

PUBH 6414, SECTION 001

Biostatistical Literacy
Fall 2018

COURSE & CONTACT INFORMATION

Credits: 3
Meeting Day(s): Tuesdays and Thursdays
Meeting Time: 9:45a–11:00a
Meeting Place: Bruininks Hall 432

Instructor: Mark Fiecas
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

PubH 6414: Biostatistical Literacy will cover the fundamental concepts of

- study design,
- descriptive statistics,
- hypothesis testing,
- confidence intervals,
- odds ratios,
- relative risks,
- adjusted models in multiple linear,
- logistic and proportional hazards regression, and
- survival analysis.

The focus will be when to use a given method and how to interpret the results, not the actual computation or computer programming to obtain results from raw data.

This course will involve minimal calculation and offer no formal training in any statistical programming software.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

The course presupposes a basic knowledge of mathematics (including algebra). A Math Refresher website has been created by the University of Minnesota School of Public Health to help you review these concepts (<http://www.sph.umn.edu/current/resources/>). It is entirely up to you whether you utilize the review site. However, it's there to help you feel confident of the basic mathematical operations that may be referred to in the course.

COURSE GOALS & OBJECTIVES

PubH 6414: Biostatistical Literacy has the primary goal of developing student ability to read and interpret statistical results in the primary literature of their specific scientific field of interest.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION AND WORK EXPECTATIONS

Course Workload Expectations

PubH 6414: Biostatistical Literacy is a 3-credit course. The University expects that for each credit, you will spend a minimum of three hours per week attending class, reading, studying, and completing assignments, etc. over the course of a 15-week term. Thus, this course requires approximately 135 hours of effort spread over the course of the term in order to earn an average grade.

The primary method of instruction uses a flipped classroom model. You may be wondering, “*what is a flipped classroom?*” In a flipped classroom, learning takes place both in and out of the classroom. Before class, you will be required to gain necessary knowledge through reading the textbook and watching or reading recorded lectures. Then, in class, you will work collaboratively on learning activities that explore statistical concepts and apply them to reading the research literature. You will be reading and critically analyzing at least one article from the medical or public health literature each week.

Here is the breakdown of the weekly work expectations for class:

- **Preceding weekend:** Students are expected to prepare for each class meeting by reading several selections from the textbook and viewing several short (10-20 minute) online presentations. An online readiness quiz covering the readings and lecture material will be **due each Tuesday before class (by 9:45am)**.
- **In class:** Time will be devoted in class to working collaboratively in small and large groups to explore and apply the concepts. Your learning experience is thus dependent – to some extent – on your classmates and vice versa. Because of this, it is essential that you not only attend class each day and participate in the activities and discussions, but that you show up prepared having completed the before-class tasks.
- **At the end of the week:** An online end-of-unit quiz covering the concept and literature activities of the week, as well as concepts from earlier weeks, will be **due each Saturday (by 11:55pm)**.

In the weekly lab sessions, you will also be experiencing the learn-by-doing approach. You will work in small groups to design and carry out a medical or public health study in order to develop a deeper understanding of the process for conducting and reporting research studies. To ease the process of collecting “human” data while still maintaining the flavor of conducting research, you will be using a virtual world called *the Island* (<http://escholarship.org/uc/item/2q0740hv>). Your group will work with your lab TA during the semester in all aspects of the study process (e.g., research question, methodology, analysis). This project will be semester-long and will require you to apply the concepts learned in the course at a higher level. The culmination of the project will be a presentation of the results of the study to your peers during the last week of class.

Learning Community

School of Public Health courses ask students to discuss frameworks, theory, policy, and more, often in the context of past and current events and policy debates. Many of our courses also ask students to work in teams or discussion groups. We do not come to our courses with identical backgrounds and experiences and building on what we already know about collaborating, listening, and engaging is critical to successful professional, academic, and scientific engagement with topics.

In this course, students are expected to engage with each other in respectful and thoughtful ways.

In group work, this can mean:

- Setting expectations with your groups about communication and response time during the first week of the semester (or as soon as groups are assigned) and contacting the TA or instructor if scheduling problems cannot be overcome.
- Setting clear deadlines and holding yourself and each other accountable.
- Determining the roles group members need to fulfill to successfully complete the project on time.
- Developing a rapport prior to beginning the project (what prior experience are you bringing to the project, what are your strengths as they apply to the project, what do you like to work on?)

