

College of Public Health & Health Professions  
Course Syllabus  
**PHC7925: Biostatistics Journal Club**  
Fall 2017  
Time: Monday, Period 9 (4:05 – 4:55)  
Location: CTRB 5235  
Course Website: UF e-Learning site - Canvas

**Instructor Information**

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**Course Overview**

This class will meet weekly to present, review and discuss current topics in biostatistics. Articles in biostatistics or statistics journals or discipline-specific (e.g. medicine, public health, epidemiology) articles with substantive biostatistical content will be reviewed. In addition, original research may be presented and discussed.

**Prerequisites**

This course is intended for biostatistics Ph.D. students.

**Course Objectives**

Biostatisticians are important members of the research team and help formulate research questions, determine appropriate analysis methods, summarize results, and discuss implications. To accomplish this, effective communication with researchers, who have a variety of backgrounds, is required. Upon successful completion of this course, students should:

- be accustomed to presenting summaries of current research;
- critique recently published biostatistical methods and application articles;
- be able to discuss broad issues in biostatistics;
- be prepared to peer review articles;
- be familiar with journals in biostatistics/statistics.

## Course Materials

Articles and discussion material will be selected by students and faculty members.

## Course Requirements/Evaluation/Grading

This course will be graded as satisfactory (S) or unsatisfactory (U). Students are responsible for all course material. **Reading assignments must be read prior to class, and participation in class discussion is required to achieve a satisfactory grade.** Failure to complete assignments and/or poor class attendance will result in an unsatisfactory grade.

## Course Structure

Articles to be discussed will be selected by students and biostatistics faculty members. Presentations and discussions will be led by students, with a faculty member available to moderate the class session. For article reviews, students will be assigned sections of the article (e.g. background, methods, results, discussion). Students not assigned to present articles will add 2 or more comments to the online discussion prior to class. During class, students will display slides and lead discussion of the topic of the day. Generally, 2 students will be responsible for the presentation/discussion; however each student will be responsible for one entire class period, where they may wish to present their dissertation research. The focus will be on content AND presentation.

## Tentative Outline

Aug 22	course organizational meeting
Aug 29	presentation and discussion
Sept 5	presentation and discussion
Sept 12	presentation and discussion
Sept 19	presentation and discussion
Sept 26	presentation and discussion
Oct 3	presentation and discussion
Oct 10	presentation and discussion
Oct 17	presentation and discussion
Oct 24	presentation and discussion
Oct 31	presentation and discussion
Nov 7	presentation and discussion
Nov 14	presentation and discussion
Nov 21	presentation and discussion
Nov 28	presentation and discussion
Dec 5	presentation and discussion

## **Statement of University's Honesty Policy (cheating, plagiarism, etc.)**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor of this class."

## **Policy Related to Class Attendance and Late or Missed Assignments:**

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

## **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc> ) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

## **Counseling and Student Health**

Students may occasionally have personal issues that arise in the course of pursuing higher education or that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing problems affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with the instructor and to seek confidential assistance at the Counseling and Wellness Center. For more information, contact the center at 392-1575 or visit their web site at <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>

## **Class Demeanor Expected by the Professor (late to class, cell phones) :**

Students are expected to show up for class prepared and on time. Cell phones are to be silenced during class unless there is an emergency, in which case please inform the instructor.

## **Online Course Evaluation Process**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given

specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/> .