



**Gifted Learning Links Program
Course Syllabus**

Instructor name: Christine Mytko
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Course Title: *Wash Your Hands! An Introduction to Epidemiology*

Session Date: 18 weeks (rolling enrollment from Sept. 15, 2010 – Aug 15, 2011)

Course Description: Why do some people get sick while others remain healthy? Epidemiology is the study of factors used to investigate, analyze and prevent or control a disease. Using case studies and other investigations, students learn why and how outbreaks occur, how scientists study epidemics and the importance of their research in making public health decisions. From food poisoning to H1N1, our quality of life – and even our survival – depends in large part on the work of scientists in this field.

High school credit: 1 semester

Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Develop a working vocabulary of relevant terminology necessary for the discussion and comprehension of epidemiological issues.
- Understand the historical context and impact of disease on society.
- Become familiar with various infectious diseases, including the nature, agent and route of contagion of each disease.
- Understand the typical approaches to an outbreak investigation.
- Demonstrate an ability to critically evaluate epidemiological data.
- Develop an awareness of contemporary approaches and issues in medical research and public health, esp. regarding the diagnosis, prevention and control of infectious agents.

Resources and Materials:

(free download) ***Principles of Epidemiology (3rd ed.)***

<http://www.ihs.gov/medicalprograms/portlandinjury/pdfs/principlesofepidemiologyinpublichealthpractice.pdf> (This will be our primary reference text for the course. There is an option to purchase a hardcover of this text for \$58.75 + shipping, but the free online version will be more than sufficient for our needs.)

Note: the following books are readily available at libraries, books stores and libraries
(required) ***The Hot Zone*** (1994) by Richard Preston
(optional) ***The Ghost Map*** (2006) by Steven Johnson
(optional) ***Flu*** (1999) by Gina Kolata

Please bookmark the following websites as we will frequently be referencing them:

- CDC <http://cdc.gov/>
- WHO <http://www.who.int/en/>
- USAMRIID <http://www.usamriid.army.mil/>

- RX for Survival <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/rxforsurvival/>
- Montclair U <http://www.montclair.edu/Detectives/>
- Epidemiology in the Classroom <http://www.cdc.gov/excite/classroom/index.htm>

- (optional) Subscribe to the CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwrsubscribe.html>

Also it is highly recommended that you have a free Skype account, preferably with webcam access.

Schedule of Topics:

- ⇒ Epidemiology – introduction and in the news (1 week)
- ⇒ Introduction to the primary organizations (1 week)
- ⇒ Epidemiology in history (2 weeks)
- ⇒ The science of disease transmission (3 weeks)
- ⇒ Managing an outbreak! (3 weeks)
- ⇒ Case studies in epidemiology – analyzing data (3 weeks)
- ⇒ Current issues in public health and medical research (4 weeks)
- ⇒ Final project – sharing and reflections (1 week)

Student Evaluation and Grading Policies:

- a. I will be using the standard CTD Grading scale

A+ 97-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F Below 60
A 93-96	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
A- 90-92	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

- b. Your final grade will be determined as follows:
50% - Weekly Written Assignments
20% - Projects

- 15% - Journal Reflections
- 10% - Participation on Discussion Board
- 5% - Vocabulary activities

Instructor Biography: Christine Mytko has a B.S. in the Teaching of Biology from the University of Illinois, and an M.S. in Advanced Education with a focus in science and technology from Northwestern University. Christine spent many years as a site director at an arts day camp for grades K – 5, teaching science in a public middle school, and teaching in Northwestern’s Saturday Enrichment Program. She has taught science in grades K through 12, and currently serves as the Upper School Technology Teacher and K- 5 Science Specialist at an independent school in Berkeley, CA. Christine aspires to be a CDC Science Ambassador in the summer of 2011.

Contact Information:

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Other contact info available upon request

And here is all of the GLL “fine print”:

- * All Gifted LearningLinks (GLL) courses require a properly-maintained computer with broadband Internet access, a recent-version web browser (such as Explorer 6, Firefox, or Safari), and a stable email account (once a student is registered for a course, he/she should not change his/her email address unnecessarily, as difficulties in communication will greatly affect his/her success in the course).
- * All GLL courses use the Blackboard Course Management System. Web browsers must be Java- and cookie-enabled.
- * Most courses use Acrobat Connect (formerly called Breeze) for video conferencing. A headset with a microphone and a webcam are highly recommended.
- * Students are expected to be familiar with standard computer operations (e.g., login, cut & paste, email attachments) and to acquaint themselves with the Blackboard Course Management System and Acrobat Connect (formerly called Breeze) software prior to the start of class. A sample Blackboard classroom, as well as tutorials featuring Blackboard and Acrobat Connect (formerly called Breeze) are available on our website (<http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/learning/tutorials/index.html>).

* In order to be successful in an online course, the following skills are also needed: self-direction, independent time management, and the ability to meet deadlines.

Schedule:

SEMESTER ONE				
	Topic/Focus	Activities & Reading Assignments	What do I need to post to the Discussion Board?	What do I need to turn in?
Week 1	Orientation to Online Learning	Definition of Epidemiology	News connection	
Week 2				
Week 3				
Week 4				
Week 5				
Week 6				
Week 7				
Week 8				
Week 9				

Week 10				
Week 11				
Week 12				
Week 13				
Week 14				
Week 15				
Week 16				
Week 17				
Week 18				

GLL SAMPLE