

Course Title: *Epidemiology Journal Club-Doctoral*

Course Number: *EPID0702*

Course Pre- and Co-requisite(s): *PhD in Public Health, Epidemiology Students Only*

Course Location: *Remote via Zoom*

Course Date & Time: *Once a month, 12:00pm-1:00pm*

Course Instructor: *Emily Barrett, PhD (Emily.barrett@eohsi.rutgers.edu)*

Office Hours: *By Appointment Only*

Course Assistant: *Steve Troulis (stroulis@sph.rutgers.edu)*

Course Website: *None*

Required Course Text: *None*

Additional/Supplemental Readings/Resources: *None*

Course Description: *The Epidemiology Journal Club-Doctoral (0.5 credits) provides doctoral degree students an opportunity to discuss and present peer-reviewed academic literature and apply their skills to evaluate the literature, review scientific findings and learn about historical, controversial, or current topics.*

Selected Concentration Competencies Addressed: *The competencies addressed in this course for the PhD in Public Health, Epidemiology Concentration include:*

1. Critique epidemiologic literature, assess its strengths and weaknesses, and determine if conclusion(s) are supported; and
2. Communicate and present study findings to professional audiences

Please visit the Concentration webpages on the School of Public Health's website at sph.rutgers.edu for additional competencies addressed by this course for other degrees and concentrations.

Course Objectives: By the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- a. Critically read epidemiologic literature;
- b. Critique techniques and conclusions asserted in the literature; and
- c. Lead a discussion on a research article.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Course Requirements and Grading Policy.

This course will be graded on a Pass or Fail basis. **Attendance is required.** To receive a passing grade; students are expected to attend three of the four journal club meetings each semester; participate in class discussion; and complete required assignments. *[Note that students will not complete Assignment 1 in every semester- they must present at least 2 times during their doctoral degree program.]*

Course Assignments

Assignment 1: Present and Lead Discussion for One Journal Article (as required- at least 2 times across the doctoral program)

- Develop 10-20 slides that highlight relevant study information from the research article.
- Meet with the faculty member who selected the paper to discuss your slides in advance of the journal club.
- At journal club, present and lead a discussion on the research article. Your presentation should be approximately 20-25 minutes followed by 30-35 minutes of discussion.
- Your presentation will follow the style/layout of a journal article (introduction, methods, results, discussion) but adds your critique, i.e. what are the strengths and weaknesses of the article beyond those which the author acknowledges? What are some key methodological issues to consider?
- In the presentation and discussion, students should additionally evaluate how dimensions of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) are (or are not) reflected in the research and reflect on opportunities to further integrate DEI themes into future work on this topic.

Course Objectives show how your competencies, objectives, modules, and assessments are related.

Competency	Course Objectives(s)	Lessons	Assessment(s)
1	a,b,c	Sessions 1-4	---
2	c	Session (to be determined for each PhD student)	Assignment 1

Course Schedule:

The Epidemiology Journal Club-Doctoral will meet monthly and an epidemiology faculty member will lead each journal club meeting.

Session 1 (January 23rd 2023 12-1pm): Mumford et al. (2021) Cannabis use while trying to conceive a prospective cohort study evaluating associations with fecundability live birth and pregnancy loss. *Human Reproduction*. 36(5): 1405-1415. Faculty lead: Dr. Emily Barrett.

Session 2 (February 15th 2023 12-1pm): Roh et al. (2022) Association between indoor residual spraying and pregnancy outcome. *International Journal of Epidemiology*. 51(5): 1489-1501. Faculty lead: Dr. Stephanie Shiau.

Session 3 (March 31st 2023 12-1pm): Zhou et al. (2021) Are people with metabolically health obesity really healthy? A prospective cohort study of 381,363 UK Biobank participants. *Diabetologia*. 64(9): 1963-1972. Faculty lead: Dr. Ayana April-Sanders.

Session 4 (April 17th 2023: 12-1 pm): Ma et al. (2023) Cancer risk in patients with diverticular disease:A nationwide cohort study. *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*. 115(1): 62-70. Faculty lead: Dr. Farzin Khosrow Khavar.

