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## **HHPH 416.81B/01R Epidemiology**

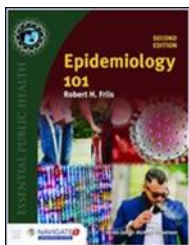
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2023

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Wachira, Assistant Professor  
Office Location: Dallas Northpark Site (Room 1935)  
Office Hours: MW 8-9am; 1-4pm (Scheduled Appointments\*)  
Office Phone: 903-886-5349  
Office Fax: 903-5365  
University Email Address: [Elizabeth.Wachira@tamuc.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.Wachira@tamuc.edu)  
Preferred Form of Communication: **Email; Scheduled appointments**  
Communication Response Time: 48 business hours

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

**Course Value:** Three (3) Credit Hours  
**Course Location:** 81B = Dallas (19th Floor) & 01R = NHS 163  
**Course Time** M/W 11:00am – 12:00pm



Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required: Friis RH. Epidemiology 101: Essential Public Health Series. **Inclusive Access to book is automatically provided on D2L, no need to purchase independently**

**Optional Texts and/or Materials:** All course written assignments are to be submitted in APA format style unless otherwise noted in the assignment directions. All students are encouraged to have a current copy of the APA Publication Manual: *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, (7th ed.)*.

## Course Description

This course covers applications of epidemiologic methods and procedures to the study of the distribution and determinants of health and diseases, morbidity, injuries, disability, and mortality in populations. Epidemiologic methods for the control of conditions such as infectious and chronic diseases, mental disorders, community and environmental health hazards, and unintentional injuries are discussed. Other topics include quantitative aspects of epidemiology, for example, data sources, measures of morbidity and mortality, evaluation of association and causality, study design, and screening for disease.

### Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, the successful student should be able to:

1. Discuss the history, philosophy, and uses of epidemiology.
2. List sources of epidemiologic data and define related measures of morbidity and mortality.
3. Define the term *descriptive epidemiology*, and describe the applications of descriptive epidemiology to the health of populations.
4. State what is meant by the terms *association* and *causation*.
5. Define the term *analytic epidemiology*, and differentiate among the types of analytic research designs.
6. Define the term *evidence-based public health*, and discuss its applications.
7. Discuss the applications of epidemiology to policy development.
8. Discuss screening for disease and calculate related measures.
9. Describe applications of epidemiology to outbreak investigation, social and behavioral phenomena, and special topics including work and the environment.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Using the learning management system, using Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel, using university email, and using Google Docs / Slides.

### Instructional Methods

Instructional method is primarily lecture and class discussion. Students will be assessed through the use of quizzes, short written assignments, and one or two exams spaced throughout the semester. Class engagement will be both in-person and/or Zoom. Students will be required to have access by the first day of class.

The instructor has the right to modify the outline of the course.

## Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

### Strong reading and writing skills:

- Most of the material in the online environment will come from your textbooks, discussions, lectures, and videos; therefore, strong reading, writing and critical thinking skills are very important for success in an online course.
- Success in this class will come from independent reading of textbook chapters as well as other assigned material.

### Time commitment:

- You need to set aside sufficient time for study. Plan to spend at least as much time working on the assignments and studying as you would with a traditional course. You should plan to spend approximately 2-4 hours study & work time per week to accomplish your readings and assignments inclusive of written assignments, final project and exam.
  - As the semester progresses, more time may be required to complete the components of the Final Project/Paper.
  - I encourage you to be proactive and budget your time wisely. Spend the first few days of each module reviewing what the workload entails and budget your time wisely. Some students may require more time. You know your study habits and abilities, so encourage you to be wise so all work is completed by the due date.

For assignments, it is highly recommended that students do not wait until the last minute to complete assignments, discussion boards or exams. Communication is important! If you have questions, concerns, are struggling with understanding material, will be missing class, etc. please notify the instructor.

## GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

A = 900– 1000 points      B= 800-899      C= 700-799      D= 600-699      F= 599 &  
> Points

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Grading:

Quizzes (4X 25 points)	100 points
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Collaborative Event	75 points
Individual Written Assignments	225 points
Media Monday Presentations	25 Points
Group DEP Paper	250 points
Individual Draft Paper Contribution	40 points
DEP Group Presentations	75 points
Group Evaluations	50 points
Final Exam	100 points
Attendance (5/week x 12 weeks)	60 points
<b>Total Possible Points</b>	<b>1000 points</b>

It is your responsibility to regularly monitor your points in the D2LGrade Center. If you notice a discrepancy, contact me immediately. Do not wait until the end of the semester to question your grades.

