CHS 273, Social Epidemiology of Chronic Disease  
Spring, 2010  
Mondays 12:00-3:00 p.m., Room 51-279 CHS  
Professor Judith Siegel

Office Hours: Wednesday, 1:30-3:00 p.m.  
Office: 21-275C CHS; Phone: (310) 206-6442  
E-mail: jmsiegel@ucla.edu  
Readings: Course Reader Material; 1081 Westwood Blvd. (entrance on Broxton); (310) 443-3303

Learning Objectives: (competencies addressed are in parentheses; key for competencies as at end of syllabus)  
To understand epidemiologic methods for research (E 6)  
To identify the most prevalent chronic diseases in the US (E1; E9)  
To gain an understanding of the biology of common chronic diseases (PHB 4; PHB 6)  
To describe the major physiological pathways through which social factors contribute to chronic disease and disability (PHB 1; PHB 2)  
To identify the social, cultural, and behavior variables associated with increased risk for chronic disease (SBS 2; SBS 3; DC 1; P6; PP 1)

Topics and Readings

Session I  03/29  Course introduction  

Session II  04/05  Blood pressure  


Session III  04/12  Blood pressure--African Americans


Karlsen, S., & Nazroo, J. Y.  (2002).  Relation between racial discrimination, social class, and health among ethnic minority groups.  *American Journal of Public Health*, 92, 624-631.  [Note: This article describes multiple health outcomes, one of which is blood pressure.]


Session IV  04/19  Coronary Heart disease


Session V  04/26  Diabetes


Session VI  05/03  Cancer


**Session VII  05/10  AIDS/HIV**


**Session VIII  05/17  Asthma**


Session IX  05/24  Psychosocial factors and the course of disease


Session X  05/31  No class: Memorial Day Holiday

**Leading Class Discussion**

Starting in week 2, students will be asked to take responsibility for leading the class discussion about the assigned articles. By noon on the Monday before the lecture, the student(s) with responsibility for that class will e-mail discussion questions to the entire class, including the instructor.

**Term Paper Assignment**

1. Select a problem (research question) in social epidemiology. The independent or predictor variable should be a social, psychological, or demographic factor and the dependent or outcome variable should be a disease or disability.

2. Review the existing literature relevant to the problem, *with an emphasis on recently published work*. Discuss both the conceptual and measurement issues. *Conceptual* refers to what the problem means, its importance, and interpretation of the findings.
Measurement refers to how the variables have been operationalized, and the validity of these operationalizations.

3. Summarize what you think are the current critical issues in the field and suggest what future research in this area should be addressing.

The term paper is due on Monday, May 24th at the beginning of class.

Final Exam

A take-home final exam will be distributed on Wednesday, June 2 and is due on Wednesday, June 9, by 12 noon. The exam will cover the content of the readings and lectures. No additional outside reading is necessary for the exam.

Grading

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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This includes performance as a discussion leader.

Key for competencies

E = Epidemiology  
DC = Diversity and Culture  
P = Professionalism  
PHB = Public Health Biology  
PP = Program Planning  
SBS = Social and Behavioral Sciences