**Syllabus HSW 395 Fundamentals of Epidemiology - Fall 2023**

**Instructor:                    Daniel J. McCarty, PhD**

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**Course description**

Fundamentals of Epidemiology (HSW 395 – 3 credits)

Epidemiology is often referred to as “the basic science of public health”. This class introduces the principles and methods of epidemiology as it applies to health promotion and healthcare delivery. The course will cover a historical perspective of epidemiology, measures of disease occurrence and association, clinical epidemiology, major epidemiological study designs, disease screening, causal inference and common methods for identifying and controlling infectious disease outbreaks.  Prerequisite:  Math 255 or HS301 or equivalent.

**Format**

Section 1 is in-class, section 2 is fully online.  All the course content is designed with online format with out-of-class narrated lectures and activities. Exams will be online.

**Textbook -** Epidemiology (4rd Edition) by Leon Gordis

**General goals and objectives**

At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate the basic epidemiologic study designs and statistics used for measuring risk factor/disease associations.
2. Apply knowledge of epidemiology to identify the strengths and weaknesses of published studies.
3. Demonstrate the importance of using epidemiologic data to design disease prevention programs.
4. Appreciate the scope of epidemiology and its potential application for health promotion and improving healthcare delivery.

**Grading system**

93 – 100                      A                                             77 – 79                        C+

90 – 92                        A-                                            73 – 76                        C

87 – 89                        B+                                           70 – 72                        C-

83 – 86                        B                                             67 – 69                        D+

80 – 82                        B-                                            60 – 66                        D

                                                                                    Below 60                     F

 “A” reflects exceptional work (going beyond the basics, integrating material well, displaying professionalism in individual and group work, application and demonstration of knowledge and skills, showing initiative, using creativity, writing is reflective of multiple drafts).

 “B” reflects good work (valuable teamwork skills, active in class, ability to grasp basic concepts and apply to new situations, some participation in class, completes all assignments with a degree of proficiency but may not demonstrate initiative, creativity or reflection consistently, writing contains errors or lacks conciseness and completeness).

 “C” reflects average work (assignments are completed at the minimum, basic concepts are grasped but cannot be applied, some difficulty in group work, spelling and grammar mistakes are common, writing is conversational in tone with little attention paid to detail, word choices, organization (rough draft quality), little participation in class.

**Student responsibilities for successful coursework:**

Attendance: Participation on online lessons and quizzes will constitute attendance.  Please notify the instructor by email if an absence is anticipated.

Reading Assignments: Additional readings will be posted in Canvas.  Students will be more successful in the class if the text and other handouts are read before the class period during which a given topic will be covered. The course is focused on discussion and analysis of topics. Readings will prepare you for participation in class.

**Derivation of course grade**

Three 1-hour exams (15% each - multiple choice)                       45%

Quizzes/Activities                                                                          20%

Final exam (comprehensive)                                                          35%

**Other class information**

Email – please note that you are responsible for anything I send you via email.

Lecture materials and recordings for HS395 are protected intellectual property at UW-Stevens Point. Students in this course may use the materials and recordings for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. If a lecture is not already recorded, you are not authorized to record my lectures without my permission unless you are considered by the university to be a qualified student with a disability requiring accommodation. [Regent Policy Document 4-1] **Students may not copy or share lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities (such as Quizlet, Chegg, etc.).**  Students are also prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the instructor’s express written permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials and recordings constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct.

**Covid Guidance:** Please monitor your own health each day and do not attend class if you feel ill.

**Communicating with your instructor via email**

I check my email frequently during the day. However, I receive a lot of email and I sometimes delete emails which do not have the subject specified. If you have not received a response to your email within 24 hours, please resend your email.  I do not check email routinely on some weekends.

**Students with special needs**

UWSP is committed to providing reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students with disabilities and temporary impairments.  If you have a disability or acquire a condition during the semester where you need assistance, please contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center on the 6thfloor of Albertson Hall (library) as soon as possible.  DATC can be reached at 715-346-3365 or DATC@uwsp.edu.

**The contents of this syllabus are as complete and accurate as possible.  The instructor reserves the right to make any changes necessary to the syllabus and course material. The instructor will make every effort to inform the students of changes as they occur.  It is the responsibility of the student to know what changes have been made to successfully complete the requirements of the course. Any in-class announcement, verbal or written, is considered official addendum to this syllabus.**