CANCER EPIDEMIOLOGY: SURVIVORSHIP AND OUTCOMES (EPID 771)
FALL 2016

Instructor: Hazel Nichols, PhD
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Held: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00-3:15 p.m.
Room: McGavran-Greenberg PH-Rm 2305

Prerequisite: EPID 710 or EPID 711, or an instructor-approved substitute.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Students will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of data sources common to cancer survivorship and outcomes studies, with a focus on epidemiologic study designs. The course will address cancer detection, treatment strategies, medical surveillance, and personal behaviors as determinants for prognosis, late effects, and the long-term health of cancer survivors. Complementary disciplines for cancer survivorship research and initiatives across UNC will be introduced through guest lectures. Students will gain practical experience using one or more publicly-available databases (such as the SEER registries) for cancer survivorship research and participate in oral and written exercises to synthesize information across studies, identify knowledge gaps, and propose next steps.

RESOURCES
There is no assigned textbook for the course. Assigned readings will be provided for each class through Sakai.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Class participation 10%  
IGNITE-style presentations 15%  
SEER software exercise 10%  
Midterm (in-class journal article review) 20%  
Public survey exercise 10%  
Final report titles/topics due  
Final report 25%  
Discussion of final report 10%  

Due dates:
Aug 30 & Sept 1
Sept 22
Oct 11
Nov 1
Nov 10
Nov 22
TBD, 2 sessions
FORMATTING OF ASSIGNMENTS AND PAPERS

For all proposal assignments, use black Arial 11 or Times New Roman 12 font, margins of 0.5-1.0 all-around, and include references. All shared documents should be distributed as a Word file, not as a .pdf. Include your name in the header of the document and in the document name (e.g. EPID771_Assn1_student’s last name.docx).

Submit assignments electronically via Sakai. Sakai will not accept assignments after the posted deadline. In fairness to those who meet the deadlines, late assignments/papers may be penalized 5% per day.

PARTICIPATION AND DIVERSITY

Diversity includes consideration of: (1) life experiences, including type, variety, uniqueness, duration, personal values, political viewpoints, and intensity; and (2) factors related to “diversity of presence,” including, among others, age, economic circumstances, ethnic identification, family educational attainment, disability, gender, geographic origin, maturity, race, religion, sexual orientation, social position, and veteran status. Diversity strengthens the products, enriches the learning, and broadens the perspectives of all in the class. Diversity requires an atmosphere of inclusion and tolerance, which oftentimes challenges our own closely-held ideas, as well as our personal comfort zones. The results, however, create a sense of community and promote excellence in the learning environment. This class will follow principles of inclusion, respect, tolerance, and acceptance that support the values of diversity.

UNC HONOR CODE

From the Office of Student Conduct (https://studentconduct.unc.edu/faculty/honor-syllabus):

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has had a student-led honor system for over 100 years. Academic integrity is at the heart of Carolina and we all are responsible for upholding the ideals of honor and integrity. The student-led Honor System is responsible for adjudicating any suspected violations of the Honor Code and all suspected instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the honor system. Information, including your responsibilities as a student is outlined in the Instrument of Student Judicial Governance (http://instrument.unc.edu). Your full participation and observance of the Honor Code is expected. Additional information on the UNC Honor Code is available from the Office of Student Conduct at 919.962.0805 or at jpa@unc.edu.
CELL PHONES, LAPTOPS AND TABLETS

Please do not use the internet during seminars for anything aside from class purposes. Using the internet can be very distracting to our Guest Speakers, your colleagues, and the Instructors. Cell phones should be placed in “silent” mode.

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment.

