

# PUBH 6414, SECTION 320

Biostatistical Literacy  
 Fall 2019

## COURSE & CONTACT INFORMATION

**Credits:** 3 credits

**Meeting Day(s), Time, and Place:** This course is entirely web-based, delivered via Canvas at <http://canvas.umn.edu>.

Contact Type	Contact Information	Role	When to Contact
Instructor	Mark Fiecas <a href="mailto:mfiecas@umn.edu">mfiecas@umn.edu</a>	Instructor for this course	<p>Please post questions on lectures, readings, group projects, and quizzes to the weekly general questions forums in the Canvas site. Instructors and Teaching Assistants (TAs) will respond on a regular basis to posted questions.</p> <p>If you have questions or concerns you do not wish to share with the entire class, feel free to email the instructors directly. Your instructors are your first line of contact. Feel free to email them about</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions or concerns about the class, material, assignments, deadlines, etc.</li> <li>• Arranging a meeting (via phone call or video chat).</li> </ul>
Teaching Assistants	Yunxiang Bai <a href="mailto:bai00030@umn.edu">bai00030@umn.edu</a>  Kollin Rott <a href="mailto:rott007@umn.edu">rott007@umn.edu</a>  Jiuzhou Wang <a href="mailto:wang9062@umn.edu">wang9062@umn.edu</a>	Monitor collaborative keys and general questions forums, and grade end-of-unit quizzes	<p>Your TAs are your second line of contact. Feel free to email them about</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions about concepts.</li> </ul>
Technical Support	Technical support options are available on the SPH website. <a href="https://z.umn.edu/sphquickhelp">https://z.umn.edu/sphquickhelp</a>	Troubleshoots technical issues related to the course site or course content.	Technical issues with the course site, media, quizzes or assignments.

Please save this contact information to your computer or print it. That way, you can still contact us in the event that you have difficulty connecting to the Internet or accessing the syllabus.

## Communication in Online Courses

Communication is especially important in an online course. The course site announcement forums/discussions and email will be used to communicate with students. You are responsible for reading all course-related emails sent to your University email account and contacting us in a timely manner with any questions you may have. We strongly recommend that you check your U of M email daily. Our goal is to respond to emails within 24 hours.

## 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.

### Methods of Instruction

This course is entirely online. Therefore, time you would otherwise be in class will be incorporated into work for the course in the form of online discussions, lectures, etc.

**NOTE: The online section is not self-paced.** 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.**

The emphasis in this class will be on learning by doing. Collaborative groups are used both to facilitate learning and to obtain experience in collaborating with others on a research team. Weekly learning activities will focus on exploring the concepts and applying them to reading the research literature. Students will read and critically analyze at least one article from the medical or public health literature each week. Students will also work in groups to design, analyze and report a research study, in order to develop a deeper understanding of what is involved in designing and carrying out a study.

Here is the breakdown of the weekly work expectations:

- **Preceding weekend / early part of the week:** Students are expected to prepare for the week by reading several selections from the textbook and viewing several short (10-20 minute) online presentations. An online readiness quiz covering the basic terms and definitions from the readings and lecture material will be **due each Wednesday by 11:55pm**. Students are encouraged to work with other students on the readiness quizzes.

- **During the week / later part of the week:** The week will be devoted 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 participate in the activities and discussions, but that you show up prepared, having completed the preceding weekend tasks. The exploration (concept) and application (literature) activities are best carried out with a partner or study group in real time, either in person or via teleconference, chat, Skype, FaceTime, Google Hangouts, or similar means, but you may also work independently if you prefer. Plan to spend 2 – 3 hours per week working on the learning activities, alone or with your study group. We will also work collaboratively as a class to create the answer keys for the concept and literature activities. Each student is expected to contribute at least once to each key each week. Your contributions to the collaborative keys are **due each Sunday by 11:55pm**.
- **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 Sunday by 11:55pm**. Students are expected to complete the end-of-unit quizzes independently.

