

Course Title: EPID 7000: Doctoral Seminar in Epidemiology

Instructor: Dr. Enrique Schisterman

Schedule: Wednesdays, 10:15 AM - 1:15 PM

Duration: January 22, 2025 - April 30, 2025 (15 Weeks)

Location: Blockley Hall, Room 505

Course Description: This doctoral seminar is an intensive exploration of the science evaluation and dissemination process, including the scientific publishing process, focusing on developing practical skills in writing/communicating various components of research dissemination. The course provides an in-depth look at crafting papers, abstracts, cover letters, responses to reviewers, and other critical elements of scholarly communication, utilizing resources from the American Journal of Epidemiology. Additionally, students will explore various contemporary forms of science communication, including podcasts, Twitter and Twittorials, video abstracts, conference presentations, and interactions with reporters. We will examine how these mediums can enhance the dissemination of epidemiological research.

Course Objectives:

- Develop proficiency in writing different components of scientific evaluation and publications.
- Understand the nuances and strategies of communicating with journal editors, journal staff, reviewers, and other stakeholders.
- Enhance skills in critiquing and reviewing scientific papers.
- Learn the art of constructing a compelling narrative in scientific research.
- Explore and practice various forms of science communication, including podcasts, Twitter and Twittorials, video abstracts, presentations, and interactions with reporters.

Guest Speakers:

1. **TBD (Science Dissemination)**
 - Topic: Effective Strategies for Science Dissemination
 - Insights into podcasting and its role in disseminating scientific findings.
2. **Lori Biddle (How the Journal Works)**

- Topic: Navigating the World of Scientific Journals
- Understanding the journal publishing process, from submission to publication.

3. TBD (Methodological Editors)

- Topic: Statistical Aspects of Epidemiology Research
- Insights into the role of statistics in epidemiology and the peer-review process.

Course Format: The course consists of lectures, workshops, writing exercises, peer review sessions, and practical exercises in science communication. Students will actively engage in different forms of science communication and receive feedback from peers and the instructor.

Every week, every four students should select a paper (preferably published in the last week) and work independently.

Assessment Methods:

1. Participation and Peer Review Exercises (20% each)
2. Science Communications Assignments (60% of grade):

Task One: 1500 review manuscript (30% of the grade)

- Write an Abstract
- Write a Cover Letter to a Journal Editor
- Write a short paper (1500 words)
- Write a Response to Reviewers
- Write Reviewer Comments on a Paper

Task 2 (for Individuals 2 out of 6 options, group of 2 people, 4 out of 6 options, Group of 3, all options) (30% of the grade)

- Write and submit a Letter to the Editor (of the American Journal of Epidemiology or similar)
- Create a short Podcast Episode
- Craft Twittorials
- Produce a Video Abstract
- Deliver a Scientific Presentation

- Conduct Mock Interviews with Reporters (Media Interaction Simulation)

Weekly Schedule and Topics:

Refer to Home page for current schedule

Required and Recommended Readings:

- Selected articles and guides on scientific writing, publication strategies, and communication with editors and reviewers.
- Relevant articles for review and critique and other sources.
- Resources on podcast production, social media engagement, video creation, and media interactions.

Course Policies:

- Active engagement