SCHEDULE

Tuesday, Aug 23- Introduction

Thursday Aug 25- Recurrence & Mortality

Tuesday, Aug 30- Ignite Presentations I

Thursday Sept 1- Ignite Presentations II

Tuesday, Sept 6- Predictive & Prognostic models, Dr. Katie Reeder-Hayes, MD, MBA Assistant Professor, Hematology/Oncology, UNC Breast Program
Thursday Sept 8-  

2nd Malignancies & the SEER registries

Assignment 1 posted on Sakai


Tuesday, Sept 13-  

TBD, Dr. Deb Mayer, PhD, RN, AOCN, FAAN
Professor, School of Nursing, UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center Director of Cancer Survivorship

Readings: TBD

Thursday Sept 15-  

Selection in survivor populations, Dr. Whitney Robinson, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology


Hernán et al. A Structural Approach to Selection Bias. Epidemiology, 2004


Tuesday, Sept 20-  

Health Related Quality of Life, Dr. Bryce Reeve, PhD
Professor, Department of Health Policy and Management

Readings: TBD

Thursday Sept 22-  

Cardiotoxicities

Assignment 1 due on Sakai


Jensen and McLeod. Pharmacogenomics as a risk mitigation strategy for chemotherapeutic cardiotoxicity. Pharmacogenomics, 2013

Tuesday, Sept 27-  

Patient-reported outcomes methodology, Dr. Antonia Bennett, PhD
Research Assistant Professor, Health Policy and Management, Faculty Director of UNC’s Patient-Reported Outcome Survey System (PRO-Core)
Reading: Kent et al. Revisiting the Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results Cancer Registry and Medicare Health Outcomes Survey (SEER-MHOS) Linked Data Resource for Patient-Reported Outcomes Research in Older Adults with Cancer. JAGS, 2016

Thursday Sept 29- Childhood, adolescent and young adult cancers
Readings: TBD

Tuesday, Oct 4- Post-diagnosis behavior change & national surveys

Wednesday Oct 5- Please plan attend the Lineberger Seminar from 4-5 p.m.
Of Cabbages and Kings (and Cohorts)
Drs. Anthony Swerdlow and Minouk Schoemaker
The Institute of Cancer Research, London
002 Joseph S. Pagano Conference Room, UNC Lineberger Cancer Center

Thursday Oct 6- Exam review, midterm article posted online

Tuesday, Oct 11- Midterm exam (In-class journal review)

Thursday Oct 13- Medication adherence

Tuesday, Oct 18- Prostate cancer survivorship and outcomes, Dr. Ron Chen, MD, MPH
Associate Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology
Readings: TBD

Thursday, Oct 20- Pharamacoepidemiology & cancer survivorship, Dr. Jenny Lund
Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology
Assignment 2 posted on Sakai
Readings: TBD
Tuesday, Oct 25- **Physical activity & cancer survivorship**

* 2nd reading TBD

Thursday, Oct 27- **Financial toxicities**, Dr. Stacie Dusetzina, PhD
Assistant Professor, UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy, Division of Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy

* Assignment 2 due on Sakai

Readings: TBD

Tuesday, Nov 1- **Bladder cancer surveillance**, Dr. Matt Nielsen, MD, MS
Associate Professor, Urology; Director, Urologic Oncology

Readings: TBD

Thursday, Nov 3- **Cancer Disparities**, Dr. Cleo Samuel, PhD
Assistant Professor, Health Policy and Management

Readings: TBD

Tuesday, Nov 8- **Cancer and fertility**

* 2nd reading TBD

Thursday, Nov 10- **Working in cancer consortia**

* 2nd reading TBD

Tuesday, Nov 15- **UNC Cancer Survivorship Cohort**, Dr. Jeanette Bensen, PhD
Research Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology

Readings: TBD

Thursday, Nov 17- **Mental health and end of life care**, Dr. Don Rosenstein, MD
Professor and Vice Chair, Division of Hospital Psychiatry; Director, Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Support Program

* Final paper titles / topics due
Reading: Donald Rosenstein. Depression and end-of-life care for patients with cancer. Dialogues in Clinical Neuroscience, 2011

Tuesday, Nov 22- Caregiver health
Final papers due
Readings: TBD

Thursday, Nov 24- Thanksgiving, no class

Tuesday, Nov 29*- TBD
Tuesday, Dec 1*- TBD
Tuesday, Dec 6*- TBD
Tuesday, Dec 8*- TBD

*Two of these dates will included small group discussions of final papers