University of Florida
College of Public Health & Health Professions Syllabus
PHC 7199: Topics in Precision Medicine and Public Health Informatics (1 credit hour)

Spring 2022
(irregular times)
Delivery Format: On-Campus
Course Website or E-Learning xxx

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Phone Number: 352-273-5860
Email Address: m.prosperi@ufl.edu, simone.marini@ufl.edu
Office Hours: On appointment (Mon-Fri 9:00am-5:00pm)
Preferred Course Communications: email

Prerequisites
None

PURPOSE AND OUTCOME

Course Overview. The course covers methodological and translational topics in precision medicine and public health informatics, inspiring from the White House 2015 initiative “to enable a new era of medicine through research, technology, and policies that empower patients, researchers, and providers to work together toward development of individualized care.”

Relation to Program Outcomes This course embraces the latest and most advanced topics and ventures of our Epi program in the 'next-generation' era of epidemiological research and data science, in compliance to up-to-date accreditation standards, and with translational relevance to clinical and professional practice.

Course Objectives and/or Goals. This training is valuable for a PhD student who is interested into the 'next-generation' data science of epidemiology and public health informatics.

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to: (1) Discriminate between one-size-fits-all medicine and precision medicine; (2) Formulate new hypotheses for prediction modeling; (3) Design precision medicine and public health research plans; (4) Prescribe proper informatics resources; (5) Perform research design using the precision approach; (6) Solve new precision medicine challenges and avoid design bias.

Knowledge-based goals according to Bloom’s taxonomy of educational objectives:

2. Comprehension. Ability to extrapolate the translational value of prediction models or the generalizability of models at the population level.
3. Application. Ability to identify a proper study and modelling design.
4. **Analysis.** Ability to question the validity of a precision approach and identify possible biases.
5. **Synthesis.** Ability to combine information from multiple levels and domains both upstream (when designing) and downstream (when interpreting).
6. **Evaluation.** Ability to formulate new evidence-based research questions; ability to evaluate the generalizability and translational importance of findings.

**Instructional Methods.** Roundtable sessions (using multimedia aids) upon critical reading of scientific papers divided in three parts: 1) methodological introduction, 2) applied/translational exemplification, 3) discussion and Q&A. Teaching material will be posted online. The online material (including this syllabus) will be processed through SensusAccess according to Federal, State and University’s accessibility policies and governance. Students and teacher will be exchanging roles in presenting materials and discussing topics in active engagement.

**DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT**

**Topical Outline/Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Time(s)</th>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>11/Jan/22</td>
<td>10:40am-12:35pm</td>
<td>Precision Medicine and Precision Public Health</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>25/Jan/22</td>
<td>10:40am-12:35pm</td>
<td>Big data, reproducibility and data dredging</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>08/Feb/22</td>
<td>10:40am-12:35pm</td>
<td>Modelling healthcare encounters and care pathways</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>22/Feb/22</td>
<td>10:40am-12:35pm</td>
<td>Modelling mental health disorders</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>08/Mar/22</td>
<td>10:40am-12:35pm</td>
<td>Modelling cancer risk</td>
<td>E</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>22/Mar/22</td>
<td>10:40am-12:35pm</td>
<td>Modelling system-level illnesses and aging</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>05/Mar/22</td>
<td>10:40am-12:35pm</td>
<td>Modelling infectious diseases</td>
<td>G</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>19/Apr/22</td>
<td>10:40am-11:35am</td>
<td>Precision medicine, public health and civil rights</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Course Materials and Technology**

*List of journal papers to read for the course (mandatory in **bold**)*

A. Precision Medicine and Precision Public Health:


B. Big data, reproducibility and data dredging:


C. Modelling healthcare encounters and care pathways:


D. Modelling mental health disorders:


E. Modelling cancer risk:


F. Modelling system-level illnesses and aging:


G. Modelling infectious diseases:


H. Precision medicine, public health and civil rights:


Other journal papers for the course

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Assignments. Each student is required to lead one of the roundtables (by reading/analyzing one or more scientific papers related to a class topic, preparing and delivering a presentation with slides, discussing strengths, critical points and perspectives with the course colleagues and the course director during the class) or to deliver a written critical review of one of the papers related to the course topics, in no more than two pages (normal page margins, 1.5 line spacing, Palatino Linotype font 11pt).

Grading. Leading one roundtable or delivering the written critical review will count towards 100 points for the final mark.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>A-</th>
<th>B+</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>B-</th>
<th>C+</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>C-</th>
<th>D+</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>D-</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>WF</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>NG</th>
<th>S-U</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade Points</td>
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For greater detail on the meaning of letter grades and university policies related to them, see the Registrar's Grade Policy regulations at:
Exam Policy. There is no formal final exam, and the student final mark will be based on the roundtable lead or the written critical review.

Policy Related to Make up Exams or Other Work. If a student chose to deliver the written critical review, it must be sent by e-mail to the teacher before the penultimate class (i.e. 05/Mar/22). If the deadline is missed, a 20 points penalty is applied. If there is no delivery by the end of the course, the mark will be an Incomplete.

