

Course at a Glance

Summer 2016



Public health data, information, & decision making
PHC 6195



HEALTH
POLICY &
MANAGEMENT

Course Title: Public Health Data, Info, & Decision Making

Course Number: PHC 6063

Dept: HPM **Credits:** 3

Section 310 Reference Number: 55772

For GDM, PHP, IMSPH, ExMPH Sections: please visit Self-Funded Program [website](#) for course reference numbers, registration procedures and deadlines.

Instructor: Dr. Etienne Pracht

Instructor Email: epracht@health.usf.edu

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide public health related professionals with an understanding of commonly used databases and the methods necessary for sound decision making using the data. The course commences with a brief conceptual treatment of information, followed by the application of commonly used analytical methods for “extracting” information from data. The emphasis is on the appropriateness and application of methods widely used for analysis in public health, particularly pertaining to health policy and management.

Pre-Requisites: Bio-Statistics I (or equivalent)

Format of content presentation, activities and/or instructional methods:

Web-based (in Canvas). Content is presented in readings, powerpoint slides, and taped lectures. Students will be required to complete individual assignments using Excel, Epi Info software, and ArcExplorer (or ArcMap).

Course content organization:

This course is organized into 10 weekly modules. Each weekly module consists of: lesson plan/objectives, assigned readings (textbook and other), narrated PowerPoint presentations/lectures, and assignments.

New material is made available on Mondays. All assignments will be due by midnight (Sunday) before the new module is released (Monday). Late submissions will NOT be accepted.

Textbook and Ordering materials:

Required Text:

Veney, James E., John F. Kros, and David A. Rosenthal (2009) Statistics For Health Care Professionals: Working with Excel 2nd Ed. Jossey-Bass, San Francisco

How to Order:

Purchase your textbook online on the [HSC Bookstore website](http://usfhsc.bncollege.com) (<http://usfhsc.bncollege.com>)

Other Required Materials:

- Excel (Version 2007 or later) – Student copies are available at the USF computer store (you will have to pay the “market rate” for the CD or DVD and burning process -- call 974-1779 for more detail.)
- EPIINFO – Please download from <http://www.cdc.gov/epiinfo/downloads.htm>
- ESRI ARCGIS Explorer – Please download from <http://www.esri.com/software/arcexplorer/index.html>

Topics:

- Week 1. Basic concepts in Information Management
- Week 2. Acquiring, sampling, and preparing data
- Week 3. Representation of data/information (charting, simple correlations, misuses of statistics)
- Week 4. Comparing sample means
- Week 5. Determining variable dependence or independence
- Week 6. Dependence of variables and differences in means
- Week 7. Regression analysis
- Week 8. Analysis with dichotomous categorical dependent variables
- Week 9. Legal considerations
- Week 10. Geographic Information Systems

Types of assessments and activities in the course:

1. Three 10 point quizzes (*30 points total*)
2. Five excel based assignments (*10 points each; 50 total*)
3. One EPI-Info assignment (*10 points*)
4. One ARCGIS-Explorer assignment (*10 points*)

Course Expectations:

For each unit, students are required to review the readings and powerpoint slides before attempting the assignments. Assignments will use Excel and Epi Info software to analyze data using a variety of statistical tests. A large part of this course concentrates on the application of statistical methods; therefore, Bio-Statistics I (or equivalent) is a prerequisite.

Students are expected to be comfortable with computers and solving computer/software related problems on their own. Limited resources (tutorials) will be available to learn how to use the required software.

Required Dates to be Online:

All assessments for this course will be offered online and are usually open for a set period of time. You are expected to be online during that time to complete the assessments before the due date. Late submissions with NOT be accepted.

For more information about the Course, contact:

Dr. Etienne Pracht epracht@health.usf.edu

Note: For problems accessing the course materials and other computer technical problems, click the **Tech Assistance** button in your course website and fill out a "Technical Problem Report Form". Tech Assistance button links to the Technical Assistance page of the Office of Educational Technology & Assessment website at: <http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/eta/techsupport.html>. Students can also receive assistance via telephone at 813-974-6666, Mon-Fri 8:30am-5pm, or via email at eta@health.usf.edu.

Technology Requirements (e.g. software or hardware):

Visit this website for software requirements and downloads:

http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/eta/students_tech_requirements.htm

***Other technology requirements** (hardware and software) specific for this course:

1. Excel
2. EPI-Info
3. ARC-Explorer

*Note: These are in addition to the basic technology requirements for all online courses.

Please Note: The information on this document is subject to change. The course instructor has the right to change any information posted in this document. Students should check the official course syllabus released during the first week of classes for any updates to this document.