Spring 2018

PUBH 7890A – Independent Study: Infectious Diseases Transmitted Via Inter-Personal Contact

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SYLLABUS: UPDATED as of January 16, 2018. Subject to further changes.

Disclaimer: Class schedule and module contents may be subject to changes during the semester. Students should attend classes and pay attention to any announcements given by the instructor.

**Prerequisites:**
EPID 7135 Epidemiology of Infectious Disease or equivalent or permission from the instructor.

**Catalog Description:**

This course covers advanced topics in epidemiology of infectious diseases of direct interpersonal transmission, except sexual and bloodborne transmission. These include infectious diseases that are transmitted via airborne transmission, droplet transmission, or transmission via fomite or touching, etc. Important themes may include emergency preparedness and response (including outbreaks and pandemics), surveillance, as well as interventions that prevent and control transmissions. Computational, mathematical and statistical tools relevant to the practice of infectious disease epidemiology will be introduced.

**Required Textbook:**

**Required Supplementary Lecture Notes:**

You will also read the Instructor’s lecture notes (if any), as provided via FOLIO.

**Required Software / Programming Language:**

Students are required to bring their own laptop computers to the R programming sessions.
The R software is freely available at http://cran.r-project.org/ (for Windows, Mac or Linux). RStudio is a free and open source integrated development environment for R. RStudio is freely available at http://www.rstudio.com/. In this course, the R package ‘DSAIDE’ developed by Dr. Andreas Handel of the University of Georgia, will be used as a teaching tool.

**JPHCOPH MPH Program Core Student Learning Outcomes:**

At the completion of this program the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate proficiency and effectiveness in the communication of core public health principles and practices, both oral and written.
2. Demonstrate proficiency in the integration of the core public health disciplines (Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Environmental Health, Health Policy/Management, and Social/Behavioral Science) in practice and research.
3. Demonstrate proficiency in problem solving, critical thinking, and public health leadership.

**Epidemiology Concentration Student Learning Outcomes:**

At the completion of this program the student will be able to:

1. Formulate population-based hypotheses and develop appropriate research designs to test these hypotheses.
2. Collect, analyze, and interpret data derived from population-based research.
3. Create and implement public health surveillance systems for population-based studies.
4. Recommend evidence-based interventions and control measures in response to epidemiologic findings.
5. Communicate epidemiologic principles and concepts to lay and professional audiences through both oral and written communication.

**Course Learning Objectives:**

At the completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Understand the methods and approaches to building mathematical models of infectious diseases (Core activity #1,2,3) – Core SLO 3; EPID SLO 1,2
2. Program basic compartmental models of infectious diseases, written in ordinary differential equations, in the R statistical language (Core activity #1,2,3) – Core SLO 3; EPID SLO 1,2
3. Interpret and critique mathematical models of infectious diseases published in the scientific literature (Core activity #1,2,3) – Core SLO 3; EPID SLO 3
4. Discuss the practical applications of mathematical modeling, and the role of mathematical modeling in public health decision-making (Core activity #1,3) – Core SLO 1,2; EPID SLO 3,4,5

**Instructional Methods:**

Class meetings will be a combination of lectures and practicals. Homework assignments, exams, participation in lectures and practicals, and a project constitute the basis of student evaluation. Students will be taught creating mathematical models of infectious diseases in R via RStudio interface.
Exam Schedule: Exam 1: Jan 29, 2018 (Monday), and Exam 2: Mar 19, 2018 (Monday)

Assignments:

Each assignment is an individual’s independent work. No group consultation is allowed.

Core activity 1: A written critique and a PowerPoint presentation of a published mathematical model of an infectious disease specified by the instructor (30% of Final Grade)

Each individual will be assigned to an infectious disease. The student needs to identify a recent paper pertinent to a mathematical model of infectious disease transmission dynamics. The selected paper has to be pre-approved by the Instructor.