### Island Project

You will also be experiencing the learn-by-doing approach. You will work in groups to design and carry out a medical or public health study in order to develop a deeper understanding of the process for 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 a statistical consulting team comprised of senior undergraduate students from the STAT 4893W consulting course 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 (virtual) presentation of the results of the study to your peers during the last week of class.

### Technology

You will use the following technology tools in this course. Please make yourself familiar with them.

- Zoom, WebEx, or Google Hangout for Island Group meetings. Information on using Zoom can be found [here](#), information for Google Hangout can be found [here](#), and information using WebEx can be found [here](#).

### 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 2014, or 4<sup>th</sup> 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

This course has specific deadlines. All coursework must be submitted via the course site before the date and time specified on the site. **Note: assignments are due by 11:55pm CST unless indicated otherwise.**

Week	Topic	Readings	Activities/Assignments
Week 1 Sept. 3–8	Unit 1: INTRODUCTION TO BIOSTATISTICS	<p><b>Textbook Readings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 1. Statistics and Probability are not Intuitive</li> <li>Ch 2. The Complexities of Probability</li> <li>Ch 3. From Sample to Population</li> </ul> <p><b>Online Lectures:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biostatistical Literacy</li> <li>Cycle of Research</li> <li>Sampling Methods</li> <li>Study Designs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Readiness Quiz (due <b>FRIDAY, Sept. 6</b>)</li> <li>Concept and Literature Activities</li> <li>Contribution to Concept &amp; Literature Activity Collaborative Keys (due Sunday, Sept. 8)</li> <li>Island Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Island Exploration Activity (due Sunday, Sept. 8)</li> <li>Form Island Project teams (due Sunday, Sept. 8)</li> </ul> </li> <li>End-of-Unit Quiz (due Sunday, Sept. 8)</li> </ul>
Week 2 Sept. 9–15	Unit 2: INTRODUCTION TO SURVIVAL DATA	<p><b>Textbook Reading:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 5. Confidence Interval of Survival Data</li> </ul> <p><b>Online Lecture:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survival Data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Readiness Quiz (due <b>WEDNESDAY, Sept. 11</b>)</li> <li>Concept and Literature Activities</li> <li>Contribution to Concept &amp; Literature Activity Collaborative Keys (due Sunday, Sept. 15)</li> <li>Island Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Journal of Island Studies Activity (optional)</li> <li>Finalize research question (due Sunday, Sept. 15; Instructor will approve topic by the end of Monday, Sept. 16)</li> </ul> </li> <li>End-of-Unit Quiz (due Sunday, Sept. 15)</li> </ul>
Week 3 Sept. 16–22	Unit 3: CONFIDENCE INTERVAL FOR A PROPORTION	<p><b>Textbook Reading:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 4. Confidence Interval of a Proportion</li> </ul> <p><b>Online Lectures:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Types of Variables</li> <li>Confidence Interval for Proportion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Readiness Quiz (due Wednesday, Sept. 18)</li> <li>Concept and Literature Activities</li> <li>Contribution to Concept &amp; Literature Activity Collaborative Keys (due Sunday, Sept. 22)</li> <li>Island Project:</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write Introduction section (due Sunday, Sept. 22)</li> <li>• Carry out small pilot study (data due Sunday, Sept. 22)</li> <li>• End-of-Unit Quiz (due Sunday, Sept. 22)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 4</b> Sept. 23–29	<b>Unit 4:</b> <b>SUMMARIZING CONTINUOUS VARIABLES</b>	<b>Textbook Readings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch 7. Graphing Continuous Data</li> <li>• Ch 9. Quantifying Scatter</li> </ul> <b>Online Lecture:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summarizing Continuous Data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Readiness Quiz (due Wednesday, Sept. 25)</li> <li>• Concept and Literature Activities</li> <li>• Contribution to Concept &amp; Literature Activity Collaborative Keys (due Sunday, Sept. 29)</li> <li>• Island Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meeting #1</b> with consulting team and monitoring instructor</li> </ul> </li> <li>• End-of-Unit Quiz (due Sunday, Sept. 29)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 5</b> Sept. 30–Oct. 6	<b>Unit 5:</b> <b>CONFIDENCE INTERVAL FOR A MEAN</b>	<b>Textbook Readings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch 10. The Gaussian (Normal) Distribution</li> <li>• Ch 12. Confidence Interval of a Mean</li> <li>• Ch 14. Error Bars</li> </ul> <b>Online