

CANCER EPIDEMIOLOGY

Course No. BE-8098001

Course No. PH-8088001

2 Graduate Credits

Spring Semester, 2020

Professor: Susan Pinney, PhD
Professor
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Office Hours: Dr. Pinney, Wednesday, 6-7 pm or by appointment

Communication Policy: Students are encouraged to contact me at anytime via email. A response will be given within 36-48 hours except on weekends.

Please make sure you are registered under the correct course number.

- **ONLY MPH program matriculated students should be registered under PH 8082.**
- **All other students should be registered under BE 8082.**
- **You can change this in ONE STOP.**

Prerequisites: Introduction to Epidemiology or Epidemiology for Public Health
(Can be taken simultaneously with this course)

Hours: Wednesday, 3:00 – 4:50 pm.

Room: Room G17, Kettering Building.

I. Course Description: An overview of the sources of information (state and national systems for reporting cancer incidence and mortality, medical record information, death certificates) for descriptive statistics of cancer incidence and mortality, survival. Discussion of the principles of screening for cancer. Examination of studies showing associations of lifestyle and environmental risk factors with various types of cancer; discussion of various types of study designs including those to examine genetic variants. Each student selects a cancer site for a mock media interview.

Course Objectives:

1. Acquire information about the population distribution of cancer, etiology and prevention.
2. Examine the roles of lifestyle risk factors, genetic variants, and environmental exposures in the causation of cancer.
3. Study methodologic issues in the conduct of research of cancer etiology, prevention, and control.

II. Textbooks:

PDF files of some readings assignments will be posted on Blackboard, in the Course Documents section. You also will be assigned readings from monographs, websites, scientific journal articles and newspaper articles.

Course Schedule: See separate document.

III. Course Requirements (Total possible 100 points):

1. **Weekly reading assignments, class attendance and participation in class discussion reflecting content of reading assignments (5 points).** Your learning will be proportional to your participation. Assigned readings from textbooks are meant to be background reading. Other required assigned readings are the basis for class discussion, so important to be read before class. You are expected to participate in class discussions. Participating in class discussions will prepare you for the analytic problems in the final exam. If you are on-call please put phone/pagers on vibrate. If you are going to miss a class due to another commitment, please inform Dr. Pinney at least one day prior to the class. ***You may miss no more than 2 classes without absences affecting your grade.***
2. **Quizzes (20 points)** – Two announced quizzes will be given, each worth 10 points.
3. **Final Exam (30 points)**
4. **Written Assignments (Total 45 points):** Written homework assignments (described below) are designed to provide you with ongoing feedback.
 - a. **Assignment A: Questions on Carcinogenesis (5 points)**
 - b. **Assignment B: Protocol for matching controls to cancer cases on one characteristic. (5 points)**
 - c. **Assignment C: Critique of Two Epidemiology Studies of Cancer. (25 points).** For this assignment, read and critique two published reports of a studies of cancer.
 - d. **Assignment D: Media Interview on Cancer (10 points).** An event has occurred which has resulted in Cancer X being of news interest. During an interview, you will first provide some background information on Cancer X (5 minutes) and answer questions from a reporter.

Assignment D: Media Interview Topics:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Testicular cancer | Pancreatic Cancer |
| Cervical cancer | Inflammatory breast cancer |
| Ovarian cancer | Hepatocellular (liver) cancer |
| Nephroblastoma (Wilms' tumor) | Esophageal cancer |
| Brain cancer (adult glioma) | Gastric (stomach) cancer |
| Brain cancer (child DFIG) | Multiple myeloma |
| Lymphoma | Mesothelioma |
| Osteosarcoma | Cancer of the appendix |
| Ewing sarcoma | Neuroblastoma |

If you have another cancer related topic you would like to use, please speak to me.

Late assignments will result in a 5% reduction for each 24 hour period that the assignment is late.