Please note: Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the UF Computing help desk (http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/) correspondence. You MUST e-mail me within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Policy Related to Required Class Attendance. In special circumstances a student can join the class by Skype or Zoom, by informing the teacher with reasonable time in advance. Absence is defined as not showing up at class or being late more than 15 minutes. More than three absences result in an E mark.

Please note all faculty are bound by the UF policy for excused absences. Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Graduate Catalog (https://catalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/#text). Additional information can be found here:
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx
More information on UF grading policy may be found here:
http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#grades

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS, ROLES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT


Communication Guidelines. Follow netiquette for online communications

Academic integrity. Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity. As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge:

“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”
You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For additional information regarding Academic Integrity, please see Student Conduct and Honor Code or the Graduate Student Website for additional details:

https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/
http://gradschool.ufl.edu/students/introduction.html

Please remember cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

Professionalism and COVID

As students pursuing a path in the health professions or public health, it is crucial to demonstrate professional behaviors that reflect integrity and commitment to the health of patients, fellow health professionals, and to populations we serve. To accomplish this, a strong responsibility for the well-being of others must be evident in our decisions, along with accountability for our actions. Professionalism in the health disciplines requires adherence to high standards of conduct that begin long before graduation. This is particularly true during times of health emergencies such as the COVID pandemic, given our professional habits can have a direct impact upon the health of persons entrusted to us.

If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: https://coronavirus.uflhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.

In response to COVID-19, the following professional practices are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to protect the health and safety of ourselves, our patients, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times while in Health Science Center classrooms and within Health Science Center buildings even if you are vaccinated.
- If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and
to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website for more information.

- Continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing.
- Avoid crowded places (including gatherings/parties with more than 10 people)

Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class. Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.

Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.

Continue to regularly visit coronavirus.UFHealth.org and coronavirus.ufl.edu for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.

COVID-19 Symptoms. See https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html for information about COVID-19 symptoms, which may include fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, chills, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, and loss of taste or smell.

Recording Within the Course. Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be
subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or
discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Policy Related to Guests Attending Class. Only registered students are permitted to attend class. However, we recognize that students who are caretakers may face occasional unexpected challenges creating attendance barriers. Therefore, by exception, a department chair or his or her designee (e.g., instructors) may grant a student permission to bring a guest(s) for a total of two class sessions per semester. This is two sessions total across all courses. No further extensions will be granted. Please note that guests are not permitted to attend either cadaver or wet labs. Students are responsible for course material regardless of attendance. For additional information, please review the Classroom Guests of Students policy in its entirety. Link to full policy:
http://facstaff.phhp.ufl.edu/services/resourceguide/getstarted.htm

Online Faculty Course Evaluation Process. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at https://gtorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gtorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities. If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, it is strongly recommended you register with the Dean of Students Office http://www.dso.ufl.edu within the first week of class or as soon as you believe you might be eligible for accommodations. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation of accommodations to you, which you must then give to me as the instructor of the course to receive accommodations. Please do this as soon as possible after you receive the letter. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

Counseling and Student Health. Students sometimes experience stress from academic expectations and/or personal and interpersonal issues that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing issues that have the potential to or are already negatively affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and/or seek help through University resources available to you.

• The Counseling and Wellness Center 352-392-1575 offers a variety of support services such as psychological assessment and intervention and assistance for math and test anxiety. Visit their web site for more information: http://www.counseling.ufl.edu. On line and in person assistance is available.
• **U Matter We Care** website: [http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/](http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/). If you are feeling overwhelmed or stressed, you can reach out for help through the You Matter We Care website, which is staffed by Dean of Students and Counseling Center personnel.

• The **Student Health Care Center** at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 392-0627 or check out the web site at: [https://shcc.ufl.edu/](https://shcc.ufl.edu/)

• Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from: Alachua County Crisis Center: (352) 264-6789
  [http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx](http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx)

• **University Police Department**: [Visit UF Police Department website](http://www.police.ufl.edu/)
or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

• **UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center**: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](http://www.ufhealth.org/)

Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.

**Inclusive Learning Environment.** Public health and health professions are based on the belief in human dignity and on respect for the individual. As we share our personal beliefs inside or outside of the classroom, it is always with the understanding that we value and respect diversity of background, experience, and opinion, where every individual feels valued. We believe in, and promote, openness and tolerance of differences in ethnicity and culture, and we respect differing personal, spiritual, religious and political values. We further believe that celebrating such diversity enriches the quality of the educational experiences we provide our students and enhances our own personal and professional relationships. We embrace The University of Florida’s Non-Discrimination Policy, which reads, “The University shall actively promote equal opportunity policies and practices conforming to laws against discrimination. The University is committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans’ Readjustment Assistance Act.” If you have questions or concerns about your rights and responsibilities for inclusive learning environment, please see your instructor or refer to the Office of Multicultural & Diversity Affairs website: [www.multicultural.ufl.edu](http://www.multicultural.ufl.edu).