

## Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

### Epidemiology 3200A

Epidemiology II

**Fall 2021**

**Lecture:**

Wednesday, 9am-10:30am, NCB 117

Friday, 9am-10:30am, NCB 293

**Instructor:** Igor Karp, MD MPH PhD

**Office Hours:** By appointment

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### Course Description

The purpose of the course is to introduce the students to the general concepts, terms, and basic principles of epidemiological research.

### Course Information

Prerequisites:

- Statistics/Biology 2244A/B with a mark of at least 75%
- Epidemiology 2200A/B

Corequisite:

- Biostatistics 3100A

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean 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 Learning Outcomes/Objectives

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

- Evaluate strengths and limitations of epidemiology relevant to academic and lay controversies or debates.
- Discuss the interdisciplinary nature of epidemiology.
- Engage in self-directed learning.

## Course Materials

Strongly recommended textbook:

- Rothman KJ. *Epidemiology: An introduction*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012
- Or: Rothman KJ. *Epidemiology: An introduction*. 1<sup>st</sup> edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002

Additional materials will be provided on the course's OWL website.

## Methods of Evaluation

- 10% - Home assignment #1
- 10% - Home assignment #2
- 30% - Midterm exam (multiple-choice and short answers)
- 50% - Midterm exam (multiple-choice and short answers)

## Course Timeline and Format

Week	Date	Lecture Topic
1	Sept. 8; Sept. 10	Course introduction and orientation
2	Sept 15; Sept. 17	The practice of epidemiology and concepts surrounding it
3	Sept. 22; Sept 24	Concepts surrounding epidemiological research
4	Sept. 29; Oct. 1	Essence of epidemiological research
5	Oct. 6; Oct. 8	Absolute measures of occurrence of epidemiologic phenomena
6	Oct. 13; Oct. 15	Relative measures of occurrence of epidemiologic phenomena
7	Oct. 20; Oct. 22	Concepts of causality
8	Oct. 27; Oct. 29	Etiology as a pragmatic concern
9	Nov. 3; Nov. 5	<i>Reading week – No classes</i>
10	Nov. 10; Nov. 12	<i>Midterm exam / Discussion</i>
11	Nov. 17; Nov. 19	Typology of epidemiological studies
12	Nov. 24; Nov. 26	Etiology as the object of study
13	Dec. 1; Dec. 13	Case-control studies.
14	Dec. 8	Cohort studies
15	TBA	<i>Final exam</i>

## Western Academic Policies and Statements

### Absence from Course Commitments

#### [Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences](#)

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, you must seek approval for the absence as soon as possible. Approval can be granted either through a **self-reported absence or via the Academic Counselling unit**. Students have two self-reports to use throughout the academic year; absence from course commitments including tests, quizzes, presentations, labs, and assignments that are worth 30% or less can be self-reported. Self-reported absences cover a student for 48 hours (yesterday + today or today + tomorrow). Your instructor will receive notification of your consideration; however, you should contact your instructor immediately regarding your absence. Students are expected to submit missed work within 24 hours of the end of the 48-hour period. Please review Western's [Academic Consideration for Student Absences](#) policy for more details.

If you have used both their self-reported absences or will miss more than 48 hours of course requirements, a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) should be signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner and you should contact academic counselling. Academic Counselling will be operating virtually this year and can be contacted at [scibmsac@uwo.ca](mailto:scibmsac@uwo.ca).

### Special Examinations

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examinations dates. These dates as well as other important information about examinations and academic standing can be found [here](#).

### 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, at the following Web site: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.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.

### **Statement on Copyright and Audio/Video Recording**

All of the remote learning sessions for this course will be recorded. The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course, including evaluations. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals participating in the course for their private or group study purposes. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings.

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. You must always ask permission to record another individual and you should never share or distribute recordings.

Course material produced by faculty is copyrighted and to reproduce this material for any purposes other than your own educational use contravenes Canadian Copyright Laws.

### **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/>.

Registrarial Services: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

USC Student Support Services: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Academic Support and Engagement: <http://academicsupport.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. Health and Wellness-related information and services are available at <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

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

### **Accessible Education Western (AEW)**

Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members. More information and access to services is available on the AEW website: [http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html)

## **Department & Faculty Offices**

The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics is located on the third floor of the Western Centre for Public Health & Family Medicine (PHFM) on Western University's Main Campus.

## **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.