



Course syllabus

SOC 4384 SOCIAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

Fall 2013

Monday & Wednesday: 10:00am-11:15am

ECSS 2.203

Instructor: Katerina Anestaki

Office hours: ONLY by appointment

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Course overview:

SOC 4384 - Social Epidemiology: A non-technical overview of epidemiology and its role in public health theory and practice, with emphasis on the social dimensions of health, illness, and injury. Topics include the history and conceptual basis for epidemiology; the basic tools of epidemiologic analysis, including case definitions and populations, incidence, prevalence, and case-fatality rates; public health surveillance and measures of health status; methodological approaches to inference, association, and causation; and the analysis of harm, benefit, cost, and intervention effectiveness.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of the course, the students should be able to:

- Discuss and evaluate the social determinants of health considered in the public health literature, and examine the various social forces contributing to the distribution of disease and injury.
- Distinguish key theories, schools of thought, and major debates in social epidemiology.
- Understand the complexity and importance of social factors and social interactions in forming disparate health outcomes.
- Describe and evaluate measures used in social epidemiology studies.

Expectations:

- Attend all classes and be on time. If you cannot attend class for personal reasons, it will be your responsibility to obtain class notes, announcements, assignments and handouts prior to the next class session.
- Make an active contribution to the class discussion.
- Use of cell phones or other electronic devices not specifically related to note taking is not allowed in the class, unless permission is granted from the instructor.

Required textbook:

Mark Edberg, 2007, Essentials of Health Behavior: Social and Behavioral Theory in Public Health. Jones and Bartlett Publishing.

Readings & Lectures

Readings other than the required texts are made available to students on Blackboard. Some of the lectures offered will not be taken directly from the assigned readings, so students must be present in class to obtain information from the lectures. Lectures and readings are covered on the final exam.

Other than journal articles provided in e-learning, book chapters will be taken from the following:

- (Cwikel) Julie G. Cwikel, Social Epidemiology: Strategies for public health activism, 2006, Columbia University Press
- (Berkman and Kawachi) Lisa F. Berkman and Ichiro Kawachi, Social Epidemiology, 2000, Oxford University Press

Examinations:

Quizzes (in class and closed-book): Students will be notified for the readings/lectures to be covered in the quizzes, prior to that date. Students will be given 20 min. to complete each test.

Midterm and final exams (in class and closed-book):

Students will be examined on the lectures and assigned readings covered in class the weeks prior to the midterm (October, 16th) and final exams (December, 9th), unless indicated differently by the instructor. The final examination will only include the material covered the period following the midterm exam, and not all the assigned readings from the beginning of the semester. Students should be able to complete the entire midterm and final exams within the assigned class period.

Missed exams and /or quizzes will not be repeated.

Make-up exams will only be allowed under extreme documented circumstances (e.g. family emergency, documented illness by a physician, etc.).

Grading:

Class attendance and participation	10%
Midterm examination (in class)	30%
Final examination (in class)	30%
(2) Short quizzes (in class)	30%
Total	100%

Grades are based on the following scale:

A=95-100

A-=90-94.9

B+=87-89

B= 84-86

B-=80-83

C+=77-79

C=74-76

F=0-73.99

Please note that there is no extra credit work available in this class

Course outline:

Week/Topic	Date	Readings
1. Introduction	Aug 26	Course overview
	Aug 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cwikel, ch.1: Introduction to Social Epidemiology (3-22)
2. Basic concepts in epidemiology	Sept 2	LABOR DAY - NO CLASS
	Sept 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cwikel, ch.2: Basic concepts of health and illness (23-64)
3. Introduction to social epidemiology	Sept 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zielhuis GA & Kiemeny L., 2001, Social Epidemiology? No way. <i>International Journal of Epidemiology</i> 30, no.1:43-44. Krieger N., 2001, Commentary: Society, biology and the logic of social epidemiology. <i>International Journal of Epidemiology</i> 30:44-46. Macdonald K.I., 2001, Commentary: Social epidemiology. A way? <i>International Journal of Epidemiology</i> 30, no. 1:46-47. McPherson K., 2001, Commentary: Epidemiology? Keep it broad and deep. <i>International Journal of Epidemiology</i> 30, no.1:48. Kaufman J.S., 2001, Commentary: Social Epidemiology? Way! <i>International Journal of Epidemiology</i> 30, no. 1: 48-49. Siegrist J., 2001, Commentary: Social Epidemiology – A promising field. <i>International Journal of Epidemiology</i> 30, no.1:50.
	Sept 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cwikel, ch.3: The context of Social Epidemiology (65-91)
4. Basic concepts in social epidemiology	Sept 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cwikel, ch.5: The development of modern social epidemiology (123-145)
	Sept 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edberg, ch 1: Introduction: the links between health and behavior (3-9) Edberg, ch 2: Health issues and behavior (11-20)
5. Theoretical context	Sept 23 QUIZ 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Berkman and Kawachi, ch.1: A historical framework for social epidemiology (3-12)
	Sept 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Krieger, 2001, Theories for social epidemiology in the 21st century: an ecosocial perspective. <i>International Journal of Social Epidemiology</i> 30: 668-677
6. Theories of health and behavior	Sept 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edberg, ch 3: Social/behavioral theory and its roots (25-34)
	Oct 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edberg, ch 4: Individual health behavior theories (35-49)
7. Social, cultural and environmental theories	Oct 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edberg, ch 5: Social, cultural and environmental theories (part I) (51-64)
	Oct 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edberg, ch 6: Social, cultural and environmental theories (part II) (65-78)

