

# Keck School of Medicine of USC

## **PM 610: Seminar in Biostatistics & Epidemiology**

**Units:** 1 unit

**Term–Day–Time:** Spring 2021, Tue 9:00 AM-10:30 AM

**Location:** Zoom

### **Course Coordinator(s):**

### **Course Instructor(s):**

Name: Victoria Cortessis Contact: vcortessi@usc.edu

Office: Office Hours: By Appointment

Name: Kimberly Siegmund Contact: kims@usc.edu

Office: Office Hours: By Appointment

### **Teaching Assistant(s):**

Name: Jingxuan He

Contact Info: hejingxu@usc.edu

## Course Description

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PM610 is a doctoral level seminar course in which students develop and practice their presentation skills as well as review and critique presentations by their academic colleagues. The instructors provide concise didactic guidance in structuring, composing and delivering a presentation, skills that students can actively develop and refine as they prepare and deliver presentations throughout the semester. Students deliver seminars and research updates that involve both a global overview of their area of doctoral-level investigation and proposed or ongoing research specifically focusing on a problem they are addressing. Active involvement of both epidemiology and biostatistics students provides experience in communicating one's work to a diverse audience.

## Learning Objectives

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1. Develop and crystallize students' PhD dissertation project topic and objectives
2. Develop speaking and presentation skills
3. Develop, practice and refine student presentations for their qualifying or final doctoral examinations, other seminar talks, professional society meetings, job talks, etc.
4. Develop evaluation, critique, feedback and participation skills
5. Provide a "Graduate Student Seminar" for all Preventive Medicine students

Prerequisite(s):

Co-Requisite(s):

Concurrent Enrollment:

Recommended Preparation:

## Teaching & Assessment Methods

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### Teaching Methods

- Student presentation
- Reflection

### Assessment Methods

- Oral
- Attendance

## Course Notes

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## Communication

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Students are encouraged to contact the instructor by email. The instructor will reply to emails within 48 hours, 72 hours over a weekend, and the work day following a holiday.

## Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required

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Students will be required to attend class on Zoom.

## Required Materials

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- none

## Optional Materials

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## Description and Assessment of Assignments

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This course is to learn presentation skills and grading is credit/no credit. The assignments include:

- oral presentations
- asking questions of the speaker
- regular attendance

## Grading Breakdown

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1. Each student will make two presentations throughout the semester. One should be designed as a 30-minute and the other a 45-minute presentation. Presentation should be related to their PhD work. Sources for presentation material can include:

- a. Literature review related to the student's doctoral or other work
- b. Presentation of research (design, data, and analysis) that illustrate a particular statistical/epidemiologic issue or question
- c. Ongoing research

2. Attend all course sessions (see attendance below).

3. Actively participate in the provision of thoughtful and constructive review and feedback of other student presentations

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>% of Grade</b>
Give 2 oral presentations, ask questions of speaker each week, attendance	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

## Grading Scale

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Course final grades will be determined using the following scale.  
This is a credit/no credit class.

## Course-specific Policies

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## Assignment Submission

All presentations will be presented live via Zoom.

## Grading Timeline

not applicable

## Late work

not applicable

## Technology in the classroom

## Academic integrity

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A grade of zero will be applied to submitted work that does not comply with the USC standards of academic conduct. Such work may not be resubmitted for a new grade. Academic integrity is included at the end of the syllabus.

## Attendance

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Enrolled students who miss more than two sessions will not receive credit for the class. If you will miss or plan to miss a session, please notify the instructors and seminar coordinator prior to the session or as soon as possible.

## Classroom norms

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1. Students are expected to arrive on time. Please notify the instructors and seminar coordinator if you will be late.
2. Students are expected to have their cameras on for a positive, engaging experience
3. Phones are not to be used during class – that includes browsing, checking email, texting, etc.
4. Students should feel free to use the seminar as a forum to practice for a Qualifying or Final Oral Examination, a conference presentation, job talk, etc.
5. Students do not need to enroll to attend the seminar or deliver a presentation. Time allowing (all enrolled students must first schedule their required two presentations), all Preventive Medicine students (doctoral and masters) are encouraged to attend and invited to give talks. Some of the talks will be to meet the ARA requirement. If you know of a student who is not enrolled in the class but would like to practice a presentation, please refer them to the seminar coordinator.

## Expectations on Student Engagement

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Students are expected to actively participate in the class each week. This is accomplished by asking questions of the speaker, or providing feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of the presentation.

## Course evaluation

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## Policy on Learning & Assessment Feedback (LAF)

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Feedback on examinations will be provided using the following methods. Please indicate which method(s) you will use in the course.

- there are no exams in this class

## Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

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Date	Topic	Lecturer
Tue 01/19/21 09:00a - 10:30a	Introduction	
Tue 01/26/21 09:00a - 10:30a	Student Presentations	
Tue 02/02/21 09:00a - 10:30a	Student Presentations	
Tue 02/09/21 09:00a - 10:30a	Student Presentations	
Tue 02/16/21 09:00a - 10:30a	Student Presentations	
Tue 02/23/21 09:00a - 10:30a	Student Presentations	
Tue 03/02/21 09:00a - 10:30a	Student Presentations	
Tue 03/09/21 09:00a - 10:30a	Student Presentations	
Tue 03/16/21 09:00a - 10:30a	Student Presentations	
Tue 03/30/21 09:00a - 10:30a	Student Presentations	

Tue 04/06/21 09:00a - 10:30a	Student Presentations	
Tue 04/13/21 09:00a - 10:30a	Student Presentations	
Tue 04/20/21 09:00a - 10:30a	Student Presentations	
Tue 04/27/21 09:00a - 10:30a	Student Presentations	

## Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

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### **Academic Conduct:**

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” [policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b](http://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b). Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

### **Support Systems:**

*Student Counseling Services (SCS) – (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call*

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. [engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling](http://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling)

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1 (800) 273-8255*

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

*Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call*

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. [engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp](http://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp)

*Sexual Assault Resource Center*

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: [sarc.usc.edu](http://sarc.usc.edu)

*Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086*

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. [equity.usc.edu](http://equity.usc.edu)

*Bias Assessment Response and Support*

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. [studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support](http://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support)

*The Office of Disability Services and Programs*

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. [dsp.usc.edu](http://dsp.usc.edu)

*Student Support and Advocacy – (213) 821-4710*

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. [studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssu](http://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssu)

*Diversity at USC*

Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. [diversity.usc.edu](http://diversity.usc.edu)

*USC Emergency Information*

Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. [emergency.usc.edu](http://emergency.usc.edu)

*USC Department of Public Safety – UPC: (213) 740-4321 – HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24-hour emergency or to report a crime.*

Provides overall safety to USC community. [dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu)