NOTE to prospective students: This syllabus is intended to provide students who are considering taking this course an idea of what they will be learning. A more detailed syllabus will be available on the course site for enrolled students and may be more current than this sample syllabus.

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Public Health and Human Sciences
H 425- Foundations of Epidemiology – 3 credits

Instructor: Leanne Cusack, PhD, MPH
e-mail: cusackl@onid.orst.edu

Course Catalog Description:
Measures of disease frequency; measures of effect; association and causation; sources of inaccuracy; experimental and observational study designs. 3 course credits.

This course combines approximately 90 hours of instruction, online activities, and assignments for 3 credits.

Resources

NOTE: For textbook accuracy, please always check the textbook list at the OSU Bookstore website. Sample syllabi may not have the most up-to-date information.

Canvas Course Information: This course takes place entirely on the Canvas platform. Students must have an ONID account in order to access the course at OSU’s Canvas site. To get an ONID account, go to http://www.onid.orst.edu. Once you have logged into Canvas, access this class. If you cannot access the course, you are not correctly registered for this class. You will need access to Canvas for all course materials, to submit assignments and exams, as well as to see your grades.

COURSE SITE LOGIN INFORMATION
Information on how to login to your course site can be found HERE.

Also required: a calculator, a reliable internet connection.

Websites for reference:
• Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division - http://public.health.oregon.gov
• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - http://www.cdc.gov/
• CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report - http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/
• CDC WONDER: http://wonder.cdc.gov/
• World Health Organization at http://www.who.int/en/
• National Institutes of Health (NIH) - http://www.nih.gov/
Learning Outcomes/Competencies
This course provides a broad introduction to the principles and methods of epidemiology, with particular emphasis on the role of this core discipline in public health practice and research. Upon completion of this course, students should be able to do the following:

1. Discuss the history, philosophy, and uses of epidemiology.
2. List sources of epidemiologic data, and discuss strengths and weaknesses.
3. Define, calculate, and interpret measures of morbidity and mortality.
4. Differentiate among the common types of epidemiologic study designs.
5. Compare and contrast the terms “association” and “causation.”
6. Define, calculate, and interpret measures of association used in epidemiologic studies.
7. Explain how chance, bias, and confounding could affect study results.
8. Interpret and summarize an epidemiology study.
9. Describe applications of epidemiology to areas such as outbreak investigation, public health screening, the environment, or lifestyle habits.

B.S. in Public Health Competencies associated with the successful completion of the degree can be viewed at: http://health.oregonstate.edu/degrees/competencies. The following competency will be evaluated in this course using quizzes, assignments, group discussions, and exams: Explain the foundations of public health.

Course Organization
This course is divided into 5 units: Basics, Study Designs, Threats to Study Validity, Study Conduct, and finally Applied Epidemiology. Each unit is then broken down into 3-5 topics. In Blackboard you will find folders for the units, and folders for the topics within the units.

For each topic, there are readings, a variety of other learning activities (some individual, some group; some graded, some not), and a topic quiz.

For each unit, there is one “wrap-up” activity, and exams following units 2 and 5.
### Evaluation of Student Performance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>assignment</th>
<th>number throughout term</th>
<th>points each</th>
<th>total possible points</th>
<th>comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>reading responses</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>These are minimally-graded. Complete assignments will receive full credit, regardless of “correctness.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>topic quizzes</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>Students may re-take the quizzes up to 2 additional times. All quizzes are open-book but should be taken individually.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>graded discussions—some with whole class, some with small group</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Directions for each discussion can be found under the Topic to which it applies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>food and exercise diary assignment</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>individual assignment; see BB for detailed instructions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>group end-of unit activities</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>Students will be assigned to groups of 5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>All exams are open-book but should be taken individually. The exam will be open for 1 week. No make-ups will be given without prior arrangements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>final exam</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>All exams are open-book but should be taken individually. The exam will be open for 1 week. No make-ups will be given without prior arrangements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total possible points:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Due Dates:** Due dates for all assignments are noted in the Schedule (found under “start here”). To be considered “on time,” assignments must be submitted through blackboard by 11:59 PM (MIDNIGHT pacific time) on the due date. If a deadline is approaching and blackboard is not available (this happens very occasionally), you may email the assignment. Please put “H425 assignment” in the subject line.