**\* If you drop the class, and you are not passing the course, the grade assigned will be “Dropped Failing”.**

*As a major course, a grade of “C” or better is required.*

### Assessments

**ALL coursework/ assignments (unless otherwise stated) need to be written and formatted per APA Publication Manual (7<sup>th</sup> Ed)**

The student will be responsible for obtaining all materials presented online and assigned readings from the textbook. All class assignments must be turned in online. No emailed work will be accepted. **Unless otherwise specified, all assignments are due ONLINE by 11:59pm on the specified due date.** No late work accepted for quizzes, final exam and project group submissions.

*See D2L for details on all course assignments.*

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

### Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

### Interaction with Instructor Statement

E-mail strategy: You are welcome to email your questions or concerns to me. There are, however, some caveats associated with email that you must remember:

1. A reasonable response time to emailed questions is 24 - 48 business hours.
2. Questions emailed on weekends may not receive a response until the work week begins.
3. As the instructor, I reserve the right to answer emailed questions regarding assignments, tests, discussion boards, etc., in a direct email/announcement post to everyone for the benefit of all students.
4. Please be courteous and professional in all of your interactions with fellow classmates and instructor.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

I strongly recommend that you read assigned chapters. Power-point presentations should not be used as a substitute for reading the chapter readings. Because group discussion will be used for a portion of the class, it is absolutely necessary that class readings be read – and read on time.

1. Attendance on scheduled day/time in the class is **required**. Students are expected to be in class on time and ready to participate, whether in-person or remotely on the days and times the course is in session and on the course platform per instructor announcement (ex: TopHat, Teams, Zoom and/or in person)
  - i. For attendance purposes, if late, no grade will be given for that session
  - ii. It is the student's responsibility to notify instructor of missed absence and to catch up with learned content and assignments
2. While you are in class, you are expected to an engaged learner. That means you should
  - a) actively prepare by reading the assigned materials, b) participate in discussion (ask and answer questions), c) bring your notes and textbook, d) bring your ideas, and e) refrain from anything that is not class related during class (newspaper, reading for another class, text messages, etc). Students who disrupt class and/or do not actively participating especially in group work, will be asked to leave.
    - i. Active use of your phone/other electronic devices aside from class learning is not permitted.
    - ii. Cell phones and all other electronic devices should be on silent and not used unless it relates to class work at that time. If need to have phone on and handy for unexpected events, please let the instructor know ahead of class. [ Wearing headphones during class will be considered as “active use” of your phone]
3. An “excused absence” is defined as a documented university approved activity. The instructor reserves the right to change the content or format of all make-up work. The student is responsible for making up missed work. If the absence is one of the reasons listed below, you will be able to make up the work. To reserve this right, you **MUST** provide written documentation on the day of your return to class (a copy that I can keep). Please notify me ahead of time if you know you will be absent.
  - i. Participation in an activity appearing on the University's authorized activity list.
  - ii. Death or major illness in a student's immediate family.
  - iii. Illness of a dependent family member
  - v. Participation in legal proceedings or administrative procedures that require a student's presence.
  - vi. Religious Holy Day (please let instructor know at the beginning of the semester so as to discuss alternative accommodations as appropriate)
  - vii. Illness that is too severe or contagious for the student to attend class (to be determined by Health Center or off campus physician).
  - viii. Required participation in military duty

4. Any student *missing a quiz or exam* without prior arrangement (and adheres to excused absences) will receive a *score of zero*.
5. You **MUST** be familiar with D2L; familiarize yourself with the online portion of the class.
6. You **MUST** check your e-mail regularly in case I need to communicate with you. I will not e-mail you junk, and I request that you do the same for me.
7. **NO PROFANITY**. No inappropriate or offensive language or gestures. No inappropriate or offensive clothing. This will not be tolerated and you will be asked to leave and it will be considered an unexcused absence for the day.

### **Make-up Work**

Make-up of coursework will only be given in very rare circumstances: serious illness with a note from your physician, a death in your family with appropriate documentation, or if you have an officially excused absence while representing the university. If any of these situations occur you **MUST** email me **48 business hours prior to said excused absence**.

1. Make-ups will only be given if I have been notified at least 48 hours business hours prior to the end of the course week a particular assignment is due in order to verify your reason for missing coursework (rare circumstances and/or excused absences). All missed coursework not meeting the criteria for a make-up will be given a grade of 0.
2. No extra credit is given in the class

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

## **University Specific Procedures**

### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

#### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further,



an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

### **A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)





Please note that this schedule is tentative and is subject to change.

**TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF CLASSES AND ASSIGNMENTS**

Dates	Week #	Course Schedule	Textbook Readings	Assignments and Due Dates Unless otherwise stated, All assignments are due <u>ONLINE</u> by 11:59pm on the date given.
M – 8/28  W 8/30	Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Introduction</li> <li>➤ Course overview and objectives</li> <li>➤ Course textbook website</li>   <li>➤ <i>Review DEP Directions</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Lecture: Chapter 1: History, Philosophy, and Uses of Epi</i></li> </ul>	Chapter 1	<b>S: Complete Introduction week module check-list &amp; assessment</b>
M 9/5 W 9/7	Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lecture: Chapter 1 &amp; 2: Epidemiology and Data Presentation</li> </ul>	Chapter 1, 2	<b>W: Dr. E Media Monday Showcase</b>
M 9/11 W 9/13	Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lecture: Chapter 1 &amp; 2: Epidemiology and Data Presentation</li> </ul>	Chapter 1, 2	<b>M: Media Monday Showcase</b>  <b>9/15: Group &amp; topic selections due (DB)</b>
M 9/18 W 9/20	Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lecture: Chapter 3: Epidemiologic Measurements Used to Describe Disease Occurrence</li>   <li>➤ Review Written Assignment 1</li> </ul>	Chapter 3	<b>M: Media Monday Showcase</b> <b>M: Quiz #1</b>  <b>S: Group contracts due</b>

<b>M 9/25</b>  <b>W 9/27</b>	Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ M: Lecture: Chapter 4: Data and Disease Occurrence</li>   <li>➤ W: Media Monday Showcase</li> </ul>	Chapter 4	<b>M: Media Monday Showcase</b>
<b>M 10/2</b>  <b>W 10/4</b>	Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lecture: Chapter 5: Descriptive Epidemiology: Patterns of Disease—Person, Place, Time</li>   <li>➤ <i>Re-Review DEP Guidelines</i></li> </ul>	Chapter 5	<b>M: Media Monday Showcase</b> <b>M: Quiz #2</b>  <b>S: 108/8: Written Assignment 1 Due</b>

<b>M 10/9</b> <b>W 10/11</b>	Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lecture: Chapter 6: Association and Causality</li> </ul>	Chapter 6	<b>M &amp; W: Media Monday Showcase</b>
<b>M 10/16</b> <b>W 10/18</b>	Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lecture: Chapter 7: Analytic Epidemiology: Ecological Studies &amp; Case- Control</li> <li>➤ Chapter 7: Cohort Studies</li> </ul>	Chapter 7	<b>M: Media Monday Showcase</b> <b>M: Quiz # 3</b>  <b>S 10/22: Paper outline &amp; abstract</b>  <b>S 10/22: Written Assignment 2 Due</b>
<b>M 10/23</b> <b>W 10/25</b>	Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Chapter 7: Experimental Studies</li> <li>➤ Chapter 7: Challenges in Analytical Epi ( Validity, Bias etc)</li> </ul>	Chapter 7	<b>M: Media Monday Showcase</b>   <b>S: Mid-Term Evals due Due</b>
<b>M 10/30</b> <b>W11/1</b>	Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ M- Lecture: Chapter 9: Epidemiology and Screening for Disease</li> </ul>	Chapter 9	<b>M: Media Monday Showcase</b> <b>M: Quiz # 4</b>
<b>M 11/6</b> <b>W 11/8</b>	Week 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lecture: Chapter 10: Infectious Diseases and Outbreak Investigation</li> <li>➤ Friis &amp; Seller – Investigation steps</li> </ul>	Chapter 10	<b>W: Written Assignment 3 Due</b>  <b>S: 11/12– Draft Paper Due</b>

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

<b>M 11/13</b> <b>W 11/15</b>	Week 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lecture: Chapter 11: Social and Behavioral Epidemiology</li> <li>➤ Lecture: Chapter 8 Epidemiology &amp; the Policy Arena</li> </ul>	Chapter 11  Chapter 8	<b>M: Media Monday Showcase</b>
<b>M 11/20</b> <b>W 11/22</b>	Week 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lecture: Chapter 12: Special Epidemiologic Applications</li> </ul> <p><i>Final Review Posted on D2L</i></p>	Chapter 12	<b>M: Media Monday Showcase</b>
<b>M 11/27</b> <b>W 11/29</b>	Week 14	<p><i>M: Group Work</i>  <i>W: Final Exam Review</i></p>		<b>M: Final Papers Due</b>
<b>M 12/4</b> <b>W 12/6</b>	Week 15	Monday – Exam 1 (in-class)  December 6 <sup>th</sup>		<b>M: Exam 2 Due online by 11:59pm</b>  <b>T: Final Presentations Due</b>  <b>W: Mandatory attendance required; cameras must be on AND with an appropriate setting (no background noise/distractions)</b>  <b>12/6– Group Eval &amp; Class Reflection Due</b>
<b>W 12/9</b>	Week 16	<i>Finals Week</i>		

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.