

# EPIDEMIOLOGY OF MICROBIAL DISEASES

**EMD 512b, Immunology for Public Health Professionals** Richard Bungiro

This course provides an introduction to the organization and function of the mammalian immune system. Topics include immune molecules, cells, and organs; innate and adaptive immunity; the molecular basis of antigen recognition; immune cell development, activation, and interaction; immune regulation, dysregulation, and manipulation; methods for analyzing immune responses; responses to infection; and immunologically relevant issues including vaccination, transplantation, autoimmunity, immunodeficiency, and cancer. By the end of the course students understand the major components of the human immune system, the general timeline of an immune response, how immune cells and molecules react to infections, how the science of immunology has developed over time, and the ways that modern medicine uses that knowledge to manipulate the immune response to save lives and improve health. This course is appropriate for any EPH student with a basic knowledge of biology (which is typically – but not exclusively – acquired from a high school or college general biology course) who wants to expand their knowledge by gaining an understanding of the mammalian immune system. It provides a foundation for and is complementary to numerous other EMD courses in infectious disease, global health and vaccine science.

**EMD 517a, Principles of Infectious Diseases I** Michael Cappello

This course explores the epidemiology and biology of infectious agents and the diseases they cause. Through a theme-based, integrated approach, students learn about the epidemiology, pathogenesis, prevention, and control of bacteria, viruses, and eukaryotic parasites of public health importance. Emphasis is placed on epidemiological methods, routes of transmission, host-pathogen interactions, and mechanisms of virulence. The course also teaches skills for understanding and evaluating the published literature, specifically through class discussions and oral presentations of assigned readings by students. Topics covered include gastrointestinal, respiratory, and sexually transmitted pathogens.

**EMD 518b, Principles of Infectious Diseases II** Amy Bei

This course explores the epidemiology and biology of infectious agents and the diseases they cause. Through a theme-based, integrated approach, students learn about the epidemiology, pathogenesis, prevention, and control of bacteria, viruses, and eukaryotic parasites of public health importance. Emphasis is placed on epidemiological methods, routes of transmission, host-pathogen interactions, and mechanisms of virulence. The course also teaches skills for understanding and evaluating the published literature, specifically through class discussions and oral presentations of assigned readings by students. The course builds upon concepts covered in EMD 517 and introduces new topics such as infectious causes of chronic diseases; and vector-borne, zoonotic, and emerging pathogens.

**EMD 525a and EMD 526b, Seminar in Epidemiology of Microbial Diseases** Serap Aksoy and Albert Ko

This is a weekly seminar series offered by EMD faculty. The presentations describe the ongoing research activities in faculty laboratories as well as in EMD-affiliated centers.

The talks introduce the department's research activities as well as associated resources in the area. Although no credit or grade is awarded, satisfactory performance will be noted on the student's transcript. 0 Course cr per term

**EMD 530b, Health Care Epidemiology: Improving Health Care Quality through Infection Prevention** Louise-Marie Dembry and David Banach

The history, descriptive epidemiology, surveillance methods, risk analysis methods, and economics of nosocomial infections are outlined in this introductory course. In-depth explorations of host, agent, and environmental factors influencing typical nosocomial illnesses in pediatric and adult services are reviewed by clinical faculty. Descriptive and analytical epidemiological methods are emphasized.

**[ EMD 531, Genomic Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases ]**

This course provides an overview of how we can harness microbial evolution to study epidemiology. During the first part of the course, students learn the basic skills to implement next-generation sequencing and phylogenetic approaches to investigate different stages of infectious disease outbreaks. During the second part, students critically evaluate genomic epidemiology case studies to understand the applications and limitations of genomic data, what aspects can be used to inform outbreak responses, and how the information can be communicated to the public. The course consists of lectures, group discussions, computer exercises, and student presentations. 1 Course cr

**EMD 533a, Implementation Science** J. Lucian (Luke) Davis

Implementation science can be defined as the study of facilitators and barriers to the adoption and integration of evidence-based practices into health care policy and delivery. Examples include comparisons of multiple evidence-based interventions; adaptation of interventions according to population and setting; approaches to scale-up of effective interventions; and development of innovative approaches to improve health care delivery and health. This course explores implementation science using a seminar format; each session begins with a brief presentation of focal topic content followed by critical thinking and dialogue. Students apply the content each week in the development of a potential research project using implementation science in their area of interest and expertise. Throughout the course, faculty and students bring case studies and illustrations from the literature to illustrate key concepts and challenges in the conceptualization and implementation of studies using these methods. Not open to auditors.