The student is expected to write a critique of that paper, and to present a PowerPoint presentation to the whole class at the end of the semester, in terms of their aims/objectives, their model strategies/structures and their parameter values.

Examples of how one can critically review and scrutinize papers of mathematical models of infectious diseases include the following review papers:


Course Objectives: 1-4.

Core activity 2: R practicals and assignments (30% of Final Grade)

In-class and take-home practicals are created to enhance the understanding of the materials delivered in the lectures, and to provide opportunities to practise programming in R.

Course Objectives: 1-3.

Core activity 3: Exam 1 (10% of Final Grade) & Exam 2 (30% of Final Grade) & Test 1 (Bonus 10% of Final Grade)

Both Exams 1 and 2 as well as Test 1 will be in-class, pen-and-paper, and closed-book.

Course Objectives: 1-4.
### Grading:

Weighting of assignments and tests for purposes of grading will be as follows:

- Written critique and PowerPoint presentation of a modeling paper ........ 30%
- R practicals and assignments .................................................. 30%
- Exam 1 ................................................................. 10%
- Exam 2 ................................................................. 30%
- Test 1 ................................................................. Bonus 10%

The following point scale will be utilized in grading:

- A: 90-100%
- B: 80%-89.9%
- C: 70%-79.9%
- D: 60%-69.9%
- F: <60.0%

All assignments will be graded and returned promptly so that students may accurately calculate their grades at any point in time during the semester.

### Due time:

Electronic copies of assignments are due at 11.59pm on the due date (normally Wednesday), unless otherwise stated in the class schedule.

### Late submission:

Reduction of 5% for every 24 hours. For example, for an assignment that is due on Wednesday at 11.59pm, if someone submits it on the coming Friday at 11.59am, then:

Final Grade = Grade * 90%

There are times when extraordinary circumstances occur (e.g., serious illness, death in the family, etc.). In such circumstances, please consult with the instructor within a reasonable amount of time. The instructor will consult the college administrators and verify the reported circumstances before any exemptions or extensions can be granted.

*Nota Bene:* Extensions are not guaranteed and will be granted solely at the discretion of the instructor.

### Extra credit:
Students may earn extra credit by attending the Disease Dynamics Seminars that are held outside class time (1% of the Final Grade per seminar), if they are available. Such seminars are hosted solely at the discretion of the Instructor. Students who are unable to attend the seminars may submit a brief summary of the speaker’s designated paper (or PowerPoint; according to the specific instructions given by the instructor) in lieu of attendance and earn the extra credit. If a Disease Dynamics Seminar is held within the specified class time of this class, it is considered to be a regular guest lecture for this course, and no extra credit will be given.

For details about the Disease Dynamics Seminars, please visit: https://sites.google.com/a/georgiasouthern.edu/fung/disease-dynamics-seminars

**Academic Misconduct:**

As a student registered at this University, it is expected that you will adhere to only the strictest standards of conduct. It is recommended that you review the latest edition of the *Student Conduct Code* book, as well as the latest *Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog* to familiarize yourself with the University’s policies in this regard. Your continued enrollment in this course is an implied contract between you and the instructor on this issue; from this point forward, it is assumed that you will conduct yourself appropriately.

Academic integrity relates to the appropriate use of intellectual property. The syllabus, lecture notes, and all materials presented and/or distributed during this course are protected by copyright law. Students are authorized to take notes in class, but that authorization extends only to making one set of notes for personal (and no other) use. As such, students are not authorized to sell, license, commercially publish, distribute, transmit, display, or record notes in or from class without the express written permission of the instructor.

**Plagiarism:**

According to the Academic Dishonesty Policy of GSU, plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- A. Directly quoting the words of others without using quotation marks or indented format to identify them.
- B. Using published or unpublished sources of information without identifying them.
- C. Paraphrasing material or ideas without identifying the source.
- D. Unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic material.

