



BIO 425

Reading Course in Epidemiology

Number of credits: 3

Prerequisite:

Bio 131 and Bio 133

Semester: Fall, 2014
Days: Not applicable (NA)
Room: NA
Lab – day: NA
Lab–Room: NA

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Office By appointment
hours:

Course Description:

This reading course covers several case studies in epidemiology and requires the student to independently research the pathogens involved in each case. Several case reports are required as well as an in-depth term paper on an outbreak of the student’s choice.

Further Course Information:

Expected Learning Outcomes:

It is the aim of the course that students acquire the following skills:

1. Through case study work, textbook reading, and personal research, the student will learn about the spread and containment of disease, the role of epidemiology, and about the biology of several pathogens.
2. Students will learn how to critically examine case studies.
3. Students will become proficient at literature searches and research.
4. Students will develop skills in paper –writing.

Important Dates:

First day of classes: September 3, 2014
Registration revision period: September 14, 2014
Last day to request revised examination: October 27, 2014
Last day to withdraw from course: November 12, 2014
Last day to apply for time extension for coursework: November 24, 2014
Last day of classes: December 9, 2014

Final Exam: NA

Time: NA

Room: NA

Outline:

Students will be responsible for reading all case studies in the book. From these 19 case studies, you will choose 12 to write up in essay format. Eleven of the 12 case reports should be quite brief (4-6 pages), providing an overview of the chapter by summarizing the outbreak and its resolution, while highlighting the investigative process that took place. You are also expected to briefly describe the pathogen, its morphology, ecological niche and reproduction, infection and spread of disease, clinical manifestations (disease symptoms) and pathogenicity, virulence, detection and diagnosis, treatment, prevention and other relevant information.

The twelfth report is to be a more in-depth term paper describing the disease outbreak and resolution, a step-by-step account of the investigative process involved, pathogen and disease descriptions including the most recent research data and conclusions of the pathogen. This paper is expected to be between 15 to 20 pages (double-spaced text, not including reference list, tables and/or illustrations).

Requirements:

Students are required to submit papers in a timely manner. Marks and comments for each assignment will be provided by the instructor in an equally timely manner. Discussions and further instructions will be provided to students on an individual basis.

Submission of Assignments:

Electronic submissions preferred. Six short reports are due before Sunday, October 19, while the remainder five short reports are due by Friday, December 5. The in-depth term paper is due by Friday, December 19.

Attendance:

There is no penalty for absence.

Evaluation:

11 Case Study Reports – 7% each; 77% total

Final In-depth Case Study report - 23%

Grade Summary:

A	90-100%	C	63-66%
A-	85-89%	C-	60-62%
B+	80-84%	D+	54-59%
B	76-79%	D	50-53%
B-	70-75%	F	Below 50%
C+	67-69%		

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	
A	Excellent
A-	
B+	
B	Good
B-	
C+	
C	Satisfactory
C-	
D+	

D	Minimal Pass
F	Failure

Textbooks:

Outbreak Investigations around the World: Case studies in Infectious Disease Field Epidemiology; Mark S. Dworkin; Jones and Bartlett; 2009.

Policies:

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (Cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, it is highly recommended that they forward all messages from the Ambrose account to the other account.

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may to enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty. These courses will not appear on the student's transcript. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date, please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a Request to Withdraw from a Course by the **Withdrawal Deadline**, please consult the List of Important Dates. Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. A grade of "W" will appear on the student's transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a **Revised Examination** Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date, please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to engage in electronically-enabled activities unrelated to the class during a class session. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Please do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a "**Course Extension**" from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date, please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control".

Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar in writing within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal to review final grades. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University College as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to give credit to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.

Other

Any added features in the syllabus are optional. You may or may not wish to include elements such as a bibliography, reading list, schedule of lectures/topics, or reporting form.