Lecture:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confidence Interval For a Mean</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Readiness Quiz (due Wednesday, Oct. 2)</li> <li>• Concept and Literature Activities</li> <li>• Contribution to Concept &amp; Literature Activity Collaborative Keys (due Sunday, Oct. 6)</li> <li>• <b>NO ISLAND PROJECT TASK</b></li> <li>• End-of-Unit Quiz (due Sunday, Oct. 6)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 6</b> Oct. 7–13	<b>Unit 6:</b> <b>HYPOTHESIS TESTING</b>	<b>Textbook Readings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch 15. Introducing P-values</li> <li>• Ch 16. Statistical Significance and Hypothesis Testing</li> <li>• Ch 17. Relationship Between Confidence Intervals and Statistical Significance</li> <li>• Ch 18. Interpreting a Result that is Statistically Significant</li> <li>• Ch 19. Interpreting a Result that is not Statistically Significant</li> </ul> <b>Online Lecture:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hypothesis Testing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Readiness Quiz (due Wednesday, Oct. 9)</li> <li>• Concept and Literature Activities</li> <li>• Contribution to Concept &amp; Literature Activity Collaborative Keys (due Sunday, Oct. 13)</li> <li>• Island Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Mid-week) Receive final methodology proposal from consultants</li> <li>• Review proposal.</li> <li>• Draft Method section to bring to Meeting #2 next week.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• End-of-Unit Quiz (due Sunday, Oct. 13)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 7</b> Oct. 14–20	<b>Unit 7:</b> <b>CHALLENGES IN STATISTICS</b>	<b>Textbook Readings:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Readiness Quiz (due Wednesday, Oct. 16)</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 20. Statistical Power</li> <li>Ch 22. Multiple Comparisons Concepts</li> <li>Ch 23. The Ubiquity of Multiple Comparisons</li> <li>Ch 24. Normality Tests</li> <li>Ch 25. Outliers</li> <li>Ch 26. Choosing a Sample Size</li> </ul> <p><b>Online Lectures:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple Comparisons</li> <li>Normality</li> <li>Outliers</li> <li>Sample Size</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concept and Literature Activities</li> <li>Contribution to Concept &amp; Literature Activity Collaborative Keys (due Sunday, Oct. 20)</li> <li>Island Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Meeting #2</b> with consulting team and monitoring instructor</li> <li>Finalize Methods section (due Sunday, Oct. 20)</li> </ul> </li> <li>End-of-Unit Quiz (due Sunday, Oct. 20)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 8</b> Oct. 21–27	<b>Unit 8:</b> <b>STATISTICAL TESTS, PART 1</b>	<p><b>Textbook Readings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 27. Comparing Proportions</li> <li>Ch 28. Case-Control studies</li> </ul> <p><b>Online Lectures:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comparing Proportions: Odds</li> <li>Comparing Proportions: Risks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Readiness Quiz (due Wednesday, Oct. 23)</li> <li>Concept and Literature Activities</li> <li>Contribution to Concept &amp; Literature Activity Collaborative Keys (due Sunday, Oct. 27)</li> <li>Island Project: Collect data (due Sunday, Oct. 27)</li> <li>End-of-Unit Quiz (due Sunday, Oct. 27)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 9</b> Oct. 28–Nov. 3	<b>Unit 9:</b> <b>STATISTICAL TESTS, PART 2</b>	<p><b>Textbook Readings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 29: Comparing Survival Curves</li> <li>Ch 30. Comparing Two Means: Unpaired T-Test</li> <li>Ch 31. Comparing Two Paired Groups</li> </ul> <p><b>Online Lectures:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comparing Survival Curves</li> <li>Comparing Two Means</li> <li>Comparing Paired Groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Readiness Quiz (due Wednesday, Oct. 30)</li> <li>Literature Activity #1 and Literature Activity #2</li> <li>Contribution to Literature Activity #1 &amp; Literature Activity #2 Collaborative Keys (due Sunday, Nov. 3)</li> <li><b>NO ISLAND PROJECT TASK</b></li> <li>End-of-Unit Quiz (due Sunday, Nov. 3)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 10</b> Nov. 4–10	<b>Unit 10:</b> <b>COMMUNICATING RISK</b>	<p><b>Textbook Readings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(Lecture) Communicating Risk: Absolute, Relative, Natural Frequencies</li> <li>Ch 42. Sensitivity, specificity and ROC curves.</li> </ul> <p><b>Online Lecture:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Screening Tests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Readiness Quiz (due Wednesday, Nov. 6)</li> <li>Concept and Literature Activities</li> <li>Contribution to Concept &amp; Literature Activity Collaborative Keys (due Sunday, Nov. 10)</li> <li><b>NO ISLAND PROJECT TASK</b></li> <li>End-of-Unit Quiz (due Sunday, Nov. 10)</li> </ul>

