Faculty:
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Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Assistant:
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Office Hours: By appointment

Class Times and Location:
Tuesdays  
130-4p  
Location WARF 132

Course Description:
How do we know if population health improving, declining, or staying the same? How does health in one group compare to another? A therapy may extend quantity of life, but how can we assess the quality of those years? These questions are important to policymakers, patients, clinicians, and researchers.

This course is intended for graduate students who wish to understand and use measures of health outcomes in clinical research, population surveillance, and/or policy development.

This course will familiarize students with current methods of assessing health outcome measures and provide a conceptual basis for understanding health outcomes assessment and other patient experience measures of health care. During the semester, we will explore 1) methods for developing health outcome measures, 2) commonly used health outcome measures, and 3) how health outcome measures can be applied to answer a research question. Major data sets containing health outcome measures will also be visited.

Class Structure:
Class meetings will generally include lecture and discussion on Tuesdays from 130-3 and applications from 3-4.

Requirements:
Readings: Students are expected to complete readings prior to class.

Assignments: Assignments will include 4 problem sets; a 1,000-1,500 word essay synthesizing the literature on a topic suitable for Wikipedia; and an extended abstract and in-class research presentation describing the results of a student-driven research project.

- Problem sets are due to the Learn@UW dropbox on Mondays at 12p following the relevant lab session.
- Literature review is due March 18 at 12p
- Research presentations will be May 3rd in class
- Extended abstract is due May 10 at 12p

Student Evaluation:

Grades
Course grades will be determined by student performance on assignments and participation in class.

Class participation 10 points
Problem Sets (4) 10 points
Wikipedia Essay 20 points
Research Project 30 points

Note: I reserve the right to adjust the number of points in each category, but will only do so in students’ favor.

Absences
Attendance is not recorded. However, because successful small-group work depends on equal effort from all participants, absence from discussion sessions is strongly discouraged. If you must be absent during the semester, please coordinate with your group to ensure that all work is completed.

Late assignments
In fairness to students who turn in their assignment on time, an assignment handed in late may be assessed a penalty of one course point for each day following the deadline. This may be waived in advance for valid reasons. Please email your Teaching Assistant and Course Instructor to document your request.

Prerequisites: Knowledge of common statistical methods for observational data (linear and logistic regression, survey methods, etc). Examples will be provided as R Markdown Files and so prior knowledge of R will be an advantage, but it is not necessary.

Learning Objectives:
By the end of the course, participants should be able to:

1. Define major domains of health and approaches to measuring health in individuals and populations;
2. For a health measure encountered in the literature, be able to recognize and discuss the general strengths and weaknesses of the methods by which the measure was constructed;
3. Understand the role of epidemiology, health economics, psychosocial statistics, and biostatistics in conducting health outcomes research;
4. Justify policy changes using data from health outcome measures; and,
5. Be able to design and conduct a study using a health outcome measure to inform an important policy issue.

Course Website:

The course is administered through Learn@UW (https://learnuw.wisc.edu/). A complete slide set or handout may or may not be available online prior to class, but will be available to you following lecture.

Academic Ethics:

Please read the University of Wisconsin standards of academic honesty and integrity (http://students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html). The expectations for this course are consonant with those of the University.

Non-Discrimination Policy:

The UW-Madison is committed to creating a dynamic, diverse and welcoming learning environment for all students and has a non-discrimination policy that reflects this philosophy. Disrespectful behaviors or comments addressed towards any group or individual, regardless of race/ethnicity, sexuality, gender, religion, ability, or any other difference is deemed unacceptable in this class, and will be addressed publicly by the professor.

Readings:

Course readings will be available through the course’s online website. Readings are organized by class session.

Helpful Textbooks:


### Learning Objectives and Course Units Crosswalk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Objectives</th>
<th>Course Units</th>
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<tr>
<td>6. Define major domains of health and approaches to measuring health in individuals and populations;</td>
<td>Unit 1: Introduction to Health Outcome Measures</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Define major domains of health</td>
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<td>• Identify to major paradigms for constructing measures of health</td>
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<td>• Understand how health outcome measures are used in clinical practice, program evaluation, and health policy</td>
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<td>7. For a health measure encountered in the literature, be able to recognize and discuss the general strengths and weaknesses of the methods by which the measure was constructed;</td>
<td>Unit 2: Approaches to Measure Development</td>
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<td>8. Understand the role of epidemiology, health economics, psychosocial statistics, and biostatistics in conducting health outcomes research;</td>
<td>Unit 3: Research on Health Outcomes</td>
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<td>9. Justify policy changes using data from health outcome measures; and,</td>
<td>Unit 4: Applications – Case Studies of Health Outcome Measures</td>
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<td>• Understand how health outcome measures are used in clinical practice, program evaluation, and health policy</td>
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<td>10. Work in small groups, design and conduct a study using a health outcome measure to inform an important policy issue.</td>
<td>Unit 5: Applications – Student Projects</td>
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