In group discussion, this can mean:

- Respecting the identities and experiences of your classmates.
- Avoid broad statements and generalizations. Group discussions are another form of academic communication and responses to instructor questions in a group discussion are evaluated. Apply the same rigor to crafting discussion posts as you would for a paper.
- Consider your tone and language, especially when communicating in text format, as the lack of other cues can lead to misinterpretation.

Like other work in the course, all student to student communication is covered by the Student Conduct Code (<https://z.umn.edu/studentconduct>).

COURSE TEXT & READINGS

There is a required textbook for the course:

Harvey Motulsky's *Intuitive Biostatistics: A Nonmathematical Guide to Statistical Thinking* (Oxford University Press, 3rd edition, 2014, or 4th edition, 2018).

The book is available through the University of Minnesota bookstore.

The activities and literature articles used in this course are available on the course website.

This course uses journal articles, which are available via the University Libraries' E-Reserves and will be linked from the course site. It is good practice to use a citation manager to keep track of your readings. More information about citation managers is available at <https://www.lib.umn.edu/pim/citation>.

COURSE OUTLINE/WEEKLY SCHEDULE

PubH 6414: Biostatistical Literacy has specific deadlines. All coursework must be submitted via the Moodle course site before the date and time specified on the site.

Week	Topic	Readings	Activities/Assignments
Week 1 Sept. 4–8	Unit 1: INTRODUCTION TO BIOSTATISTICS	<p>Textbook Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch 1. Statistics and Probability are not Intuitive Ch 2. The Complexities of Probability Ch 3. From Sample to Population <p>Online Lectures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biostatistical Literacy Cycle of Research Sampling Methods Study Designs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readiness Quiz (due THURSDAY, Sept. 6 by 9:45a) Welcome Activity & Literature Activity Lab: Island Exploration Activity End-of-Unit Quiz (due Saturday, Sept. 8 by 11:55p)
Week 2 Sept. 9–15	Unit 2: INTRODUCTION TO SURVIVAL DATA	<p>Textbook Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch 5. Confidence Interval of Survival Data <p>Online Lecture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survival Data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readiness Quiz (due TUESDAY, Sept. 11 by 9:45a) Concept & Literature Activities Lab: <i>Journal of Island Studies</i> Activity End-of-Unit Quiz (due Saturday, Sept. 15 by 11:55p)
Week 3 Sept. 16–22	Unit 3: CONFIDENCE INTERVAL FOR A PROPORTION	<p>Textbook Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch 4. Confidence Interval of a Proportion <p>Online Lectures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Types of Variables Confidence Interval for Proportion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readiness Quiz (due Tuesday, Sept. 18 by 9:45a) Concept & Literature Activities Lab: Form Island project groups. Formulate a research question. End-of-Unit Quiz (due Saturday, Sept. 22 by 11:55p)
Week 4 Sept. 23–29	Unit 4: SUMMARIZING CONTINUOUS VARIABLES	<p>Textbook Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch 7. Graphing Continuous Data Ch 9. Quantifying Scatter <p>Online Lecture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summarizing Continuous Data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readiness Quiz (due Tuesday, Sept. 25 by 9:45a) Concept & Literature Activities Lab: Perform pilot study. Refine methodology. Draft Methods section. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Island Project: Pilot Study Data Due.Sept. 29 by 11:55p