**EMD 536b, Outbreak Investigations: Principles and Practice** Albert Ko

Epidemiologists are often called in to investigate outbreaks and epidemics, as exemplified by the key role they served during the COVID-19 pandemic. This course teaches students why and how outbreaks are investigated. They learn how to identify the important epidemiological questions during an outbreak and apply epidemiological tools to achieve answers to these questions. The course builds upon and extends the basic principles in the biology, epidemiology, and transmission dynamics of infectious diseases as they apply to outbreaks and pandemics and why they emerge and recede. Furthermore, we explore the many behind-the-scene facets of an outbreak investigation, which include the key actors in an investigation and the public health response, communication, and decision-making processes. The principles and practice of outbreak investigations are taught through lectures and case studies of real-life examples of outbreaks, including the COVID-19 pandemic. The course is

appropriate for all students enrolled in M.P.H., M.S. or doctoral degree programs in public health. Students should have taken or be concurrently taking a basic course in epidemiology (e.g. EPH 508, Foundations of Epidemiology for Public Health) and a basic course in biostatistics (e.g., EPH 505, Biostatistics in Public Health). Basic fluency in analyzing data with statistical software is recommended.

**EMD 537a / EHS 537a, Water, Sanitation, and Global Health** Ying Chen

Water is essential for life, and yet unsafe water poses threats to human health globally, from the poorest to the wealthiest countries. More than two billion people around the world lack access to clean, safe drinking water, hygiene, and sanitation (WASH). This course focuses on the role of water in human health from a public health perspective. The course provides a broad overview of the important relationships between water quality, human health, and the global burden of waterborne diseases. It discusses the basics of water compartments and the health effects from exposures to pathogenic microbes and toxic chemicals in drinking water. It also covers different sanitation solutions to improve water quality and disease prevention and discusses future challenges and the need for intervention strategies in the new millennium.

**EMD 538a, Quantitative Methods for Infectious Disease Epidemiology** Virginia Pitzer

This course provides an overview of statistical and analytical methods that apply specifically to infectious diseases. The assumption of independent outcomes among individuals that underlies most traditional statistical methods often does not apply to infections that can be transmitted from person to person. Therefore, novel methods are often needed to address the unique challenges posed by infectious disease data. Topics include analysis of outbreak data, estimation of vaccine efficacy, time series methods, and Markov models. The course consists of lectures and computer labs in which students gain experience analyzing example problems using a flexible computer programming language (MATLAB).

**EMD 539b, Introduction to the Analysis and Interpretation of Public Health**

**Surveillance Data** Daniel Weinberger

Surveillance is one of the fundamental activities of public health organizations and is critical for understanding disease burden, impacts of interventions, and the detection of unusual events. The first part of the course provides an overview of the types of surveillance systems and their strengths and weakness, sources of data for surveillance, and controversies resulting from surveillance activities. The second part focuses on methods used to analyze surveillance data, with a particular focus on practical application. There is a focus throughout on the critical evaluation of surveillance data from different sources.

**EMD 541b, Health in Humanitarian Crises** Kaveh Khoshnood

This course educates students about humanitarian crises and their impact on population health. It provides foundational knowledge and insights about the humanitarian system and public health interventions to mitigate the impact of humanitarian crises on population health.