IV. Rubrics: Each assignment contains a grading rubric.

| General assignment grading Rubric | |
|--|---|
| Points | Criteria |
| 100% of possible points | <p>Consistently does all or almost all of the following:</p> <p>Provides exactly the information requested and in the format requested.</p> <p>Follows principles/methods presented in class and readings.</p> <p>Demonstrates high level of understanding of the logic/rationale behind principles of cancer epidemiology</p> <p>Presents polished final documents</p> <p>Uses reference citations whenever appropriate</p> |
| 75% of points | <p>Consistently does most of the following:</p> <p>Provides almost all the information requested and in the format requested.</p> <p>Usually follows principles/methods presented in class and readings.</p> <p>Demonstrates very good level of understanding of the logic/rationale in cancer epidemiology</p> <p>Presents well-developed final documents.</p> <p>Uses reference citations whenever appropriate</p> |
| 50% of points | <p>Does most or many of the following:</p> <p>Provides some of the information requested and sometimes in the format requested.</p> <p>Sometimes follows principles/methods presented in class and readings.</p> <p>Demonstrates some understanding of the logic/rationale in cancer epidemiology</p> <p>Presents underdeveloped final documents.</p> <p>Sometimes includes reference citations whenever appropriate</p> |
| 25% of points or less | <p>Consistently does all or almost all of the following:</p> <p>Provides little of the information requested and sometimes in the format requested.</p> <p>Often does not follow principles/methods presented in class and readings.</p> <p>Demonstrates little understanding of the logic/rationale in cancer epidemiology</p> <p>Presents poorly developed final documents.</p> <p>Rarely includes reference citations whenever appropriate</p> |

Grading:

http://www.uc.edu/registrar/faculty_resources/grading_scales.html#grad.

Grading Scale

| <u>Overall Percentage / Points</u> | <u>Letter Grade</u> |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 93% and above | A |
| 90% | A- |
| 87% | B+ |
| 83% | B |

| | |
|-----------|----|
| 80% | B- |
| 77% | C+ |
| 73% | C |
| 70% | C- |
| Below 70% | F |

V. Student Learning Outcomes:

| Upon successful completion of this course, the learner will be able to: | How is this outcome assessed? |
|--|--|
| Acquire information about the population distribution of cancer, etiology and prevention. | Quizzes, Final Examination, Assignment A (Questions regarding carcinogenesis), Media Interview |
| Examine the roles of lifestyle risk factors, genetic variants, and environmental exposures in the causation of cancer. | Quizzes, Final Examination, Media Interview, Assignment C (Review of two journal articles) |
| Study methodologic issues in the conduct of research of cancer etiology, prevention, and control. | Quizzes, Final Examination, Assignment B (Protocol for matching controls to cancer cases on one characteristic), Assignment C (Review of two journal articles) |

Learning approach:

The instructor will facilitate learning through lectures, discussion, case studies, and other interactive classroom or online activities. Students will be required to complete skill-building assignments, participate in class discussions and activities, read the assigned textbook and published papers, and successfully complete quizzes, and a final examination.

V. Course policies and procedures:

1. If you have any special needs related to your participation in this course, including identified visual impairment, hearing impairment, physical impairment, communication disorder, and/or specific learning disability that may influence your performance in this course, you should meet with the instructor to arrange for reasonable provisions to ensure an equitable opportunity to meet all the requirements of this course. At the discretion of the instructor, some accommodations may require prior approval of Disability Services.

2. Make-up quizzes or exams are strongly discouraged. Only in exceptional cases such as a serious medical emergency (authenticated by written note from a physician) will the instructor discuss such possibilities and decide on a case-by-case basis.

3. All enrolled students have access to online **BlackBoard** site of the course. The syllabus and class schedule will be posted on BlackBoard. The students must check the **Announcements** section regularly.

4. Attendance will be taken. Students may miss no more than two classes in order to receive at least a grade of C in the class.

6. The university rules, including the Student Code of Conduct, and other documented policies of the department, college, and university related to academic integrity will be enforced. Any

violation of these regulations including acts of plagiarism or cheating will be dealt with on an individual basis according to the severity of the misconduct.

VI. Instructional Methods (Including Description about Bb):

This course uses the Blackboard (Bb) Learning Management System to provide student-centered online learning that will enhance the teaching and learning process. If you are not familiar with these tools, please visit [IT@UC's Knowledge Base for Blackboard](#).

VII. Course Communication:

University policy requires that the email address set up in Blackboard is the primary means of communication between instructor and student. **Please use only my UC email addresses (not CCHMC email address). In your email correspondence to me, please use your UC email address.** Please check your UC email frequently as I send out "Announcements" through BlackBoard which you also will receive as emails.

