



**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXERCISE SCIENCE & HEALTH PROMOTION  
HSC 6505: Epidemiological Basis of Health - Summer 2009**

**I. Professor:** Dr. Tina M. Penhollow, CHES  
**Office:** Boca Campus: Field House  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday & Thursday 10:00-2:00, or by appointment  
**Contact:** E-mail: [tpenholl@fau.edu](mailto:tpenholl@fau.edu)  
**Course Schedule:** Distance Learning: <http://blackboard.fau.edu>  
Sect. 001, Call No. 54233

**II. Catalog Description:**

This course provides an introduction to epidemiology, including factors governing health and disease in various populations. Principles and methods of epidemiological investigation and planning and conducting epidemiological research in various settings will be emphasized.

**III. Required Text:**

Merrill, R., & Timmreck, T. (2006). Introduction to Epidemiology (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Jones & Bartlett. ISBN: 978-0-7637-3582-1.

**IV. Competencies/Objectives:**

The learning experiences and activities in the course are designed to enable the student to:

1. Discuss the foundation and basic concepts of epidemiology.
2. Explain disease concepts in epidemiology.
3. Describe historical developments of epidemiology.
4. Interpret epidemiological measures of health status and vital statistics.
5. Calculate mortality and morbidity (i.e., rates and ratios).
6. Collect and present vital statistics data.
7. Interpret and utilize descriptive statistics in epidemiology.
8. Design and conduct appropriate epidemiological research in various settings.
9. Address the importance of the various aspects of time, place, and person on epidemiological study and analysis.

**V. Course Outline and Important Dates:**

Summer 2009: Term 1	Term Dates: May 11 – Aug. 4
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Week 1:	5/15	Chapter 1	
Week 2:	5/22	Chapters 2 & 3	
Week 3:	5/29	Chapter 4	
Week 4:	6/5	Chapter 5	
Week 5:	6/12	Chapter 6	
Week 6:	6/19	Midterm Exam	Literature Critique I Due
Week 7:	6/26	Chapter 7	
Week 8:	7/3	Chapter 8	
Week 9:	7/10	Chapter 9	
Week 10:	7/17	Chapter 10	Literature Critique II Due
Week 11:	7/24	Chapter 11	Research Paper & PowerPoint Due
Week 12:	7/31	Final Exam	

**VI. Evaluation: Your final grade will be calculated as follows:**

A.) Exams (2 @ 100):	200 points
B.) Literature Critiques (2 @ 50):	100 points
C.) Research Paper:	75 points
D.) Research PowerPoint:	25 points

<b>Total Points</b>	<b>400 points</b>
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**A. Exams: 200 points**

There will be two exams in this course worth 100 points each (midterm and final). Exams will cover information based on assigned readings and class discussions. Tests will primarily be multiple-choice and short answer/essay. Students are required to take the exam on the day scheduled. Exams will be available from 6:00am-midnight on the day of the exam. Students are required to contact the instructor 48 hours prior to missing a scheduled exam with a legitimate excuse (ex: military commitment, death in the family, court-imposed legal obligations, or participation in a university athletic or scholastic event). Make-up exams will be different than the scheduled exam. If the student does not contact the instructor before missing an exam, a grade of “0” will be recorded. If an exam is not made up within three days, a grade of “0” will be recorded. See course outline for exam dates.

**B. Literature Critiques: 100 points**

Each student is required to find two epidemiological research articles (published since 2000) that report an epidemiological investigation. Articles may be found in the American Journal of Public Health, New England Journal of Medicine, Journal of the American Medical Association, American Journal of Epidemiology, Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, and other health/medicine related journals. The literature critique should be 2-3 pages in length. Please reference the original research article with your review. For each critique: (1) Write a brief summary of the article (Introduction, Purpose of Study, Methodology, Results, Implications); (2) Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the study; (3) Propose how you would/would not conduct the study differently.