**[ EMD 542E, Introduction to Public Health Modeling ]**

Public health modeling is a powerful systems-based approach to understand and manage the complex forces that drive the health of populations. In this course students gain understanding of the main applications of different modeling approaches and the

types of scientific questions that can be answered using modeling methods; acquire knowledge of key modeling concepts and techniques necessary to understand and interpret scientific literature; and develop skills necessary to critically evaluate the role of assumptions and uncertainty in model validity. Open only to students enrolled in the Executive Online M.P.H. Program. Not open to auditors. 1 Course cr

**EMD 546a, Vaccines and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases** Inci Yildirim

This course develops in-depth understanding of epidemiological, biological, and applied aspects of commonly used vaccines and vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs) of public health importance. The course content is structured to review specific vaccines and VPDs. Where relevant, the course lectures use examples from both developed and developing countries. This course and EPH 510, Health Policy and Health Care Systems, are designed to complement each other. Students interested in a focus on epidemiological, biological, and applied aspects of vaccines and VPDs should take this course whereas students interested in learning more about the making, understanding, and consequences of health policy decisions on vaccines should take EPH 510, Health Policy and Health Care Systems course.

**EMD 550a, Epidemiology and Control of Vector Borne Diseases** Serap Aksoy and Brian Weiss

This course offers a trans-disciplinary view of vector-borne diseases (VBDs) transmitted by arthropods to humans. Topics covered introduce VBDs of global public health significance, as well as the epidemiology and biological and ecological drivers that lead to VBD transmission. Lectures cover state-of-the-art topics in vector biology research, with particular attention paid to translational implications for vector control strategies designed to reduce disease. Course content is designed to enable students to increasingly understand how a One Health approach is crucial to advance the control of VBDs.

**[ EMD 553, Transmission Dynamic Models for Understanding Infectious Diseases ]**

This course is an introduction to the use of transmission dynamic models as tools for studying the complex patterns that arise from the interaction between pathogens and hosts. Topics covered include the structure, parameterization, and analysis of simple mathematical models. Questions addressed include: Why do some pathogens fail to spread effectively in a host community while others increase in prevalence before eventual elimination? Why do some infections oscillate in frequency while others occur at relatively constant levels over long periods of time? How is it possible that an intervention could perversely increase the burden of disease in the community, even as it reduces the overall prevalence of infection? The course consists of lectures and practical exercises in which students gain experience designing and manipulating mathematical models of infectious diseases by hand and with the open-source programming language R. Knowledge of algebra is assumed, and familiarity with basic calculus concepts is helpful. There are no formal prerequisites, but students without any familiarity with infectious diseases are encouraged to contact the instructor before registering. This course is required of students in the Public Health Modeling Concentration. 1 Course cr

**EMD 563a or b, Laboratory and Field Studies in Infectious Diseases** Christian Tschudi

The student gains hands-on training in laboratory or epidemiologic research techniques. The term is spent working with EMD faculty in a single laboratory or epidemiology research group. Students choosing to work in the laboratory gain experience in molecular biology, basic immunology, parasitology, virology, bacteriology, or vector biology. Students may also choose to work on a non-laboratory-based epidemiology research project. These students gain experience in epidemiologic methods including study design; field data collection including human cases, vectors, and environmental parameters; data analysis; and epidemiological modeling. Permission of the instructor required.

**EMD 567a, Tackling the Big Three: Malaria, TB, and HIV in Resource-Limited Settings** Sunil Parikh

Malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV account for more than five million deaths worldwide each year. This course provides a deep foundation for understanding these pathogens and explores the public health issues that surround these infectious diseases in resource-limited settings. Emphasis is placed on issues in Africa, but contrasts for each disease are provided in the broader developing world. The course is divided into three sections, each focusing in depth on the individual infectious disease as well as discussions of interactions among the three diseases. The sections consist of three to four lectures each on the biology, individual consequences, and community/public health impact of each infectious disease. Discussion of ongoing, field-based research projects involving the diseases is led by relevant faculty (research into practice). The course culminates with a critical discussion of major public health programmatic efforts to tackle these diseases, such as those of PEPFAR, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Global Fund, and the Stop TB Partnership.