VIII. Course and Grading Policies:

Course Contract: Upon officially registering for the course, the student assumes responsibility for understanding and complying with the entire contents of the course syllabus. It is the student's responsibility to raise questions or concerns directly with the instructor. The course instructor reserves the right to change, modify, add or delete any class assignment, reading, or activity at any time. Such changes will be made at the earliest possible time

IX. Academic Code of Conduct:

Academic misconduct or dishonesty is defined in the University of Cincinnati Student Code of Conduct. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to: acts of cheating, plagiarism, falsification, and misappropriation of credit. The Student Code of Conduct defines behavior expected of all University of Cincinnati students. It is each student's responsibility to know and comply with the University's Student Code of Conduct. Disciplinary procedures are explained in a step-by-step manner, and the procedures for appeal of decisions are stated. (see: [UC's Student Code of Conduct](#))

Academic Ethics: The faculty of the Department of Environmental Health believes that the conduct of a student taking a course in the Department should be consistent with that of a professional individual. All students in this course will be expected to conduct themselves with complete integrity. All work by the student will be the work of that student, unless otherwise referenced. New research ideas presented during the class are the intellectual property of the faculty member or student who presented them.

Plagiarism is defined as:

- Submitting another's published or unpublished work in whole, in part, or in paraphrase, as one's own without fully and properly crediting the author with footnotes, quotation marks, citations, or bibliographic reference.
- Submitting as one's own original work, material obtained from an individual, agency, or the internet without reference to the person, agency or webpage as the source of the material.
- Submitting as one's own original work material that has been produced through unacknowledged collaboration with others without release in writing from collaborators.

- Submitting one's own previously written or oral work without modification and instructor permission.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated and according to the Student Code of Conduct (https://www.uc.edu/conduct/Code_of_Conduct.html), may result in the following consequences:

- Formal report of academic misconduct.
- Reduced or failing grade on the exercise.
- Reduced or failing grade for the course.
- Recommendation to the College Hearing Panel/Dean/Provost for probation, suspension, or dismissal.

X. Other Course Procedures

1. **Disability:** Students with disabilities who need academic accommodations or other specialized services while attending the University of Cincinnati will receive reasonable accommodations to meet their individual needs as well as advocacy assistance on disability-related issues. Students requiring special accommodation must register with the Disability Services Office. [UC's Disability Services Office](#).
2. **Counseling Services, Clifton Campus:** Students have access to counseling and mental health care through the University Health Services (UHS), which can provide both psychotherapy and psychiatric services. In addition, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can provide professional counseling upon request; students may receive five free counseling sessions through CAPS without insurance. Students are encouraged to seek assistance for anxiety, depression, trauma/assault, adjustment to college life, interpersonal/relational difficulty, sexuality, family conflict, grief and loss, disordered eating and body image, alcohol and substance abuse, anger management, identity development and issues related to diversity, concerns associated with sexual orientation and spirituality concerns, as well as any other issue of concerns. After hours, students may call UHS at 513-556-2564 or CAPS Cares at 513-556-0648. For urgent physician consultation after-hours students may call 513-584-7777.
3. **Title IX:** Title IX is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of your actual or perceived sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation. Title IX also covers sexual violence, dating or domestic violence, and stalking. If you disclose a Title IX issue to me, I am required forward that information to the Title IX Office. They will follow up with you about how the University can take steps to address the impact on you and the community and make you aware of your rights and resources. Their priority is to make sure you are safe and successful here. You are not required to talk with the Title IX Office. If you would like to make a report of sex or gender-based discrimination, harassment or violence, or if you would like to know more about your rights and resources on campus, you can consult [UC's webpage for Title IX](#) or contact the office at 556-3349.
4. **Missed and/or late examinations, quizzes, and graded exercises:** This class meets only one time per week for 15 weeks. Therefore students are permitted to miss only 2 classes

without impacting their final grade. Please let me know by email if you are going to miss a class. **Please use your excused absences wisely.**

5. **Late assignments** (including the final examination) will receive a deduction of 5% of the total possible points for each day that the assignment is late.
6. **Weather Related Protocol:** When inclement weather threatens the safety of the University of Cincinnati community, the Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance may invoke University Rule [3361: 10-55-01](#) and declare an emergency closing.

College of Medicine Students: Graduate Students – follow all University snow policies and procedures. All classes and exams are canceled when the university has closed. On days when the University delays opening, classes and exams will resume at the hour that the University reopens if this is at or before 3 pm.