Syllabus Advanced Core Epidemiology

N°2013

Advanced Core Epidemiology

Coordinator
Dr. Judith Mueller
Department of Quantitative methods in Public Health (METIS)
Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Santé Publique (EHESP, French School of Public Health)
judith.mueller@ehesp.fr

Dates
September 4 - October 2, 2018

Credits/ECTS
3 ECTS

Duration
30 hours

Location
Room : Amphitheatre, EHESP, 20 avenue George Sand, 93210 LA PLAINE ST DENIS

Description
This module aims at providing students with working knowledge of epidemiology, which will allow them applying epidemiological concepts in a general public health work setting. This includes understanding epidemiological measures, study designs, biases and study validity, diagnostic testing as it relates to screening and use of epidemiological data in decision making and simple models for prediction and evaluation of intervention strategies (decision analysis).

The module also aims at consolidating pre-existing knowledge to prepare students for the epidemiology track.

Prerequisites
Introduction to epidemiology (M1 level)
Previous reading of K.J. Rothman: Epidemiology – an introduction . 2nd edition. (few copies available in the library)

Course learning objectives
Students who successfully complete this course should be able to:
1. Explain and apply principal concepts of epidemiological reasoning (validity, causality, power, attributable risk...)
2. Interpret and discuss epidemiological studies, their design and their contribution to public health
3. Perform simple epidemiological analyses (measures of frequency and association; standardization and Mantel-Haenszel; test performance; combining probabilities)

Structure
(details of sessions title/speaker/date/duration)

Each module day will include two lectures and a lab session during which the concepts and method presented during the lectures will be worked on. Howeworks will be briefly discussed in the morning of each day.

Additional Help! Sessions after class (see schedule) will allow students with major difficulties in following the course to discuss difficulties with teaching assistants and to catch up.

An additional review session will be offered on October 8, to allow students ask specific questions to the course coordinator. In-depth preparation of the course material is essential for participation in this review session.

September 4
1. Introduction to module and entry exam (J. Mueller, 1.5h)
2. Measures of frequency and association, study design (J. Mueller, 1.5h)
3. Study design and biases (F. Bodeau-Livinec, 1.5 h)

September 11
4. Diagnostic tests (J. Mueller, 1.5 h)
5. Clinical trials (J-P. Régnaux 1.5 h)

September 18
6. Introduction to decision analysis (J. Mueller, 1.5h)
7. Ecological studies (C. Padilla 1.5h)

September 25
| Resources | All readings and materials will be posted on REAL. Readings are available below for each session. |
| Course requirement | Students are expected to attend all lectures and lab sessions and must hand in homework assignments for the given deadlines (9.30h of each module day, except the first). Class attendance will be checked accordingly. Validation of the module may be refused if attendance is judged insufficient. Students are expected to read and analyse selected papers before the courses and to participate actively in group work. Active contribution to discussions during lectures – as invited by the lecturer – is encouraged. Participation in the Help! Sessions is only recommended for the weakest students of the class. |
| Grading and assessment | Final exam: 80% of grade  
Homeworks (4): 20% of grade |
| Course policy | Attendance & punctuality  
Regular and punctual class attendance is a prerequisite for receiving credit in a course. Students are expected to attend each class. Attendance will be taken at each class. The obligations of attendance and punctuality cover every aspect of the course: - lectures, conferences, group projects, assessments, examinations, as described in EHESP Academic Regulations http://mph.ehesp.fr EHESP Academic Regulation Article 3). If students are not able to make it to class, they are required to send an email to the instructor and to the MPH program coordinating team explaining their absence prior to the scheduled class date. All supporting documents are provided to the end-of-year panel.  
Students who miss class are responsible for content. Any student who misses a class has the responsibility for obtaining copies of notes, handouts and assignments. If additional assistance is still necessary, an appointment should be scheduled with the instructor. Class time is not to be used to go over material with students who have missed class.  
Lateness: Students who are more than 10 minutes late may be denied access to a class. Repeated late arrivals may be counted as absences (See http://mph.ehesp.fr EHESP Academic Regulation Article 3 Attendance & Punctuality)  
Maximum absences authorized & penalty otherwise  
Above 20% of absences will be designated a fail for a given class. The students will be entitled to be reassessed in any failed component(s). If they undertake a reassessment or they retake a module this means that they cannot normally obtain more than the minimum pass mark (i.e. 10 out of 20)  
Exceptional circumstances  
Absence from any examination or test, or late submission of assignments due to illness, psychological problems, or exceptional personal reasons must be justified; otherwise, students will be penalized, as above mentioned. Students must directly notify their professor or the MPH academic secretariat before the exam or before the assignment deadline. Before accepting the student’s justification, the professor or the MPH academic secretariat has the right to request either a certificate from the attending physician or from a psychologist, or from any other relevant person (See http://mph.ehesp.fr EHESP Academic Regulation Article 4 Examinations).  
Courtesy: All cell phones/pagers MUST be turned off during class time. Students are required to conduct themselves according to professional standards, eating during class time is not permitted during class time, such as course or group work. |
### Valuing diversity

Diversity enriches learning. It 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. 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 and social position.