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End-of-Unit Quiz (due Saturday, Sept. 29 by 11:55p)
Week 5 Sept. 30–Oct. 6	Unit 5: CONFIDENCE INTERVAL FOR A MEAN	Textbook Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch 10. The Gaussian (Normal) Distribution Ch 12. Confidence Interval of a Mean Ch 14. Error Bars Online Lecture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confidence Interval For a Mean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readiness Quiz (due Tuesday, Oct. 2 by 9:45a) Concept & Literature Activities Lab: Review/critique Island Study Introduction & Methods sections. End-of-Unit Quiz (due Saturday, Oct. 6 by 11:55p)
Week 6 Oct. 7–13	Unit 6: HYPOTHESIS TESTING	Textbook Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch 15. Introducing P-values Ch 16. Statistical Significance and Hypothesis Testing Ch 17. Relationship Between Confidence Intervals and Statistical Significance Ch 18. Interpreting a Result that is Statistically Significant Ch 19. Interpreting a Result that is not Statistically Significant Online Lecture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hypothesis Testing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readiness Quiz (due Tuesday, Oct. 9 by 9:45a) Concept & Literature Activities Lab: Discuss organization and cleaning of study data. Collect data for Island Study. End-of-Unit Quiz (due Saturday, Oct. 13 by 11:55p)
Week 7 Oct. 14–20	Unit 7: CHALLENGES IN STATISTICS	Textbook Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch 20. Statistical Power Ch 22. Multiple Comparisons Concepts Ch 23. The Ubiquity of Multiple Comparisons Ch 24. Normality Tests Ch 25. Outliers Ch 26. Choosing a Sample Size Online Lectures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple Comparisons Normality Outliers Sample Size 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readiness Quiz (due Tuesday, Oct. 16 by 9:45a) Concept (<u>Flint & Outliers</u>) & Literature Activities Lab: Collect data for Island Study. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Island Project: Island Study Data Due Oct. 20 by 11:55p End-of-Unit Quiz (due Saturday, Oct. 20 by 11:55p)
Week 8 Oct. 21–27	Unit 8: STATISTICAL TESTS, PART 1	Textbook Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch 27. Comparing Proportions Ch 28. Case-Control studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readiness Quiz (due Tuesday, Oct. 23 by 9:45a) Concept & Literature Activities

		Online Lectures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comparing Proportions: Odds Comparing Proportions: Risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NO LAB THIS WEEK. End-of-Unit Quiz (due Saturday, Oct. 27 by 11:55p)
Week 9 Oct. 28–Nov. 3	Unit 9: STATISTICAL TESTS, PART 2	Textbook Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch 29: Comparing Survival Curves Ch 30. Comparing Two Means: Unpaired T-Test Ch 31. Comparing Two Paired Groups Online Lectures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comparing Survival Curves Comparing Two Means Comparing Paired Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readiness Quiz (due Tuesday, Oct. 30 by 9:45a) Concept & Literature Activities Lab: Meet with TA to review Island Study Results. End-of-Unit Quiz (due Saturday, Nov. 3 by 11:55p)
Week 10 Nov. 4–10	Unit 10: COMMUNICATING RISK	Textbook Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Lecture) Communicating Risk: Absolute, Relative, Natural Frequencies Ch 42. Sensitivity, specificity and ROC curves. Online Lecture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screening Tests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readiness Quiz (due Tuesday, Nov. 6 by 9:45a) Concept & Literature Activities Lab: Work on Island Study Results and Discussion sections. End-of-Unit Quiz (due Saturday Nov. 10 by 11:55p)
Week 11 Nov. 11–17	Unit 11: ANOVA	Textbook Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch 39. Analysis of Variance. Ch 40. Multiple Comparisons Tests after ANOVA Online Lecture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readiness Quiz (due Tuesday, Nov. 13 by 9:45a) Concept & Literature Activities Lab: Review / critique Island Study Results and Discussion sections. End-of-Unit Quiz (due Saturday, Nov. 17 by 11:55p)
Week 12 Nov. 18–24	Unit 12: CORRELATION AND REGRESSION	Textbook Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch 32. Correlation Ch 33. Simple Linear Regression Online Lectures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correlation Simple Linear Regression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readiness Quiz (due Tuesday, Nov. 20 by 9:45a) Concept & Literature Activities NO LAB THIS WEEK. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Island Project: Draft of Presentation Due Nov 24 by 11:55p

