

Graduate School of Public Health  
San Diego State University

PH 622: Epidemiology of Chronic Disease  
Mondays, 10:00 A.M., HT 183  
Spring, 2007

**Instructor**

Dr. Carol Macera (Epidemiology)  
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**Office hours**

After class on Mondays or  
by appointment

**Description**

Chronic diseases (such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes) account for more than 70% of the annual deaths in the U.S. In this course we will discuss epidemiological aspects of the leading causes of death and disability with a focus on risk factors that can be modified. We will also discuss various approaches to the study of these diseases or conditions from a population perspective.

**Objectives**

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- ✓ List the major causes of disability and premature mortality in the United States.
- ✓ List the risk factors for each of the leading chronic diseases.
- ✓ Describe the differential risk for men and women for the leading causes of death and disability.
- ✓ Present a detailed description of the epidemiology of one chronic disease.
- ✓ Perform an Internet search for information related to chronic diseases and conditions.

**Group Assignment**

Working in teams, each student will select one of 10 chronic disease topics. Along with other students selecting that topic, the team will make a presentation on a narrowly defined chronic disease or condition within that topic area (must be approved by instructor) and turn in a written report. For each specific disease or condition, the team will address the scope of the problem, economic consequences (if known), prevention opportunities, and the next steps for understanding the etiology of the problem. All projects should include the basic epidemiology (trends, major studies, risk factors) of the specific chronic disease or condition. The final presentation will include graphics and references. The final written report may differ from the presentation and may or may not include graphics. Each member of the team will work on either the presentation or the written report.

**Exams**

There will be 2 exams, each covering material from the preceding lectures. Both exams will have multiple-choice, true/false, and essay-type questions.

**Grading**

Class participation (10%); Group Presentation (30%) or Final Written Report (30%); Exam #1 (30%); Exam #2 (30%)

## Class Schedule for PH 622, Epidemiology of Chronic Disease

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Lecturer</b>
Jan 22	Introduction and overview; class requirements	Dr. Macera
Jan 29	Research methods in chronic disease	Dr. Macera
Feb 5	Behavioral risk factors	Dr. Macera
Feb 12	Physical activity	Dr. Macera
Feb 19	Open	
Feb 26	Coronary heart disease	Dr. Allison
Mar 5	Diabetes	Dr. Wingard
Mar 12	Epidemiology of violence	Dr. Lindsay
Mar 19	<b>Exam #1</b>	
Mar 26	<b>Spring Break – No class</b>	
Apr 2	Cancer	Dr. Macera
Apr 9	Obesity	Dr. Macera
Apr 16	Ethnic health disparities	Dr. Araneta
Apr 23	Arthritis	Dr. Macera
Apr 30	Mental health	Dr. Macera
May 7	<b>Exam #2</b>	