If you are accused of plagiarism, the following policy per the Judicial Affairs website (http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/judicial/faculty.htm) will be enforced:

**PROCEDURES FOR ADJUDICATING ACADEMIC DISHONESTY CASES**

**First Offense - In Violation Plea**

1. If the professor and the Dean of Students agree that the evidence is sufficient to warrant a charge of academic dishonesty, the professor should contact the Office of Judicial Affairs to determine if this is a first violation of academic dishonesty. The incident will be reported via the following website: http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/judicial/faculty.htm
2. If it is a first violation, the professor should talk with the student about the violation. If the student accepts responsibility in writing and the professor decides to adjudicate the case, the following procedures will be followed:
   a. The student will be placed on disciplinary probation for a minimum of one semester by the Office of Judicial Affairs.
b. The student will be subject to any academic sanctions imposed by the professor (from receiving a 0 on the assignment to receiving a failing grade in the class).

c. A copy of all the material involved in the case (Academic Dishonesty Report Form and the Request For Instructor to Adjudicate Form) and a brief statement from the professor concerning the facts of the case and the course syllabus should be mailed to the Office of Judicial Affairs for inclusion in the student’s discipline record.

First Offense - Not In Violation Plea (student does not admit the violation)

1. If the professor and the Dean of Students agree that the evidence is sufficient to warrant a charge of academic dishonesty, the professor should contact the Office of Judicial Affairs to determine if this is the first or second violation of academic dishonesty. The student will be charged with academic dishonesty and the University Judicial Board or a University Hearing Officer would hear the case. If the student is found responsible, the following penalty will normally be imposed:
   a. The student will be placed on Disciplinary Probation for a minimum of one semester by the Office of Judicial Affairs.
   b. The student will be subject to any academic sanctions imposed by the professor.

Second Violation of Academic Dishonesty

1. If the professor and the Dean of Students agree that the evidence is sufficient to warrant a charge of academic dishonesty, and if it is determined this is the second violation, the student will be charged with academic dishonesty and the University Judicial Board or a University Hearing Officer would hear the case.
2. If the student is found responsible, the following penalty will normally be imposed:
   a. Suspension for a minimum of one semester or expulsion.
   b. The student will be subject to any academic sanctions imposed by the professor.

NOT RESPONSIBLE FINDING

When a student is found not responsible of academic dishonesty, the work in question (assignment, paper, test, etc.) would be forwarded to the Department Chair. It is the responsibility of the Department Chair to ensure that the work is evaluated by a faculty member other than the individual who brought the charge and, if necessary, submit a final grade to the Registrar. For the protection of the faculty member and the student, the work in question should not be referred back to the faculty member who charged the student with academic dishonesty.

In the case of a Department Chair bringing charges against a student, an administrator at the Dean’s level will ensure that the student’s work is evaluated in an appropriate manner.

**Academic Handbook:**
Students are expected to abide by the Academic Handbook, located at [http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/sta/guide/](http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/sta/guide/). Your failure to comply with any part of this Handbook may be a violation and thus, you may receive an F in the course and/or be referred for disciplinary action.

**University Calendar for the Semester:**
The University Calendar is located with the semester schedule, and can be found at: [http://www.georgiasouthern.edu/current.php](http://www.georgiasouthern.edu/current.php).

**Attendance Policy:**
Federal regulations require attendance be verified prior to distribution of financial aid allotments. Regular attendance is expected and will be recorded. *Failure to attend class will negatively impact your participation grade.*

**Portfolio Inclusion:**
Samples of your work may be reproduced for research purposes and/or inclusion in the professor’s teaching portfolio. You have the right to review anything selected for use, and subsequently ask for its removal.

**Retaining of Original Work:**

All original examinations, papers, etc. may be retained by the instructor for documentation and accreditation purposes. If you wish to obtain a copy of your graded work that has been retained, come by the instructor’s office and we will make a copy for your records.

