EPID 550: Clinical Economics and Decision Making
January 16, 2015

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 in room 252 in BRB2.
- Spring recess begins at the end of classes on Friday, March 6 and ends at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 16.
- The expected schedule for lecture topics, readings, and quizzes is provided in the SYLLABUS which can be found under the “Pages” tab on Canvas

Grades

- Grades will be based on class participation, homework, two quizzes, and a final examination.
- Quizzes and exams will be "open book." Quizzes will be take place in class; the final will be "take home."

Assigned Materials

- All course materials EXCEPT readings from the book by Glick et al. titled Economic Evaluation in Clinical Trials, Second Edition -- including the syllabus, lecture notes, readings, homework, quizzes, and examinations -- will be
distributed through the Internet-based Canvas website. These materials can be accessed at the following address:

http://upenn.instructure.com/

Instructions about how to use Canvas are available at the following web address:

http://guides.library.upenn.edu/content.php?pid=467380

- We do not promise, but we will try to maintain a second version of the course website at:


- This document, the syllabus, and a bibliography are provided under the “Pages” tab in Canvas.

- Lecture notes, homeworks, and the final, are provided under a tab labeled Course Handouts/Homeworks on the “Pages” tab Front Page. Course readings that are listed in the syllabus are provided under a tab labeled Course Readings on the “Pages” tab Front Page. Critical appraisal and other articles that are not listed in the syllabus will be provided in the “Course Handouts/Homeworks” tab under the “Pages” tab Front Page along with any notes for the critical appraisals, etc. We will do our best to post recording of lectures under the tab labeled “Recordings of Lectures” under the “Pages” tab Front Page.


In addition, selected chapters from the following 3 books have been included under a tab labeled Course Readings on the “Pages” tab Front Page in Canvas. Students who are interested in learning more about the topics presented in this course should consider reading all of these books:

We expect students to purchase the computer software **TreeAge Pro Suite (healthcare users)**. As of 01/12/15, the software was available with a limited license for $45 at the following web site:

https://www.treeage.com/shop/

To purchase this software, select “Academic Use” for Treeage Pro Suite and then select “Purchase Student Course License ($45)” as the second option.

**NOTE:** Do NOT purchase TreeAge Pro Core. Also, plan to purchase the software before March 18, when you will first be expected to use it in the course.

We do not expect to use this software until immediately after Spring Break, which ends March 16.
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
- Costing / Analysis of cost / Discounting
- Mathematical modeling with decision trees
- Mathematical modeling with Markov techniques
- Measuring outcomes in "utility" terms
- Confidence intervals / sample size for cost-effectiveness analysis
- Economic assessment and policy analysis