WELCH CENTER RESEARCH SEMINAR
“Welch Center Journal Club”
Department of Epidemiology
Course Number 340.871 (1 credit)
Offered Terms 1 – 4

Course Director:
Elizabeth Selvin, PhD, MPH
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Course Teaching Assistant (TA):
Amelia Wallace
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Class Time:
Tuesday 12:00 – 1:20 p.m.

Location:
Welch Center for Prevention, Epidemiology and Clinical Research
2024 E. Monument St.
Whelton Conference Room 2-603

Web pages:

The presentation schedule is listed on the Welch Center Research Seminar web page. A link to the Seminar web page is also available through CoursePlus: http://courseplus.jhu.edu
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Course Syllabus

Students in the Cardiovascular and Clinical Epidemiology Track are required to register for 2 terms of Welch Center Research Seminar in order to meet degree requirements. Registration for 4 terms is recommended.

Course Description:
Students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty present scientific papers from the current and/or classic literature dealing with epidemiologic research, with a focus on cardiovascular and clinical epidemiology. The course emphasizes the ability to critically evaluate scientific papers, presentation skills, and open discussion. The seminar uses a journal-club format in which one or more papers are distributed in advance. Participants are expected to read the paper in advance, post at least 2 comments or questions on CoursePlus by 11:59 pm the night before the session, and discuss the assigned material. Media reporting/coverage in the lay and medical press will be explicitly discussed related to the article. The seminar is often a forum for the discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of epidemiologic methods and appropriate use of statistical methods for various study designs. The seminar meets once every week in the first, second, third, and fourth terms. Students in the Cardiovascular and Clinical Epidemiology Track are required to present one article over the course of the academic year, although all students who attend are encouraged to present. Seminars take place at the Welch Center for Prevention, Epidemiology and Clinical Research. The Welch Center is a multidisciplinary research center affiliated with the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Course Learning Objectives:
By the end of the course, the student will be able to:
(1) read and critically evaluate scientific papers
(2) give a presentation and lead a discussion related to a research article
(3) critique analytic methods in the published literature
(4) describe the strengths and weaknesses of various methodological approaches in cardiovascular and clinical epidemiology

Student Evaluation: All students are expected to read articles prior to each session, post at least 2 comments or questions about the article on CoursePlus by 11:59 pm the night before the session, and actively participate in the discussion. Students will be graded Pass/Fail based on participation, attendance, and an article presentation. Students may not miss more than 2 sessions without prior approval of the instructor. If you know you have to miss an upcoming session, please email the course TA prior to your absence, if possible.

Students may select articles to present from a list of approved articles or students may select their own article. Students who select their own article need pre-approval of the instructor prior to presentation. There will be a sign-up sheet for presentation dates on CoursePlus. A list of approved articles will be emailed to you 2 weeks before your presentation date by the course TA.

Policy on switching presentation dates: Please note that if you should need to reschedule your presentation date, it is your responsibility to arrange a swap with someone else on the schedule. Please communicate the change to the course TA.