Chronic Disease Epidemiology (EPID 831), Winter 2005

Course coordinator: Dr. Linda Levesque, PhD
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Instructors: Dr. Pendar Farahani (Medicine & Public Health Sciences); Dr. Linda Levesque (Public Health Sciences); Dr. Will Pickett (Public Health Sciences); Dr. Hélène Ouellette-Kuntz (Public Health Sciences); Dr. Heather Stuart (Public Health Sciences); Guest lecturers

Term: Winter, every year

Credit: 0.5

Status: Elective course

Location: Carruther’s Hall, 3rd Floor classroom

Prerequisites: Graduate-level introductory epidemiology (EPID-801 or equivalent) and graduate-level introductory biostatistics (EPID-821 or equivalent). Students with equivalent courses from other departments or universities will need the permission of the course coordinator before registering for this course

Description

This course will provide an overview of the epidemiology of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in Canada and globally, most of which are chronic diseases.† The first part of the course will describe the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in Canada and worldwide, measures of disease burden, classification of diseases, and methods of disease surveillance. The second part of the course will present the natural history, patterns of occurrence, personal and economic burden, social and physical determinants, and interventions for the prevention and/or management of these chronic diseases. In addition, the key methodological considerations for the execution or interpretation of studies of each chronic disease will be highlighted.

† This course is intended to highlight the epidemiological strengths of the department of Public Health Sciences. However, the epidemiology of cancer will not be covered in this course as this topic is covered in EPID 817 (Foundations of Cancer Control).
Course objectives

At the end of this course students will be able to:
1. List the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in Canada and globally.
2. Describe the factors affecting the ranking of these disorders/health problems over time.
3. Describe the epidemiology of some of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in Canada.
4. List the key methodologic considerations for the study of each of the diseases discussed and explain how these can be addressed in epidemiologic studies.
5. Critically appraise the literature on some of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in Canada.

Format

One 3-hr class each week over the winter term. The course will be taught using a combination of interactive lectures, self-directed learning, and small group exercises and presentations.

Expectations

Students are expected to attend class, complete pre-class readings when assigned and contribute to class discussions and group work.

This course aims to uphold the values of academic integrity that are published on the Queen’s website http://www.queensu.ca/academicintegrity/Policy.html

Text

There is no textbook for this course. Readings and online resources will be assigned where appropriate.

Assessment

Midterm exam: 30%
Assignment 1: 10%
Assignment 2: 10%
Final exam: 50%
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
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| 1    | Jan 9\textsuperscript{th} | Course overview  
Leading causes of morbidity & mortality  
Measures of disease burden  
Classification of disease  
Disease surveillance: How? When? Why? |                                              |
| 2    | Jan 16\textsuperscript{th} | Heart disease & stroke                                                |                                              |
| 3    | Jan 23\textsuperscript{rd} | Chronic lower respiratory diseases                                    |                                              |
| 4    | Jan 30\textsuperscript{th} | Childhood injuries                                                     |                                              |
| 5    | Feb 6\textsuperscript{th}  | Violence in the pediatric population                                  |                                              |
| 6    | Feb 13\textsuperscript{th} | **Midterm exam**                                                      |                                              |
| 7    | Feb 20\textsuperscript{th} | Reading Week                                                          |                                              |
| 8    | Feb 27\textsuperscript{th} | Diabetes                                                              |                                              |
| 9    | March 6\textsuperscript{th} | Alzheimer's disease & dementia                                        |                                              |
| 10   | March 13\textsuperscript{th} | Mental disorders                                                       |                                              |
| 11   | March 20\textsuperscript{th} | Suicide                                                               |                                              |
| 12   | March 27\textsuperscript{th} | Intellectual & developmental disabilities                              |                                              |
| 13   | TBA      | **Final exam**                                                        |                                              |