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End-of-Unit Quiz (due Saturday, Nov. 24 by 11:55p)
Week 13 Nov. 25–Dec. 1	Unit 13: MULTIPLE LINEAR REGRESSION	Textbook Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch 34. Introducing Models Ch 35. Comparing Models Ch 37. Multiple Regression Online Lecture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple Regression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readiness Quiz (due Tuesday, Nov. 27 by 9:45a) Concept & Literature Activities Lab: Meet with instructor to review / critique Island Study Presentation. End-of-Unit Quiz (due Saturday, Dec. 1 by 11:55p)
Week 14 Dec. 2–8	Unit 14: LOGISTIC REGRESSION AND PROPORTIONAL HAZARDS REGRESSION	Textbook Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch 38. Logistic and Proportional Hazards Regression Online Lectures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logistic Regression Proportional Hazards Regression OPTIONAL Textbook Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch 21. Equivalence and Non-Inferiority Testing Ch 41. Nonparametric Methods Ch 43. Meta-Analysis OPTIONAL Online Lecture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nonparametric Methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readiness Quiz (due Tuesday, Dec. 4 by 9:45a) Concept & Literature Activities Lab: Finalize Island Study Presentation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Island Project: Island Study Presentation Due Dec 8 by 11:55p End-of-Unit Quiz (due Saturday, Dec. 8 by 11:55p)
Week 15 Dec. 9–15	Unit 15	Island Project Presentations (Tuesday Dec. 11, in class)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NO LAB THIS WEEK. End-of-Semester Quiz (due Saturday, Dec. 15 by 11:55p)

SPH AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES & RESOURCES

The School of Public Health maintains up-to-date information about resources available to students, as well as formal course policies, on our website at www.sph.umn.edu/student-policies/. Students are expected to read and understand all policy information available at this link and are encouraged to make use of the resources available.

The University of Minnesota has official policies, including but not limited to the following:

- Grade definitions
- Scholastic dishonesty
- Makeup work for legitimate absences
- Student conduct code
- Sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking and relationship violence
- Equity, diversity, equal employment opportunity, and affirmative action
- Disability services
- Academic freedom and responsibility

Resources available for students include:

- Confidential mental health services
- Disability accommodations
- Housing and financial instability resources
- Technology help
- Academic support

EVALUATION & GRADING

Grading is determined by:

- **Weekly work** (Total: 80%)
 - Readiness quizzes (20%)
 - Active and timely participation in class activities, discussions, and developing the collaborative answer key during class (20%)
 - End-of-Unit quizzes (40%)
- **Island Project** (20%)
 - Final study presentation (15%),
 - Active and timely participation in lab and Island activities, as determined by peer ratings (2.5%)
 - Active and timely participation in lab and Island activities, as determined by instructor/TA judgment (2.5%)

Grading Scale

The University uses plus and minus grading on a 4.000 cumulative grade point scale in accordance with the following, and you can expect the grade lines to be drawn as follows:

% In Class	Grade	GPA
93 - 100%	A	4.000
90 - 92%	A-	3.667
87 - 89%	B+	3.333
83 - 86%	B	3.000
80 - 82%	B-	2.667
77 - 79%	C+	2.333
73 - 76%	C	2.000
70 - 72%	C-	1.667
67 - 69%	D+	1.333

63 - 66%	D	1.000
< 62%	F	

- A = achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
- B = achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
- C = achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
- D = achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
- F = failure because work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I (Incomplete).
- S = achievement that is satisfactory, which is equivalent to a C- or better
- N = achievement that is not satisfactory and signifies that the work was either 1) completed but at a level that is not worthy of credit, or 2) not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and student that the student would receive an I (Incomplete).

