and the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics that any electronic devices, i.e., cell phones, tablets, cameras, or iPod are strictly prohibited. These devices MUST be left either at home or with the student's bag/jacket at the front of the room and MUST NOT be at the test/exam desk or in the individual's pocket.

Any student found with one of these prohibited devices will receive a grade of zero on the test or exam. Non-programmable calculators are only allowed when indicated by the instructor. The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics is not responsible for stolen/lost or broken devices.