EPID 550: Clinical Economics and Decision Making
January 11, 2012

ABOUT THE COURSE

Registration

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Instructors

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Schedule

• Classes are held Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:00 AM - 11:45
• Spring recess begins at the end of classes on Friday, March 2 and ends at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 12.
• The expected schedule for lecture topics, readings, and quizzes is provided in the SYLLABUS which can be found under the Syllabus tab on blackboard

Grades

• Grades will be based on class participation, homework, two quizzes, and a final examination.
• Quizzes and exams will be either "open book" or "take home."

Assigned Materials

• All course materials EXCEPT readings from the Glick et al. Economic Evaluation in Clinical Trials -- including the syllabus, lecture notes, readings, homework, quizzes, and examinations -- will be distributed through the Internet-based Blackboard Academic Suite. These materials can be accessed at the following address:

https://courseweb.library.upenn.edu/
Instructions about how to use Blackboard are available at the following addresses

http://www.library.upenn.edu/courseware/access.html

- Blackboard has discontinued supporting a guest login. We do not promise, but we will try to maintain an second version of the course website at:


- PDFs of this document and a bibliography are provided under the Course Readings tab in Blackboard. A PDF of the syllabus is provided under the Syllabus tab.

- Lecture notes, the final, and homeworks are provided under a tab labeled Handouts/Homeworks. Course readings that are listed in the syllabus are provided under a tab labeled Course Readings. Critical appraisal and other articles that are not listed in the syllabus will be provided in the "Handouts/Homeworks" tab along with any notes for the critical appraisals, etc.


In addition, selected chapters from the following 3 books have been included on the Course Readings tab of the Blackboard site. Those who are interested should consider buying and reading all of the books that interest her/him:


- Students will be asked to purchase the computer software DATA by TreeAge. The software --**TreeAge Pro Suite (healthcare users)**-- with a limited license is available for $45 at the following web site:

http://server.treeage.com/treeagepro/purchase/stuLic.asp
NOTE: Do NOT download TreeAge Pro Excel.
COURSE SUMMARY

The overall goal of this course is for students to learn quantitative tools that can be used to analyze and understand medical decisions.

- Diagnostic tests with dichotomous results
- Diagnostic tests with continuous results
- Prediction rules
- Introduction to cost-effectiveness analysis
- Mathematical modeling with decision trees
- Mathematical modeling with Markov techniques
- Measuring outcomes in dollar terms
- Measuring outcomes in "utility" terms
- Analysis of cost
- Confidence intervals / sample size for cost-effectiveness analysis
- Economic assessment and policy analysis