Learning Management System: Canvas will be used extensively throughout the semester for course syllabus, assignments, announcements, communication and/or other course-related activities. It is the student's responsibility to familiarize themselves with Canvas and check it regularly. If you have difficulties accessing Canvas, please inform the instructor and Canvas Support (help@canvas.rutgers.edu). Canvas is accessible at canvas.rutgers.edu.

School of Public Health Honor Code: The School of Public Health Honor Code is found in the School Catalog (sph.rutgers.edu/academics/catalog.html). Each student bears a fundamental responsibility for maintaining academic integrity and intellectual honesty in his or her graduate work. For example, all students are expected to observe the generally accepted principles of scholarly work, to submit their own rather than another's work, to refrain from falsifying data, and to refrain from receiving and/or giving aid on examinations or other assigned work requiring independent effort. In submitting written material, the writer takes full responsibility for the work as a whole and implies that, except as properly noted by use of quotation marks, footnotes, etc., both the ideas and the works used are his or her own. In addition to maintaining personal academic integrity, each student is expected to contribute to the academic integrity of the School community by not facilitating inappropriate use of her/his own work by others and by reporting acts of academic dishonesty by others to an appropriate school authority. It should be clearly understood that plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can lead to sanctions up to and including separation from the Rutgers School of Public Health.

Students with Disabilities: Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student must apply for Services by first completing a Registration Form with the Rutgers Office of Disability Services (ODS) at ods.rutgers.edu. The student will also be required to participate in an ODS intake interview and provide documentation. If reasonable accommodations are granted, ODS will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations which should be shared with your instructors as early in your courses as possible.

Commitment to Safe Learning Environment: The Rutgers School of Public Health is committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the School as a whole. Free expression in an academic community is essential to the mission of providing the highest caliber of education possible. The School encourages civil discourse, reasoned thought, sustained discussion, and constructive engagement. Provocative ideas respectfully presented are an expected result. An enlightened academic community, however, connects freedom with responsibility. The School encourages all students to disclose any situations where you may feel unsafe, discriminated against, or harassed. Harassment or discrimination of any kind will be not tolerated and violations may lead to disciplinary actions.

Reporting Discrimination or Harassment: If you experience any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. You may report such incidents to the [RBHS Title IX Office](#) or to the School of Public Health's [Office of Student Affairs](#). Rutgers University has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. If you experience any other form of discrimination or harassment, including racial, ethnic, religious, political, or academic, please report any such incidents to the School's [Office of Student Affairs](#). The School strongly encourages all students to report any incidents of discrimination or harassment to the School. Please be aware that all Rutgers employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as advocates, counselors, clergy and healthcare providers as listed in Appendix A to [Policy 10.3.12](#)) are required to report information

about such discrimination and harassment to the School and potentially the University. For example, if you tell a faculty or staff member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty or staff member must share that information with the [RBHS Title IX Coordinator](#). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can find a list of resources in Appendix A to University [Policy 10.3.12](#). For more information about your options at Rutgers, please visit [Rutgers Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance](#).

Graduate Student Computer Policy: Students are required to possess a personal laptop, no older than approximately two years, that must meet minimum requirements which may be found online at: sph.rutgers.edu/student-life/computer-support.html

Policy Concerning Use of Recording Devices and Other Electronic Communications Systems: When personally owned communication/recording devices are used by students to record lectures and/or classroom lessons, such use must be authorized by the faculty member or instructor who must give either oral or written permission prior to the start of the semester and identify restrictions, if any, on the use of mobile communications or recording devices.

Policy Concerning Use of Turnitin: Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com (directly or via learning management system, i.e. Canvas) for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site. Students who do not agree should contact the course instructor immediately.

Withdrawal/Refund Schedule: Students who stop attending their course(s) without submitting a completed [Add/Drop Course](#) form will receive a failing grade. Furthermore, students dropping to zero credits for the semester are considered withdrawn and must submit a completed [Leave of Absence](#) form from the School of Public Health's Office of Student Affairs. The School of Public Health refunds tuition only. Administrative and technology fees are non-refundable. You may find the Withdrawal/Refund Schedule on the School of Public Health website at: sph.rutgers.edu/academics/academic-calendar.html