**D. Research Paper: 75 points**

Each student will choose a current epidemiological public health issue. A minimum of a five-page paper, not including references will be due. The paper must include the following headings: (1) Problem/Health Issue; (2) Demographics/Statistics of Target Population; (3) Intervention Description; (4) Conclusion. A separate reference page(s) must be included at the end of the paper. A minimum of five scientific references is required. All references must be from peer-reviewed scientific sources. The paper should be double-spaced with one-inch margins on all sides. The paper should also be free of all grammatical and spelling errors. APA (5<sup>th</sup> ed.) style referencing is required. APA guidelines for writing and referencing can be obtained from:

[www.apastyle.org](http://www.apastyle.org). An APA style (5<sup>th</sup> ed.) tutorial is provided on BlackBoard. The research paper is due through TurnItIn July 24<sup>th</sup> by 5:00PM.

### **E. Research PowerPoint: 50 points**

Each student must construct a PowerPoint presentation (including appropriate visuals) based on his or her individual research paper. Each PowerPoint presentation must be a minimum of 15 slides. A reference slide must also be included with the presentation. APA (5<sup>th</sup> edition) style referencing is required. The presentation is due through TurnItIn July 24<sup>th</sup> by 5:00PM.

### **Grading Scale:**

**A** = 94% (376-400 points), **A<sup>-</sup>** = 90-93% (360-375 points)

**B<sup>+</sup>** = 87-89% (348-359 points), **B** = 84-86% (335-347 points), **B<sup>-</sup>** = 80-83% (320-334 points)

**C<sup>+</sup>** = 77-79% (308-335 points), **C** = 74-76% (296-307 points), **C<sup>-</sup>** = 70-73% (280-295 points)

**D<sup>+</sup>** = 67-69% (268-279 points), **D** = 64-66% (256-267 points), **D<sup>-</sup>** = 60-63% (240-255 points)

**F** = 0-59% (< 240 points)

### **VII. Course Policies & Procedures:**

1. You are expected to read and follow the syllabus.
2. Assignments MUST have a written title in the subject area and submitted using Microsoft Word (2007<sup>+</sup>) or they will not be graded.
3. Late assignments will not receive credit.
4. It is important to check your FAU e-mail account for messages and announcements regularly. If you forward your FAU e-mail to another account be aware that you may miss e-mails. Do not rely on forwarded messages getting through (read the caveat against forwarding e-mail to another account. You will find this on the login page of BlackBoard).
5. DO NOT e-mail or fax any assignments to the instructor. Submit all assignments through the appropriate BlackBoard site as per the instructions found in the Assignment section via BlackBoard or in this syllabus.
6. All assignments are to be submitted no later than 5:00PM on the due date.
7. Any changes to the syllabus will be made by an e-mail announcement and BlackBoard by the instructor.
8. Plagiarism, cheating, or academic dishonesty of any kind on any assignment or exam will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade on the assignment or exam or possibly even the course. Appropriate university guidelines will be followed for disciplinary action.
9. Submitting any assignment, research papers, etc. for this course that was previously completed for another course is considered academic dishonesty and will result in a zero for that assignment. TurnItIn, an academic dishonesty program, will be used to evaluate plagiarism. By signing up for this course the student agrees to allow TurnItIn to check any and all papers submitted to BlackBoard for plagiarism. Appropriate FAU guidelines will be followed for disciplinary action. See FAU catalog for specifics.
10. Two separate tutorials are available for you in the Course Information section of BlackBoard. They are designed to help you with APA writing style and to familiarize you with what constitutes plagiarism. Please read them.
11. All scientific references used for this class must be published/written within the last nine years (year 2000 or greater).
12. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) located in Boca Raton - SU 133 (561-297-3880), in Davie - MOD I (954-236-1222), in Jupiter - SR 117 (561-799-8585), or at the Treasure Coast - CO 128 (772-873-3305), and follow all OSD procedures. If you have a learning disability and need special assistance, please notify the instructor by the end of the first week of the semester.
13. Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see [http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001\\_Honor\\_Code.pdf](http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Honor_Code.pdf)