Population-Based Research on Aging
GMS 6485
Course Syllabus

Instructor Information:
Todd M Manini, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Aging and Geriatric Research
Email: tmanini@ufl.edu
Phone: 352-273-5914

Course website:
The course will be delivered entirely via the UF Canvas system at http://lss.at.ufl.edu. Weekly homework assignments will be distributed via Canvas, and should be submitted by the student through the Canvas site as instructed.

Course Communications:
The online discussion board can be used to comment on the readings and assignments, ask thoughtful questions, and explore related concepts. You may also use the online discussion board to ask specific questions about course content.

However, questions about your individual performance in the class should be sent via email to the Course Instructor via email at tmanini@ufl.edu. All emails will be returned as soon as possible, but please allow 24 hours for a response.

Technical Assistance:
Please contact the helpdesk between 8 AM and 5 PM ET for assistance with the course website. For a list of additional student support services links and information please visit: http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-services.

Foundation Resources and Recommended Reading:

Epidemiology of aging
Springer Dordrecht Heidelberg New York London
e-book available at UF Libraries

Principles of Epidemiology in Public Health Practice, Third Edition
An Introduction to Applied Epidemiology and Biostatistics
October 2006. Updated May 2012
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Prerequisite:
Students must be registered students in good standing at the University of Florida. The course is open to individuals from all disciplines.
**Purpose of Course:**
This course evaluates population-based research on aging that includes surveillance and epidemiology. The course will be geared toward population-based research on diseases of elders that include: neurodegeneration, dementia, pulmonary disorders, chronic kidney disease, musculoskeletal (arthritis), cardiovascular, and metabolic health conditions. In this regard, the course is intended to be a survey of the population-based research that estimates the prevalence, incidence and risk factors of the most common health conditions associated with aging. The course will also evaluate how population-based research contributes to understanding physical and cognitive disabilities, and how this research is connected to health policies directed toward elders. Research design, case definition and disease etiology are emphasized throughout the course. The student will develop competency in identifying and understanding the common chronic diseases of elders, population research terminology and methodological concepts. The student will be expected to communicate current constructs in population-based research on aging using both written and oral forms. At the completion of this course, the student will be able to evaluate population-based research on aging and use these concepts in everyday practice.

**Course Objectives:**
At the end of this course, students will be able to:
1. Describe research designs for population-based aging studies;
2. Critically evaluate the methods involved with assessing health conditions in population-based studies on aging;
3. Determine the appropriate population-based research designs for studying health conditions associated with aging;
4. Comprehend measurements used in population-based research on aging and apply these principles to practice.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Module/ Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Introduction + Building the Foundation for Population-based Research on Aging</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Aging of Human Populations</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Aging in the Context of the Ecological Model</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Physical Function + Disability</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Physical Performance Measures</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Chronic Conditions: Comparing + Contrasting Disease, Disability + Mortality</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Nutritional Epidemiology</td>
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Course Requirements/Grading
Each week, students will be required to read a set of materials posted on the course Canvas site. The weekly modules also include videos posted on the course Canvas site that each student will be required to watch. Readings will be taken from relevant journal articles, websites, and other sources that will be freely accessible to all registered UF students.

Weekly assignments:
Each week, students will be expected to submit a project or assignment related to that week’s course topic. Point values for each week’s assignment will vary but will be stated with each assignment. Assignments will be posted on the course Canvas site. Some assignments will involve discussions among the all students in the class; other assignments will be more individual.

Grades in this class are earned on the basis of points and then converted to letter grades (as shown in this chart). Letter-grade GPA equivalents are shown in the second table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage or points earned in class</th>
<th>93% - 100%</th>
<th>90% - 92%</th>
<th>87% - 89%</th>
<th>83% - 86%</th>
<th>80% - 82%</th>
<th>77% - 79%</th>
<th>73% - 76%</th>
<th>70% - 72%</th>
<th>67% - 69%</th>
<th>63% - 66%</th>
<th>60% - 62%</th>
<th>Below 60%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letter Grade equivalent</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>E</td>
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<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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For greater detail on the meaning of letter grades and university policies related to them, see the Registrar’s Grade Policy regulations at http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html
Course Evaluations
At the end of the course, students will be asked to complete the anonymous UF course evaluation. You will receive information about how to complete the course evaluation later in the semester.

Make-Up Policy:
All assignments/projects must be submitted via the deadline provided on the course web site. Late work will not be accepted without prior approval from the Course Instructor. In the event of an emergency where prior approval could not be sought, contact the Course Instructor as soon as possible.

Copyright Information
Please review the University policy regarding the use of copyrighted materials, which can be found on the Health Science Center Library’s web page:
http://www.library.health.ufl.edu/services/copyright.htm

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities:
Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the Course Instructor when requesting accommodation. The student must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive; therefore, students should contact the Dean of Students Office as soon as possible in the term in which they are seeking accommodation. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct:
Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students/php.

Students are expected to abide by the University’s Academic Honesty Policy, and to adhere to the following pledge:

“We, the member of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

According to the UF Student Guide, Academic dishonesty includes the following:

- Cheating - copying another’s work for academic gain.
- Plagiarism - representing another’s work as your own.
- Bribery - offering, giving, soliciting, or receiving goods or services of value for academic gain.
• Misrepresentation - altering facts (e.g., signing an absent classmate’s name to an attendance sheet).

• Conspiracy - planning with others to commit academic dishonesty.

• Fabrication - making up information to avoid punishment or other difficulty.

Counseling and Student Health:
Students may occasionally have personal issues that arise in the course of pursuing higher education or that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing problems affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and to seek confidential assistance at the University of Florida Counseling Center, 352-392-1575, or Student Mental Health Services, 352-392-1171. Visit their web sites for more information:
http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/ or http://www.health.ufl.edu/shcc/smhs/index.htm#urgent

Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from:
Alachua County Crisis Center: (352) 264-6789.