EPID 550
Clinical Economics and Decision Making
January 15, 2016

Registration
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Schedule
Classes are held Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:00 AM - 11:45 in room 104 in Stellar Chance.

Spring recess begins at the end of classes on Friday, March 4 and ends at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 14

The expected schedule for lecture topics, readings, and quizzes is provided in the SYLLABUS which can be found under the “Pages” tab on Canvas (NOT under the Syllabus tab on Canvas)

The last class is Wednesday April 27

The final exam is a “take home” exam that (probably) will be available Monday May 2 and due Monday May 9.
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 exam will be a "take home" exam.

Canvas

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 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, homework, and the final, are provided under a tab labeled Course Handouts/Homework 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. 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:


Purchases

Textbook

Software
We expect students to purchase the computer software TreeAge Pro Suite (healthcare users). As of 01/12/16, the software was available with a limited Student Course license for $45 at the following web site:

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

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

NOTE: Do NOT purchase TreeAge Pro Core. Also, we do not expect to use this software until immediately after Spring Break, which ends March 13. Plan to purchase it before our Wednesday, March 16th class.

COURSE GOAL
The overall goal of this course is for students to learn quantitative methods for understanding medical decisions.

COURSE CONTENT AND APPROPRIATE SEQUENCE
- Diagnostic tests with dichotomous results
- Diagnostic tests with continuous results
- Prediction rules
- Understanding Cost / Measuring and Analyzing cost / Discounting
- Mathematical modeling with decision trees
- Mathematical modeling with Markov techniques
- Measuring outcomes in terms of "utility"
- Conducting, analyzing, and understanding cost-effectiveness analysis
- Economic assessment and policy analysis