

**American University of Beirut  
Faculty of Health Sciences**

**EPHD 440  
Doctoral Seminar  
[0 credits]**

**Course Syllabus  
Fall Semester, Academic Year 2022-2023**

**Course Instructors and Contact Details:**

Stephen McCall, MSc, DPhil  
sm227@aub.edu.lb

**Class time and venue**  
Mondays 14:00-15:15; Room:  
332, Van Dyck

[Online sessions are  
mentioned in the timetable].

**Course Description**

The doctoral seminar in Epidemiology is designed to provide students with an opportunity to review, critique, and orally present published literature in epidemiology and population health. In addition, students apply methods and principles of epidemiology to the design of research questions for their dissertation, communicate these to colleagues and critically evaluate the scientific merit of their peers' research proposals. There will be opportunity this year to act as a peer reviewer for academic journal [Optional].

Two types of sessions will be held (depending on the student's stage in their PhD); the first type of session will operate as a journal club, with one student presenting and critiquing a peer-reviewed article, followed by a discussion involving all students. In the second type of session, the student will present a key paper of relevance to his/her own research, in addition to the student's planned research question, research design considerations, methodological challenges, and data analytical approaches.

**Course Learning Objectives:**

**By the end of the course, students will be able to:**

- LO1. Read and critique peer-reviewed literature in epidemiology and public health
- LO2. Evaluate the integrity, comparability of data, and limitations of epidemiological data
- LO3. Characterize contemporary directions and challenges in epidemiology
- LO4. Formulate, refine and critique a conceptual framework, research question and study design for doctoral thesis work
- LO5. Synthesize and communicate complex concepts to an informed audience.

**Program Competencies mapped to EPHD 405:**

- PC1: Discuss the local and regional epidemiology of diseases and disorders of public health importance with an understanding of the underlying factors and context.
- PC3: Use evidence syntheses to identify research gaps and questions for additional primary research
- PC4: Develop novel hypotheses that build on the research findings of others
- PC8: Effectively manage and evaluate data generated from population-based surveys and epidemiological surveillance systems
- PC11: Interpret and evaluate original or published results

**Mapping of Course Learning Objectives to CEPH Competencies**

	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5
PC1: Discuss the local and regional epidemiology of diseases and disorders of public health importance with an understanding of the underlying factors and context.			X		X
PC3: Use evidence syntheses to identify research gaps and questions for additional primary research				X	
PC4: Develop novel hypotheses that build on the research findings of others				X	
PC8: Effectively manage and evaluate data generated from population based surveys and epidemiological surveillance systems	X	X			
PC11: Interpret and evaluate original or published results	X	X			

**Course requirements and Student evaluation:**

**Student Evaluation:**

This is a P/F class. Students will be evaluated based on their class attendance, participation, and presentations. All students are expected to prepare for each class by reading the assigned articles and engaging in the class discussions. PhD students in their third/fourth/fifth year are expected to present their own research, whereas students who are in the early stages (coursework phase) of their program will be expected to participate and present selected literature for discussion.

**Seminar modality**

The class will be held in person; however, for those with extenuating circumstances there is option to join the class remotely. Please email the course coordinator to attend the course remotely.

**Potential Reading list**

TBC after first meeting with students

**Policies and other General Notes:**

**Academic integrity:**

Education is demanding and you need to properly manage your time. Do not hesitate to use the resources around you but do not cut corners. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please review the Student Code of Conduct in your handbook and familiarize yourself with definitions and penalties related to plagiarism. If you're in doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, ask your instructor because it is your responsibility to know. The American University of Beirut has a strict anti-cheating and anti-plagiarism policy. Penalties include failing marks on the assignment in question, suspension or expulsion from University and a permanent mention of the disciplinary action in the student's records.

**Students with Disabilities:**

AUB strives to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers due to a disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please inform me immediately so that we can privately discuss options. In order to help establish reasonable accommodations and facilitate a smooth accommodations process, you are encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Office: [accessibility@aub.edu.lb](mailto:accessibility@aub.edu.lb); +961-1-350000, x3246; West Hall, 314

**Non-Discrimination – Title IX – AUB**

AUB is committed to facilitating a campus free of all forms of discrimination including sex/gender-based harassment prohibited by Title IX. The University's non-discrimination policy applies to, and protects, all students, faculty, and staff. If you think you have experienced discrimination or harassment, including sexual misconduct, we encourage you to tell someone promptly. If you speak to a faculty or staff member about an issue such as harassment, sexual violence, or discrimination, the information will be kept as private as possible, however, faculty and designated staff are required to bring it to the attention of the University's Title IX Coordinator. Faculty can refer you to fully confidential resources, and you can find information and contacts at [www.aub.edu.lb/titleix](http://www.aub.edu.lb/titleix). **To report an incident**, contact the University's Title IX Coordinator Mitra Tauk at 01-350000 ext. 2514, or [titleix@aub.edu.lb](mailto:titleix@aub.edu.lb). An anonymous report may be submitted online via EthicsPoint at [www.aub.ethicspoint.com](http://www.aub.ethicspoint.com).

**Schedule of Seminar presentations**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic/Presentation</b>
September 12 <sup>th</sup> 2022 [Online]	Introduction – Expectations and how to critically appraise research [ <a href="#">Online session</a> ]
September 19 <sup>th</sup> 2022	Peer review and reporting guidelines. Readings will be shared ahead of time.
September 26 <sup>th</sup> 2022	[No class] – Literature search to find proposed article
October 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2022	Abraham Idokoko
October 10 <sup>th</sup> 2022	Che-Henry Ngwa
October 17 <sup>th</sup> 2022	Etwal Bou Raad
October 24 <sup>th</sup> 2022	Fadia Shebbo
November 31 <sup>st</sup> 2022	Ghada Saad
November 7 <sup>th</sup> 2022	Maha Aon
November 14 <sup>th</sup> 2022	Mayssan Kabalan
November 21 <sup>st</sup> 2022	Nataliia Priliepova
November 28 <sup>th</sup> 2022	Nour Abou Khalil