<p><b>Week 11</b> <b>Nov. 11–17</b></p>	<p><b>Unit 11:</b> <b>ANOVA</b></p>	<p><b>Textbook Readings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch 39. Analysis of Variance.</li> <li>• Ch 40. Multiple Comparisons Tests after ANOVA</li> </ul> <p><b>Online Lecture:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)</li> </ul> <p><b>OPTIONAL Textbook Readings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch 21. Equivalence and Non-Inferiority Testing</li> <li>• Ch 41. Nonparametric Methods</li> <li>• Ch 43. Meta-Analysis</li> </ul> <p><b>OPTIONAL Online Lecture:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nonparametric Methods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Readiness Quiz (due Wednesday, Nov. 13)</li> <li>• Concept and Literature Activities</li> <li>• Contribution to Concept &amp; Literature Activity Collaborative Keys (due Sunday, Nov. 17)</li> <li>• Island Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Mid-week) Receive analysis report from consultants</li> <li>• Review the report</li> <li>• Draft your Results section to bring to Meeting 3 next week</li> </ul> </li> <li>• End-of-Unit Quiz (due Sunday, Nov. 17)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 12</b> <b>Nov. 18–24</b></p>	<p><b>Unit 12:</b> <b>CORRELATION AND REGRESSION</b></p>	<p><b>Textbook Readings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch 32. Correlation</li> <li>• Ch 33. Simple Linear Regression</li> </ul> <p><b>Online Lectures:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correlation</li> <li>• Simple Linear Regression</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Readiness Quiz (due Wednesday, Nov. 20)</li> <li>• Concept and Literature Activities</li> <li>• Contribution to Concept &amp; Literature Activity Collaborative Keys (due Sunday, Nov. 24)</li> <li>• Island Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meeting #3</b> with consulting team and monitoring instructor</li> <li>• Start working on Island Project presentation</li> </ul> </li> <li>• End-of-Unit Quiz (due Sunday, Nov. 24)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 13</b> <b>Nov. 25–Dec. 1</b></p>	<p><b>Unit 13:</b> <b>MULTIPLE LINEAR REGRESSION</b></p>	<p><b>Textbook Readings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch 34. Introducing Models</li> <li>• Ch 35. Comparing Models</li> <li>• Ch 37. Multiple Regression</li> </ul> <p><b>Online Lecture:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple Regression</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Readiness Quiz (due Wednesday, Nov. 27)</li> <li>• Concept and Literature Activities</li> <li>• Contribution to Concept &amp; Literature Activity Collaborative Keys (due Sunday, Dec. 1)</li> <li>• Island Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue working on Island Project presentation</li> </ul> </li> <li>• End-of-Unit Quiz (due Sunday, Dec. 1)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 14</b> <b>Dec. 2–8</b></p>	<p><b>Unit 14:</b> <b>LOGISTIC REGRESSION AND PROPORTIONAL HAZARDS REGRESSION</b></p>	<p><b>Textbook Reading:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch 38. Logistic and Proportional Hazards Regression</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Readiness Quiz (due Wednesday, Dec. 4)</li> <li>• Literature Activity #1 and Literature Activity #2</li> </ul>



