Research Seminar on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (Epid 625, 3 credits) (9/01)
Fall Term 2009  Kathy Ford,  kford@umich.edu

Course description: This course will focus on theoretical and methodological issues in the design and conduct of research on AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. The topics covered will include issues on the epidemiology of the epidemic, collecting sensitive data, working with stigmatized groups, designing studies in clinical and community settings, collecting data on networks, and estimating the demographic impact of the AIDS epidemic.

Objective: The objective of the course is to provide doctoral and advanced MPH students with an understanding of the content and methods used in several active research areas in AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Grades: All students are expected to read the papers and come to class each week. Letter grades will be based on the presentations, the comments on studies, and other class participation. PDF files for most readings are available on the course web site.

Students: The class is intended for doctoral and MPH students in epidemiology. Students should have a minimum of a semester of training in epidemiology, biostatistics, and have some knowledge of AIDS and sexually transmitted infections. Students from other departments may take the course with the permission of the instructor.

Introduction and course overview – September 8


Poundstone et al. The social epidemiology of human immunodeficiency virus/AIDS. Epidemiologic Reviews. 26:22-35.

Part 1. Research on sexual behavior including study designs, working with general populations, high risk groups, role of qualitative and quantitative data, cultural sensitivity, data collection and confidentiality issues, use of mixed methods, collecting lifetime sexual histories, questionnaire design, collecting biological specimens.

September 10, 15, Research about general populations, HIV positive populations, surveys of behavior and seroprevalence. US Studies & International Studies.
September 10.


September 15


September 17, 22. Studying high risk groups - drug users

September 17


September 22


September 24,29. Studying high risk groups - Men who have sex with men.
September 24


**September 29**


**October 1,6. Studying high risk groups – sex workers.**

**October 1.**


**October 6.**


**October 8. HIV/STI surveillance in the US – Eve Mokotoff guest speaker.**


**October 12. Surveillance in less developed countries**


**Part 2. Sexual Network studies**

**October 15,22. Sexual network studies – sampling, data collection, and analysis.**

**October 15**


**October 22 (October 20 break)**


**October 27,29. Selected network studies.**
October 27


October 29


Part 3. STI treatment and HIV.
November 3. Design and evaluations of interventions providing STD treatment. Population based studies -


November 5


November 10, 12 Interventions for High Risk Groups.

November 10


November 12


Part 4. Circumcision and HIV.

November 17. Circumcision and HIV.


**Part 5. Estimating the demographic impact of the AIDS epidemic.**
**November 19.**


Reference.

**November 24.**


**November 26.** Thanksgiving Break.

**December 1,3. Estimating the effect on fertility, children, and the elderly. December 1.**


**December 3.**


**December 8. Breastfeeding and HIV.**


**December 10. Summary and Discussion.**