Evaluation/Grading Policy	Evaluation/Grading Policy Description
<p>Scholastic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, Cheating, etc.</p>	<p>The goal of this course is to enable students to read and interpret statistical results in the primary literature. We expect that students will complete all end-of-unit quizzes INDEPENDENTLY, without assistance from any other people. If we have any reason to suspect that a student gave assistance on an end-of-unit quiz to another student or received assistance on an end-of-unit quiz from another student or a person outside the class, all students involved will receive a score of zero on that quiz. If we believe that scholastic dishonesty has occurred, we are required by the University to report the incident to the Office of Community Standards (https://communitystandards.umn.edu/).</p> <p>You are expected to do your own academic work and cite sources as necessary. Failing to do so is scholastic dishonesty. Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis (As defined in the Student Conduct Code). For additional information, please see https://z.umn.edu/dishonesty</p> <p>The Office for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity has compiled a useful list of Frequently Asked Questions pertaining to scholastic dishonesty: https://z.umn.edu/integrity.</p> <p>If you have additional questions, please clarify with your instructor. Your instructor can respond to your specific questions regarding what would constitute scholastic dishonesty in the context of a particular class-e.g., whether collaboration on assignments is permitted, requirements and methods for citing sources, if electronic aids are permitted or prohibited during an exam.</p> <p>Indiana University offers a clear description of plagiarism and an online quiz to check your understanding (http://z.umn.edu/iuplagiarism).</p>
<p>Late Assignments</p>	<p>This course covers a large amount of material in a short time. The group and class activities depend on the active and timely participation of all students. Therefore late assignments or quizzes will not be accepted.</p>
<p>Attendance Requirements</p>	<p>Class: You can have two absences from class before you will be penalized for participation. For each day missed thereafter, your weekly class participation grade will be reduced 1% (up to 10%).</p> <p>Lab: You can have one absence from lab before you will be penalized for participation. For each day missed thereafter, your lab participation grade will be reduced 1% (up to 7.5%).</p>

CEPH COMPETENCIES

Competency	Learning Objectives	Assessment Strategies* (*see Assessment Descriptions below this table)
<p>Analyze quantitative and qualitative data using biostatistics, informatics, computer-based programming and software, as appropriate.</p>	<p>Descriptive and Graphical Summaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State which summary statistics, tables, and graphs are appropriate for each variable type (e.g., categorical variable(s): bar plot, count, proportion, 2x2 table, risk, odds, odds ratio, relative risk; continuous variable(s): histogram, boxplot, mean, median, SD, IQR, difference in means; time-to-event variable(s): Kaplan-Meier curve, 5-year survival time, median survival, hazard, hazard ratio). • Normalize a continuous measurement (i.e., calculate a Z-score). • Calculate any of screening test summary statistics from a table of cell counts, or the equivalent information in words (e.g. in an article) (e.g., prevalence, sensitivity, specificity, false positive, false negative, PPV, NPV). <p>Confidence Intervals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State what information you need to calculate a confidence interval and how those factors affect the width of the confidence interval. • Calculate a confidence interval from a margin of error and vice versa. <p>Hypothesis Testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify situations when a particular statistical test would be used (e.g., one, paired, and two-sample t-test; log-rank test; Chi-squared test; Fisher's exact test; McNemar's test; ANOVA). • Be aware of the common approaches for accounting for multiple comparisons. • Be aware of some of the statistical analysis options that exist if your sample is from a severely non-normal population. <p>Regression</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand why the first step in correlation or regression analysis is to graph the data. • Identify situations when a particular statistical regression method would be used (e.g., simple linear regression, multiple linear regression, logistic regression, proportional hazards regression). • Use the fitted regression coefficients to obtain slope values (for simple or multiple regression), odds ratios (for logistic regression) or hazard ratios (for proportional hazards regression) for each predictor. • Know what kind of a plot is used to assess how well a multiple linear regression model fits the data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Readiness quizzes • Weekly End-of-Unit quizzes

Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy or practice.

Descriptive and Graphical Summaries

- Recognize the variable type, including categorical, continuous, and time-to-event variables.
- Distinguish between the standard deviation (SD or s) and the standard error of the mean (SE or SEM).
- Interpret summary statistics, tables, and graphs for each variable type (e.g., categorical variable(s): bar plot, count, proportion, 2x2 table, risk, odds, odds ratio, relative risk; continuous variable(s): histogram, boxplot, mean, median, SD, IQR, difference in means; time-to-event variable(s): Kaplan-Meier curve, 5-year survival time, median survival, hazard, hazard ratio).
- State the limitations of the commonly-used measures of center and spread.
- Interpret a Z-score value.
- Define screening test summary statistics (e.g., prevalence, sensitivity, specificity, false positive, false negative, PPV, NPV) and when found in a journal article or other material, correctly interpret them.
- Explain how the screening test summary statistics are related to each other.

Confidence Intervals

- Explain the purpose of a confidence interval and meaning of the confidence level.
- Make a conclusion about the significance of a result, based off of the confidence interval.