		<b>Online Lectures:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logistic Regression</li> <li>• Proportional Hazards Regression</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution to Literature Activity #1 &amp; Literature Activity #2 Collaborative Keys (due Sunday, Dec. 8)</li> <li>• Island Project: Finalize Island Project presentation (due Sunday, Dec. 8)</li> <li>• End-of-Unit Quiz (due Sunday, Dec. 8)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 15 Dec. 9–15</b>	<b>Unit 15: REVIEW, PRESENTATIONS, AND EVALUATION</b>	<b>Island Project Presentations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Activity (optional)</li> <li>• Contribution to Review Activity Collaborative Key (optional; due Friday, Dec. 13)</li> <li>• Island Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q&amp;A of Island Project presentations (due Sunday, Dec. 15)</li> <li>• Peer- and Self-evaluations (due Sunday, Dec. 15)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• End-of-Semester Quiz (due Sunday, Dec. 15)</li> </ul>

## 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/](http://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 the collaborative answer keys (20%)
  - End-of-Unit quizzes (40%)
- **Island Project** (20%)
  - Final study presentation (15%),
  - Active and timely participation in Island Project activities, as determined by peer ratings (2.5%)
  - Active and timely participation in Island Project activities, as determined by instructor 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
<b>Scholastic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, Cheating, etc.</b>	<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 (<a href="https://communitystandards.umn.edu/">https://communitystandards.umn.edu/</a>).</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 <a href="https://z.umn.edu/dishonesty">https://z.umn.edu/dishonesty</a></p> <p>The Office for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity has compiled a useful list of Frequently Asked Questions pertaining to scholastic dishonesty: <a href="https://z.umn.edu/integrity">https://z.umn.edu/integrity</a>.</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 (<a href="http://z.umn.edu/iuplagiarism">http://z.umn.edu/iuplagiarism</a>).</p>
<b>Late Assignments</b>	<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>

## 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><b>Descriptive and Graphical Summaries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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).</li> <li>• Normalize a continuous measurement (i.e., calculate a Z-score).</li> <li>• 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).</li> </ul> <p><b>Confidence Intervals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State what information you need to calculate a confidence interval and how those factors affect the width of the confidence interval.</li> <li>• Calculate a confidence interval from a margin of error and vice versa.</li> </ul> <p><b>Hypothesis Testing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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).</li> <li>• Be aware of the common approaches for accounting for multiple comparisons.</li> <li>• Be aware of some of the statistical analysis options that exist if your sample is from a severely non-normal population.</li> </ul> <p><b>Regression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand why the first step in correlation or regression analysis is to graph the data.</li> <li>• Identify situations when a particular statistical regression method would be used (e.g., simple linear regression, multiple linear regression, logistic regression, proportional hazards regression).</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Know what kind of a plot is used to assess how well a multiple linear regression model fits the data.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly Readiness quizzes</li> <li>• Weekly End-of-Unit quizzes</li> </ul>

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

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 <b>CONSORT</b> or <b>STROBE</b> 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).