8. Ecological approaches	Oct 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edberg, ch 7: Doing something about it: The ecological perspective and the move from theory to practice (79-90) Berkman and Kawachi, ch 14: Ecological approaches: Rediscovering the role of the physical and social environment (332-345)
	Oct 16	MIDTERM EXAM
9. Inequities and disparities in health	Oct 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edberg, ch 14: Diversity and health disparities: Are current theories relevant? (165-174) Williams D.R., 1999, Race, socioeconomic status, and health: The added effects of racism and discrimination. <i>Annals of New York Academy of Sciences</i> 896: 173-188.
	Oct 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Krieger N., Chen J.T., Waterman P.D., Rehkopf D.H. and Subramanian S.V., 2005, Painting a truer picture of US socioeconomic and racial/ethnic health inequalities: the public health disparities geocoding project. <i>American Journal of Public Health</i> 95, no.2: 312-323.
10. Social determinants of health	Oct 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Berkman and Kawachi, ch 15: Multilevel approaches to understanding social determinants (349-366) Marmot, M., 2005, Social determinants of health inequalities. <i>The Lancet</i> 365, no. 9464: 1099-1104.
	Oct 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link, Bruce G. and Jo Phelan, 1995, Social Conditions as Fundamental Causes of Disease. <i>Journal of Health and Social Behavior</i> 35:80-94. Thisted, R. A., 2003, Are there social determinants of health and disease? <i>Perspectives in Biology and Medicine</i> 46, no. 3: S65-S73.
11. Causality and measurement in social epidemiology	Nov 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link, B. G., Northridge, M. E., Phelan, J. C. and Ganz, M. L., 1998, Social Epidemiology and the Fundamental Cause Concept: On the Structuring of Effective Cancer Screens by Socioeconomic Status. <i>Milbank Quarterly</i>, 76: 375-402.
	Nov 6 QUIZ 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kaufman J.S. and Cooper R.S., 1999, Seeking causal explanations in social epidemiology. <i>American Journal of Epidemiology</i> 150, no.2:113-120. Kaufman, J. S., Kaufman, S. and Poole, C., 2003. Causal inference from randomized trials in social epidemiology. <i>Social science and medicine</i> 57,no.12: 2397-2409.
12. International Perspectives	Nov 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edberg, ch11: Application of theory: global health (125-135) Labonté, R. and Schrecker, T., 2007, Globalization and social determinants of health: Introduction and methodological background (part 1 of 3). <i>Global Health</i> 3, no. 5: 1-10.
	Nov 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marmot M., 2009, Epidemiology of socioeconomic status and health: Are determinants within countries the same as between countries? <i>Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences</i> 896, no. 1: 16-29.

13. Interventions in social epidemiology/ Injury and Disease	Nov 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Edberg, ch 8: Communities and populations as focus for health promotion programs (93-102) ▪ Edberg, ch12: Application of theory: high risk and special populations (137-149)
	Nov 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rose, G. 1985. Sick individuals and sick populations. <i>International Journal of Epidemiology</i> 14: 32-38.
14.	Nov 25&27	FALL BREAK – NO CLASS
15. Future directions of social epidemiology	Dec 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kaplan G. A., 2004, What’s wrong with social epidemiology, and how can we make it better? <i>Epidemiologic Reviews</i> 26, no. 1: 124-135. ▪ Berkman L. F.,2004, Seeing the forest and the trees: New visions in social epidemiology. <i>American Journal of Epidemiology</i>, 160, no.1: 1-2.
	Dec 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Berkman L. F., 2009, Social epidemiology: social determinants of health in the United States: Are we losing ground? <i>Annual Review of Public Health</i>, 30: 27-41.
16.	Dec 9	FINAL EXAM

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Instructor.