**EMD 580a / HPM 580a, Reforming Health Systems: Using Data to Improve Health in Low- and Middle-Income Countries** Robert Hecht

Health systems in low- and middle-income countries are in constant flux in the face of myriad pressures and demands, including those emanating from the current COVID-19 pandemic. Under such conditions, how can senior country officials and their international partners make the best decisions to reform health systems to achieve universal coverage and improve the allocation and use of resources to maximize health gains, including on scale-up of programs to fight infectious diseases and address other health problems? The course provides students with a thorough understanding of health systems, health reforms, and scaling up—their components, performance, and impacts—by teaching the key tools and data sources needed to assess options and make coherent and effective policy and financing choices. Using these frameworks, students analyze case examples of major country reforms and of scaling up of national disease programs (e.g., AIDS treatment, immunization, safe motherhood, mental health services, cardiovascular illness prevention, etc.) and prepare a paper applying what they have learned to real-world health systems challenges. This course is open to all Yale students with interest in the topic. A knowledge of global health, health policy, and health economics and financing is desirable but not required.

**[ EMD 582, Political Epidemiology ]**

Political epidemiology is the study of the impact of welfare regimes, political institutions, and specific policies on health and health equity. This course emphasizes

the last among these – the effects of specific policies – on health outcomes in infectious diseases and other areas of human health and development. The course takes an issues- and methods-based approach, looking at how to evaluate the effects of political determinants of health (e.g., immigration, education, fiscal and environmental policies) through experimental and quasi-experimental methods, as well as various techniques associated with policy modeling (e.g., Markov models, systems dynamics, microsimulation, spatial models). Prerequisites: EPH 505 or a similar introductory course in statistics. S&DS 541, MATH 241, or a similar introductory course in probability is recommended but not required, and a review of probability is offered in the first discussion section. 1 Course cr

**[ EMD 584, Advanced Global Health Justice Practicum: Fieldwork ]**

The course is primarily for students who previously have enrolled in EMD 596/SBS 596; however, new students will be considered. Permission of the instructor required.

1 Course cr

**EMD 588a or b / SBS 588a or b, Health Justice Practicum** Staff

This is an experiential learning course focused on domestic and transnational health justice work. Health justice work focuses on health equity and is committed to addressing the fundamental social causes of disease. It also emphasizes power-building and political economy, instead of viewing health as a technocratic field where issues are resolved through application of expertise alone. Students work on projects supervised by faculty and in collaboration with outside partners. Projects change according to the needs of our partners and are generally determined at the beginning of each term. Credits vary according to the time commitment required by the projects. The course is designed for public health and law students, but other students may enroll where appropriate given project needs. Permission of the instructors required. The class is designed for students who are also taking, or have taken, EMD 596/SBS 596. In addition to listing this course among experiential course selections, non-Law students should submit a CV and a statement of interest by 4:30 pm on August 12. This course meets according to the Law School calendar and may establish special sessions and makeup sessions to accommodate any difference between schedules on the main campus and in the Law School.

**EMD 600a or b, Independent Study or Directed Readings** Staff

Independent study or directed readings on a specific research topic agreed upon by faculty and student. By arrangement with faculty. For M.S. and Ph.D. students only.

**EMD 625b, How to Develop, Write, and Evaluate an NIH Proposal** Christian Tschudi

This pragmatic skills-building course aims to provide a mentored, guided structure for developing a significant research project and leads students through the steps of assembling a grant application following the NIH mechanism: either the predoctoral National Research Service Award (NRSA, F31) or the Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Award (R21). Students are provided detailed information on each aspect of NIH grants: fundamentals of good grant writing, general preparation of grant application (e.g., specific aims, research strategy, analysis of reviews, and strategies of rebuttal and reapplication), identifying study sections, program officers and scientific review officers (SROs), research strategy, and detailed descriptions of the different

types of funding mechanisms. Students develop skills to objectively review an NIH grant proposal and write a scientific critique. Not open to auditors.

**EMD 670a and EMD 671b and EMD 672a, Advanced Research Laboratories**

Virginia Pitzer

This course is required of all EMD Ph.D. students and is taken for three terms. The course offers experience in directed research and reading in selected research laboratories. The first two terms must be taken in the first year of the doctoral program, and the third term is normally taken in the summer after the first year. Open only to doctoral students.