Welcome to Disease Epidemiology

This class is the study of disease transmission and how disease effect people and populations. It will include covering concepts of risk factors, disease transmission, mathematical modeling, outbreaks epidemiology, descriptive epidemiology, and surveillance epidemiology. While the focus of the course is infectious diseases, non-infectious diseases will be included as well.

This class will use a combination of lectures, guest lectures, small group discussions, and videos to assist in the process of learning. Students will be assigned groups for a group report on a specific disease, where they write a report on the biology and epidemiology of an assigned disease. Terminology is important in epidemiology, so a vocabulary quiz will be given as well.

Instructor Information
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Office Hours: ESCNE 1.326, TBD

TEXTBOOKS
Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Theory and Practice by Nelson and Williams (3rd ed)

OFFICE HOURS
Monday through Friday
9:00—10:00

UTRGV Policy requires that all university email communication be done using UTRGV email addresses.

Objectives:
By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Identify critical aspects of history and biology in disease epidemiology
- Understand key terms and how they are used
- Understand the specific epidemiology of some important historical and current diseases

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ASSIGNMENTS:
Your grade at the end of the course will be based on the total points you have, using the scale described under “grading scale”. The assignments in this course are listed below, along with their point values.

- Test 1 50 points
- Test 2 50 points
- Quizzes (5) 50 points
- Pre-discussion 20 points
- Post-discussion 20 points
- Group leader discussion 10 points
- Research Report 30 points
- Annotated Bibliography 20 points

Total points: 250

Assignments must be turned in on time. Late assignments will be graded with a 10% penalty for each day late. If you will be absent for a test, you may arrange to take it in advance.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:
UTRGV is dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect. Those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

GRADING SCALE:
Students will be graded based on percentage of points they receive out of the 300 possible.

- 225-250 points A
- 200-224 points B
- 175-199 points C
- 150-174 points D
- <150 points F

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STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services. Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. Edinburg Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

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ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is mandatory. Students are best prepared for success in the course by attending the lectures. Excessive absences may be penalized through a reduction of your overall grade in the course and may result in your being dropped from the course.

Excused absences must provide written documentation within 1 week of the absence. Valid excused absences will require a note from an authorized source, including a note from doctor, work supervisor note, note from University official, note from a public official, receipts for auto or tire repairs, travel receipts. Excused absences also include officially sponsored university activities (such as athletics), religious holidays, or military service. Student should contact the instructor in advance of an excused absence to arrange to make up missed work.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT:

Students are expected to be attentive and courteous during class. Cell phones, MP3 players, or video game units are not allowed. Student may use tablets or computers to take notes.

Lectures may not be videotaped unless you received specific permission from the instructor or guess presenter.

Students are expected to arrive on time for classes. Arriving late and disrupting the class when you enter is rude and distracting. Excessive tardiness may be penalized in the same fashion as excessive absences.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has set learning outcomes required for education. This courses meets the following learning outcomes:

♦ Critical Thinking Skills: In this course you will learn to assess the importance of different control strategies for diseases, and identify possible outcomes. You will learn that there is no “one size fits all” approach to disease epidemiology, and identify what features must be known or determined in order to control an outbreak.

♦ Communication Skills: You will prepare written reports and work in small groups to discuss recent epidemiological research.

♦ Teamwork: You will work in small groups for your disease reports, as well as small groups for in class discussions.

♦ Social Responsibility: You will understand the need to disease programs such as surveillance, vaccination, and outbreak response, as well as the role that epidemiologists play in the control of disease.

MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATIONS:

Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available: Fall 2017 Module 1—Oct. 5 –Oct. 11; Fall 2017 Module 2—Nov. 29-Dec. 5; Fall 2017 (Full Semester) - Nov. 15-Dec. 6.

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UTRGV Calendar can be found at https://my.utrgv.edu/home (before login) with deadlines for dropping, holidays, etc. Final schedule is online at UTRGV.