

Cancer Related Health Behaviors and Disparities

AS.280.233

Johns Hopkins University

Summer Session 2017

Date and time: Time TBD, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, July 24 – Aug 4, 2017

Location: Johns Hopkins University, Rockville Campus

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*Email is the preferred method of contact. Please email both Dr. Patel and Dr. Krakow with any questions; students can expect an email response before the next class period.

Credit Hours: 1

Course Description:

This course will explore behaviors related to cancer prevention and control. Students will gain a basic understanding of cancer etiology and descriptive epidemiology. Additional topics will include primary and secondary cancer prevention strategies, drawing from recent research, including studies currently being conducted at the National Cancer Institute. Students will also learn about disparities in cancer prevention behaviors. Multiple learning formats will promote student learning and introduce different tools for behavioral cancer prevention research.

Core Learning Objectives:

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand that “cancer” is actually a group of complex diseases, and describe the basic principles of cancer etiology.
2. Know the basic descriptive epidemiology of the most common cancers in the US, and become familiar with research tools used to understand the national burden of cancer.
3. Apply an introductory knowledge of epidemiologic methods to understanding and interpreting cancer research.
4. Be able to evaluate the quality of scientific literature and science reporting, specifically in the context of cancer.
5. Describe our current understanding of the role of lifestyle behaviors, including diet, physical activity, tobacco use, and vaccination, in cancer etiology, and plan strategies for translating these research findings into public health practice
6. Recognize the benefit of cancer screening for early detection, and be aware of current screening recommendations.

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Course Materials:

Textbook: There is no required textbook for this course.

Additional Readings: To enhance understanding of the current state of cancer research, contemporary readings will be assigned. These may include journal articles, pieces from the scientific media, online resources, and short video tutorials. Please see below for course materials.

All reading materials will be posted on blackboard prior to lectures, accompanied by a few short questions that students are encouraged to think about while exploring these materials. Students are expected to read all required materials prior to class. We do appreciate that some concepts covered by these readings may be complex; therefore, we advise that students spend **approximately an hour** reading and thinking about each assigned piece. If you have questions on the material, or if there is anything that you do not understand, please come to class prepared to discuss this. We expect all students to participate in the discussion of assigned reading materials, and failure to contribute to these discussions is likely to affect the participation grade.

Participation and Attendance:

This is an interactive course; students are expected to participate fully in all discussions and group projects. Participation will be part of the course assessment. Students are also encouraged to ask questions and discuss concepts throughout each class. For these reasons, **attendance is mandatory** and both attendance and participation will be assessed as part of the course grade.

However, we do understand that sometimes unforeseen circumstances occur; for this reason, each student will be allowed up to one **excused** absence during the 2-week session without penalty. There will be no excused absences for class periods in which an assessment is given (quizzes and “hot topic discussions”). Make-up assignments will only be allowed in case of emergency; requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Please email Drs. Patel and Krakow with advanced request for excused absences. In case of emergency, please call Dr. Patel at her office (number listed above). **As this is a short course that meets only 8 times, multiple absences could result in a failing grade.**

Use of Smartphones/Cell Phones and Laptops: Unless being used as part of a class activity, the use of cell phones or smartphones during class is not permitted. Furthermore, laptops should be only used for academic purposes during class. Please be respectful to the instructors and classmates during the limited amount of class time we share. Silence and store communication devices during class, and don't use laptops for email or social media! Failure to follow this request may affect the participation grade.

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Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated based on class attendance, participation in group discussions, the oral presentation/debate, and 3 quizzes. The evaluation breakdown is as follows:

Class attendance: 20%

Class participation: 20%

Students will be assessed on their participation in informal class discussions. For full credit, students should aim to make at least one substantive comment per discussion.

Quizzes: 30%

There will be a total of 3 15-minute quizzes, each worth 10 points. Quizzes will be given at the end of class (see schedule, below) and will comprise of a mix of multiple choice and short answer questions. Quizzes will not be cumulative, i.e., only material since the last quiz will be tested.

Individual presentations: 30%

Students will work independently to present a “hot topic” in cancer research. During the last class, students will have 10 minutes to present their topic, as well as their argument for or against the issue. There will be time for discussion after each presentation. Students are encouraged to choose their own “hot topics” based on the concepts covered in the course. Drs. Patel and Krakow will be available to help students identify a topic for their presentation. All topics should be submitted for instructor approval by Friday, July 14, 2017.

Further details will be available during the first class period.

Time will be given during class to prepare for these presentations, but it is also expected that students will be able to work on their presentations outside of class time.

Grading: Pass/Fail

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Tentative Schedule:

This course meets for 2 hours. Classes will be structured to include both lectures and time for discussion.

Week 1	Part 1	Part 2	Reading or Assignments Due
Monday	Course introduction and Introduction to Cancer epidemiology [Dr. Krakow and Dr. Patel]		Read the NCI “What is Cancer?” webpage: http://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/what-is-cancer Also, watch the “Introduction to Cancer Biology” video found here: http://www.cancerquest.org/cancer-biology-animations.html
Tuesday	Introduction to cancer prevention behaviors and SEER [Dr. Patel and Dr. Krakow]	Physical activity and diet [Dr. Patel]	Explore the SEER website: http://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/
Thursday	Quiz (Classes 1-2) Cancer Health Disparities [Dr. Krakow]	Discussion: SEER stat facts and modifiable causes of cancer and related health behaviors	Prepare for quiz Colditz et al Sci Transl Med. 2012; 4(127) Washington Post piece: http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/looking-for-that-fruit-or-vegetable-that-might-prevent-cancer/2015/02/13/9518692e-a651-11e4-a7c2-03d37af98440_story.html
Friday	Smoking [Dr. Patel]	Discussion: smoking and cancer	http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/e-cigarette-use-triples-among-middle-and-high-school-students-study-says/2015/04/16/16632674-e3bd-11e4-81ea-0649268f729e_story.html http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2015/p0416-e-cigarette-use.html

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Week 2	Part I	Part II	Reading or Assignments Due
Monday	Quiz (Classes 3-4) UV exposure and skin cancer [Dr. Patel]	Community based participatory research and cancer [Dr. Patel]	Armstrong, Bruce K., and Anne Kricger. "The epidemiology of UV induced skin cancer." <i>Journal of Photochemistry and Photobiology B: Biology</i> 63.1 (2001): 8-18. Wehner, Mackenzie R., et al. "Indoor tanning and non-melanoma skin cancer: systematic review and meta-analysis." <i>Bmj</i> 345 (2012): e5909.
Tuesday	Infections and vaccines [Dr. Krakow]	Discussion: HPV vaccination Preparation for group presentations	
Thursday	Principles of cancer screening [Dr. Krakow]	Cancer communication and health campaigns [Dr. Krakow] Preparation for group presentations	http://abcnews.go.com/Health/Healthday/story?id=4507166&page=1&singlePage=true de Martel et al, <i>Lancet Oncol</i> 2012;13;607-15 Brawley and Kramer, <i>J Clin Oncol</i> 2005;29:3-300 Explore: http://www.cancer.org/healthy/findcancerearly/cancerscreeningguidelines/american-cancer-society-guidelines-for-the-early-detection-of-cancer http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/
Friday	Quiz (Classes 5-6) Class Presentations	Class Presentations Course wrap up [Dr. Krakow and Dr. Patel]	Prepare for quiz and group presentations