**Expectation of hours of work outside class time:**

For this course, students are expected to spend **at least 6 hours per week** outside class time, to read their textbooks and other reading materials and to complete their assignments and other required tasks. Some students may need more time, depending on each student’s abilities and circumstances.

**Office hours:**

Students are **highly recommended to make an appointment** with the instructor, even if they plan to meet him during office hours. The instructor may be meeting another student when you arrive at his office. Making appointments allow you to have priority over any students who do not make an appointment. This also allows the efficient use of your time and the instructor’s time.

**One Final Note:**

The contents of this syllabus are as complete and accurate as possible. The instructor reserves the right to make any changes necessary to the syllabus and course material. The instructor will announce any such changes in class. It is the responsibility of the student to know what changes have been made in order to successfully complete the requirements of the course.
# Class Schedule (accurate as of January 16, 2018)

(Subject to potential adjustments during the semester)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Date</th>
<th>Topics of Lecture and Computer Practical</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part I: An Introduction to Mathematical Modeling of Infectious Diseases</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Re-visit basic knowledge of infectious disease dynamics from MPH course EPID 7135</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>At home, please work on:</strong></td>
<td>Assignment 1: Complete the tasks and answers all the questions listed in “What to do” in App: ID Dynamics Introduction. Submit R assignment Due on Jan 10 (W) at 11.59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R: DSAIDE package</td>
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<td></td>
<td>App: ID Dynamics Introduction</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>At home, please work on:</strong></td>
<td>Assignment 2: Complete the tasks and answers all the questions listed in “What to do” in App: Characteristics of ID. Submit R assignment Due on Jan 17 (W) at 11.59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R: DSAIDE package</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Characteristics of ID</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>-Jan 29&lt;br&gt;(M)</td>
<td><strong>Exam 1 (1 hour; 5pm – 6pm sharp)</strong>&lt;br&gt;In-class pen-and-paper closed-book exam</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>In class:</strong>&lt;br&gt;R: DSAIDE package&lt;br&gt;App: Direct Transmission</td>
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<td><strong>Assignment 3:</strong> Complete the tasks and answers all the questions listed in “What to do” in App: Direct Transmission.&lt;br&gt;Submit R assignment&lt;br&gt;Due on Jan 24 (W) at 11.59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>W5</strong>&lt;br&gt;Feb 5&lt;br&gt;(M)</td>
<td><strong>Short-term dynamics of acute infections</strong>&lt;br&gt;The classic epidemic model&lt;br&gt;Complications to classic models&lt;br&gt;Growth rate and R0 with random mixing</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Textbook reading:</strong>&lt;br&gt;Vynnycky and White, pp. 63-81. Chapter 4.&lt;br&gt;Handel. Chapter 5. Reproductive Number.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>In class, please work on:</strong>&lt;br&gt;R: DSAIDE package&lt;br&gt;App: Reproductive Number (Task 1 to 9)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Assignment 4:</strong> Answer all the questions from Task 1 to Task 9, listed in “What to do” in App: Reproductive Number.&lt;br&gt;Submit R assignment&lt;br&gt;Due on Feb 7 (W) at 11.59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>W6</strong>&lt;br&gt;Feb 12&lt;br&gt;(M)</td>
<td><strong>Long-term dynamics of acute infections</strong>&lt;br&gt;Understanding cycles of incidence</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Textbook reading:</strong>&lt;br&gt;Vynnycky and White, pp. 82-104. Chapter 4.&lt;br&gt;Handel. Chapter 4. Patterns of Infectious Disease Dynamics</td>
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<td><strong>In class, please work on:</strong>&lt;br&gt;R: DSAIDE package&lt;br&gt;App: ID Patterns</td>
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<td><strong>Assignment 5:</strong> Complete the tasks and answers all the questions listed in “What to do” in App: ID Patterns.&lt;br&gt;Submit R assignment&lt;br&gt;Due on Feb 14 (W) at 11.59pm</td>
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<td><strong>W7</strong>&lt;br&gt;Feb 19&lt;br&gt;(M)</td>
<td><strong>Age patterns – analyzing cross-sectional data</strong>&lt;br&gt;The effect of vaccination on the dynamics of infections</td>
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<td><strong>Textbook reading:</strong>&lt;br&gt;Vynnycky and White, pp. 105-143. Chapter 5.&lt;br&gt;Handel. Chapter 5. Reproductive Number.</td>
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<td><strong>In class, please work on:</strong>&lt;br&gt;R: DSAIDE package&lt;br&gt;App: Reproductive Number (Task 10 – 16)</td>
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<td><strong>Assignment 6:</strong> Answer all the questions from Task 1 to Task 9, listed in “What to do” in App: Reproductive Number.&lt;br&gt;Submit R assignment&lt;br&gt;Due on Feb 21 (W) at 11.59pm</td>
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<td><strong>W8</strong>&lt;br&gt;Feb 26&lt;br&gt;(M)</td>
<td><strong>Test 1 (1 hour; 5pm – 6pm sharp)</strong>&lt;br&gt;In-class pen-and-paper closed-book test</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Textbook reading:</strong>&lt;br&gt;Vynnycky and White, pp. 177-222. Chapter 7.&lt;br&gt;Handel. Chapter 12. Host Heterogeneity.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Integrating contact patterns in models</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>In class, please work on:</strong>&lt;br&gt;R: DSAIDE package&lt;br&gt;App: Host heterogeneity</td>
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<td><strong>Assignment 7:</strong> Complete the tasks and answers all the questions listed in “What to do” in App: Host heterogeneity.&lt;br&gt;Submit R assignment&lt;br&gt;Due on Feb 28 (W) at 11.59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Activity</td>
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<td>Feb 28 (W)</td>
<td>Choice of article for the article critique and presentation: Due on Feb 28 (W) at 11.59pm. You should inform the Instructor your choice by email.</td>
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<tr>
<td>W9 Mar 5 (M)</td>
<td><strong>Contact patterns in an age-stratified model</strong></td>
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<td>W10 Mar 12-16</td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS</strong> &lt;br&gt;Spring break: March 12-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>W11 Mar 19 (M)</td>
<td><strong>Exam 2 (2 hours; 5pm – 7pm sharp)</strong> &lt;br&gt;In-class pen-and-paper closed-book exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>W12 Mar 26 (M)</td>
<td><strong>Additional transmission route:</strong> &lt;br&gt;<strong>Environmental transmission</strong> &lt;br&gt;The environment: what to do with a second transmission route</td>
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<tr>
<td>W12 Mar 26 (M)</td>
<td>Textbook reading: <em>Handel. Chapter 8. Environmental Transmission</em> &lt;br&gt;In class, please work on: &lt;br&gt;<strong>R</strong>: <em>DSAIDE package</em> &lt;br&gt;<strong>App</strong>: <em>Environmental Transmission App</em> &lt;br&gt;Assignment 8: Complete the tasks and answers all the questions listed in “What to do” in App: Environmental Transmission. Submit R assignment Due on Mar 28 (W) at 11.59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>W13 Apr 2 (M)</td>
<td><strong>Additional transmission route:</strong> &lt;br&gt;<strong>Vector transmission</strong> &lt;br&gt;Ross-Macdonald model of malaria transmission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
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| W14   | Apr 9 (M) | **Modeling and policy: Influenza**  
Other readings will be provided. |
| W15   | Apr 16 (M) | **Modeling and policy: Ebola**  
DOI:10.1056/NEJMoa1411100.  
[Dispatch] DOI: 10.3201/eid2108.141613 |
| Wk16  | Apr 23 (M) | **Students’ presentation and discussion** | **Students’ PowerPoint presentation in class** |

**Students’ submission of article critique manuscript.**  
Due on Apr 18 (W) at 11.59pm