

Medicine 632: Epidemiology Spring 2008

Course Components

Lectures:

Ten lectures will be held. A list of learning objectives will be listed for each lecture along with the relevant chapters in the course text book. PowerPoint slides will be posted for each lecture. Three additional lectures called Clinical Epidemiology in Practice will also be held. These will give real life examples of how the concepts discussed in the class affect medical practice.

Small Group Sessions:

Ten small group sessions will be held (small group session 7 will be held with a librarian at time to be scheduled; small group session 9 and 10 are held back to back on Monday March 3rd). Each small group is led by a clinician with considerable research experience or a researcher with considerable clinical experience. The purpose of the small group session is to reinforce the concepts introduced during the preceding lecture. A problem set will be posted for each small group session one week ahead of the small group. Please review the problem set and be prepared to work through the questions in the small group session. Two small group sessions will be devoted to critical review of the literature. Students must read the assigned articles prior to class. The *Users' guides to the medical literature: a manual for evidence-based clinical practice* by Gordon Guyatt will be used as a template for reviewing the articles. This resource is available in the library as a CD. The relevant sections will also be posted on the web with the articles.

The small group leader is there to assist the group in solving the problems. They are not there to provide the answers or to present the lecture again. Exam questions will be similar in nature to the small group problems (short answer, multiple choice). You must attend all small groups - roll will be taken. If you have an unavoidable reason for missing the small group (death in the family, communicable illness, etc) please email Dr. Bonds (dbonds@virignia.edu) prior to the start of the session explaining your reason for missing the class. To get credit for that small group session, you must turn in a completed problem set to Dr. Bonds within 1 week of the absence.

Grading Components

Medicine 632 is an independent course within the School of Medicine. The course and grade will be listed on student's official transcript. It is a Pass/Fail course. The following elements are required to pass the course:

1. Receive 70% on the final examination. The examination is a take home, open book exam consisting of multiple choice and short answer questions. Students will have 24 hours to complete the examination. The point value for each question will be posted on the examination.
2. Attend all small group sessions. Unavoidable absences can be made up by turning in a completed problem set within one week of the missed small group session.
3. Receive a passing grade on the team "Reviewing the Scientific Literature" exercise. To receive a passing grade, you must:
 - a. Participate with your mini-group in selecting the clinical scenario and formulating the scientific question.
 - b. Attend the small group session with the librarian with your mini-group.
 - c. Participate in the presentation of the article to your small group.
 - d. Turn in a written critique of the article you select (one per mini-group) on March 3rd to your small group leader. This written critique must follow the format of the *User's Guide* and include the names of all mini-group members. Each question in the User's guide must be thoughtfully answered (no one-word answers!) and supporting parts of your article cited.