### Course evaluation

EHESP requests that you complete a course evaluation at the end of the school year. Your responses will be anonymous, with feedback provided in the aggregate. Open-ended comments will be shared with instructors, but not identified with individual students. Your participation in course evaluation is an expectation, since providing constructive feedback is a professional obligation. Feedback is critical, moreover, to improving the quality of our courses, as well as for instructor assessment.

### Session 1

**Module introduction**

**Speakers**

Judith Mueller

**Session Outline**

Lecture, entry exam

**Learning Objectives**

- Understand the organisation of the module
- Evaluate own level of knowledge to prepare work during the module

**Duration**

1.5 hours

**Training methods**

Lecture, entry exam

**Readings**

Required Reading: see course requirements

### Session 2

**Study design and biases**

**Speakers**

F. Bodeau Livinec

**Session Outline**

Lecture followed

**Learning Objectives**

- Recall study designs and their risk for bias
- Categories of biases, ways to avoid them during the study development

**Duration**

1.5 hours

**Training methods**

Lecture and discussion

**Readings**

Required reading: see course requirements

### Session 3

**Diagnostic testing**
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Clinical Trials</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speakers</td>
<td>Jean-Philippe Régnaux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session Outline</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Learning Objectives | - Understand how to conduct and interpret clinical trial  
- Discuss types and limitations in clinical trials |
| Duration | 1.5 hours |
| Training methods | Lecture and discussion |
| Readings | Required reading: Article XXX |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 4</th>
<th>Introduction to decision analysis</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speakers</td>
<td>J. Mueller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session Outline</td>
<td>Lecture and lab</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Learning Objectives | - Understand the principal idea of decision analysis  
- Conduct a simple combination of probabilities |
| Duration | 1.5 hours |
| Training methods | Lecture, discussion and lab |
| Readings | Required reading: Article XXX |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 5</th>
<th>Ecological studies</th>
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<tr>
<td>Speakers</td>
<td>C. Padilla</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session Outline</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Learning Objectives | - Understand how to conduct and interpret an ecological study  
- Discuss validity and level of evidence in ecological studies |
| Duration | 1.5 hours |
| Training methods | |
| Readings | |

**Session Outline**

Lecture followed by lab session

**Learning Objectives**

- Understand concepts of test performance and their application to screening  
- Calculate sensitivity, specificity, predictive values  
- Understand and estimate consequences from limited test performance for the validity of epidemiological studies

**Duration**

1.5 hours

**Training methods**

Lecture and discussion

**Readings**

Required reading: BOOK Chapter
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 7</th>
<th><strong>Validity and strategies to control confounding</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Speakers</strong></td>
<td>F. Bodeau Livinec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Session Outline</strong></td>
<td>Lecture followed by lab session</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Learning Objectives** | - Internal and external study validity  
|                    | - Confounding                                   
|                    | - Methods to control confounding, including standardisation |
| **Duration**       | 1.5 hours                                       |
| **Training methods** | Lecture and discussion                         |
| **Readings**       | Required reading: ARTICLE XXX                   |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 8</th>
<th><strong>Metaanalyses</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Speakers</strong></td>
<td>JP Regnaux</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Session Outline</strong></td>
<td>Lecture</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Learning Objectives** | - Understand how to conduct and interpret a metaanalysis  
|                    | - Discuss limitations of metaanalyses           |
| **Duration**       | 1.5 hours                                       |
| **Training methods** | Lecture and discussion                         |
| **Readings**       | Required reading: ARTICLE XXX                   |

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<tr>
<th>Session 9</th>
<th><strong>Causal inference</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Speakers</strong></td>
<td>E. Counil</td>
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<td><strong>Session Outline</strong></td>
<td>Lecture and case study</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Learning Objectives</strong></td>
<td>- Understand and apply arguments for causality based on results of epidemiological studies</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Duration</strong></td>
<td>1.5 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Training methods</strong></td>
<td>Lecture and case study</td>
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