**Late work:** No late work will be accepted. Answer keys will be posted after a few days, or earlier, if everyone has turned the assignment in.

**Final Grades:**
A total of 1000 points is possible for the course. Standard rounding rules apply.
Grades will be assigned as follows:
“Classroom” Philosophies and Policies

*Students as competent adults!*
My approach to teaching starts with the premise that students who come to my class have relevant knowledge of their own. Often I will ask, “Does anyone know anything about…?” Please speak up if and when you have knowledge related to a topic that you think might benefit the class’ discussions.

*Reading and Participation*
Learning in the online environment can be difficult because of the lack of scheduled interaction. Student completion of the readings and participation in discussions is essential to the success of the course.

*Chapter Study Questions and Exercises*
While not required, it is recommended that students complete the study questions and exercises at the end of each chapter to prepare for the exams. Additional practice problems may be found on the YES website (see Resources, above).

*Etiquette*
Please respect the opinions and privacy of your colleagues; class discussions will be much more enjoyable if everyone feels safe participating. If you have never participated in an online forums before, please read through the “Netiquette” document, available in the “Start Here” folder on Blackboard.

*Personal Lives*
If, over the course of the term, you find that there is something going on in your life that is affecting your academic performance, please let me know. I do not wish to penalize anyone because of outside circumstances, but I cannot help if I don’t know what’s going on.

*Communication and Support*
My preferred communication method for class-related questions is the Discussion Board. You will see a forum called ‘general questions’, and also a forum for questions about each of the 5 Units. If you have a question that is not personal in nature, please post it there; your classmates will undoubtedly also benefit from the answer!
If you have a personal or private question, please email the instructor. I will respond to questions during normal business hours (M-F, 9AM – 5 PM, pacific time); you can generally expect a response within 48 hours of posting your question.

Please read all announcements! Changes to the course schedule, updates about extra credit opportunities, clarifications on assignments…these are all communicated via the announcements tool in Blackboard.

In an effort to promote student success, the instructors may contact the student’s advisor and/or other support personnel if there are concerns about a student’s wellbeing and/or class progress.

**Diversity Statement:**
The College of Public Health and Human Sciences strives to create an affirming climate for all students including underrepresented and marginalized individuals and groups. Diversity encompasses differences in age, color, ethnicity, national origin, gender, physical or mental ability, religion, socioeconomic background, veteran status, sexual orientation, and marginalized groups. We believe diversity is the synergy, connection, acceptance, and mutual learning fostered by the interaction of different human characteristics. You can feel free to email me if you need or want to discuss anything.

**Religious Holidays**
Oregon State University strives to respect all religious practices. If you have religious holidays that are in conflict with any of the requirements of this class, please see me immediately so that we can make alternative arrangements.

**Disability Access Services**
Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 737-4098.

**Academic Dishonesty:**
Oregon State University provides clear definition and sanctions for academic dishonesty. I follow these guidelines in defining and handling dishonest behavior in this class. As a result, academic dishonesty of any kind is not tolerated. For suspected academic dishonesty, a meeting with the student will take place and a formal report to the Chair of the Department, to the student’s Dean, and to the Student Conduct Office may follow. Students found cheating, plagiarizing, or participating in any form of academic dishonesty may receive an F or other penalty on the assignment or test, and possibly in the course. If you have any questions about the definition of academic dishonesty or the extent of sanctions that may result from dishonest behavior, it is important to access information on the OSU Student Conduct Website at [http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/facacdis.htm](http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/facacdis.htm)

**Other Resources**
The OSU Academic Success Center in Waldo 102 (541-737-2272) can assist you with time management skills, help you set priorities in a study plan and share strategies for effective studying.
The OSU Writing Center, located on the first floor of Waldo Hall (541-737-5640) can help you with writing and effective scientific communication. They are a useful resource for English language learners as well as native English speakers.

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:**

If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, assistance logging into the course, or if you experience any errors or problems while in your online course, contact the OSU Help Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-3474, email osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu or visit the OSU Computer Helpdesk online.

- **COURSE DEMO**
- **GETTING STARTED**

**REFUND POLICY INFORMATION**

Please see the Ecampus website for policy information on refunds and late fees.