Hypothesis testing

- Know the terminology of hypothesis testing (e.g., null hypothesis, alternative hypothesis, test statistic, sampling distribution of the test statistic, p -value, false positive result, false negative result, Type I error, Type II error, power).
- Given a journal article involving a particular statistical test, state the appropriate null and alternative hypotheses (e.g., one, paired, and two-sample t-test; log-rank test; Chi-squared test; Fisher's exact test; McNemar's test; ANOVA).
- For a particular statistical test, make a conclusion based off of the p -value and a significance level (e.g., one, paired, and two-sample t-test; log-rank test; Chi-squared test; Fisher's exact test; McNemar's test; ANOVA).
- Recognize situations in which multiple comparisons may be an issue.
- Explain the consequences of failing to properly account for multiple comparisons.
- Explain the purpose of post-hoc tests following ANOVA and interpret the results.
- Explain the difference between statistical significance and clinical/practical significance.

Regression

- Weekly Readiness quizzes
- Weekly End-of-Unit quizzes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know what it means to say that two variables are “associated”. • Interpret statistics (correlation or fitted coefficients) from regression methods and make a conclusion from its confidence interval or p-value (e.g., simple linear regression, multiple linear regression, logistic regression, proportional hazards regression). • Write down the equation for a regression model and describe what each parameter means (e.g., simple linear regression, multiple linear regression, logistic regression, proportional hazards regression). • Interpret both the residual plot and the model R^2 value. • Explain what variable selection is, how to recognize it in an article, and why it is a potential issue. 	
Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a poster or a report that presents the “real” study that was conducted over the semester. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Island project poster presentation and/or report
Perform effectively on interprofessional teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work as a team to conduct and report on a “real” study. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Island project self- and peer-evaluations • Instructor evaluation of team

Assessment Descriptions	
Weekly Readiness quizzes	The readiness quizzes are based on the readings and lectures. The questions are all multiple-choice format and are written to show that the students have adequately prepared for class as outlined in the unit learning objectives. Examples of questions they may encounter include definitions, matching terminology to situations, and basic interpretation of concepts. Students are encouraged to consult the textbook and the course materials during the quizzes. They may also work collaboratively with other students in the class. Students get up to two attempts on each quiz, and are only shown their quiz score (and not question-level scores) after the attempts. The higher score on the two attempts will be final score that is counted toward their course grade.
Weekly End-of-Unit quizzes	The end-of-unit quizzes are intended to assess what the students have learned both from the readings and lectures and from the activities and discussions as outlined in the unit learning objectives. The questions are all short essay format. During the quizzes, students are encouraged to consult the textbook and the course materials, particularly the completed activity worksheets and any notes you may have made on lectures or other content, but they may not consult with other people. The end-of-unit quizzes must be completed independently. Students are encouraged to check all of the forums and collaborative keys for any comments or clarifications from the instructor *before* beginning the quizzes.
Island project poster presentation and/or report	Students experience a learn-by-doing approach to conduct and report on research by carrying out a medical or public health study on a virtual world called <i>the Island</i> . This project is a semester-long and requires students to apply the concepts learned in the course at a higher level. They work in small groups to design and carry out the study and the lab TA is the statistical consultant for the group. The culmination of the project is a poster presentation or report of the study (introduction, methods, results, discussion) to your peers during the last week of class. The groups are evaluated on whether they included the topics within each section as presented in the CONSORT or STROBE guidelines as well as on coverage and clarity of their information (e.g., organized, clear and understandable, tables and figures used well).

Island project self- and peer-evaluations	Students work in small groups of two to five students to carry out a medical or public health study on a virtual world called on a virtual world called <i>the Island</i> . This project is a semester-long and requires students to apply the concepts learned in the course at a higher level. Students are required to collaborate to make decisions about the research question for their study, the methodology, and the data collection process. They must also work collaboratively to complete written milestones of the project (e.g., research question, introduction section, methodology section, results and discussion sections). To assess peer and self contribution to the group, students complete a survey at the end of the semester rating their group members and themselves on each individual's participation (both quantity and quality).
Instructor evaluation of team	In addition to the peer- and self-evaluations of the Island project groups, the instructor (and TAs) add their evaluation of the team by rating each of the groups on how well they worked together (e.g., equal contribution, respect for other group members, works out issues in a respectful manner, individual accountability).