Course Description
This graduate level survey course introduces students to modeling techniques used to inform decisions in public health, disease control, and hospital operations.

Learning Objectives
The goal of this course is to provide graduate level students with an overview of modeling frameworks and techniques in healthcare decision making. We will draw from concepts in industrial engineering, epidemiology, and statistics to provide insight into multi-disciplinary problems with real world implications. To this end, we will be critically reviewing papers to see how modeling techniques have been used to address health policy problems, and we will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of various analyses. The course will equip students to pursue research projects using operations research methods and modeling in their own areas of specialization.

Prerequisites
None.

Recommended Preparation
Basic preparation in probability. Advanced undergraduates should obtain instructor permission.

Course Notes
Lecture slides will be posted on Blackboard following the lecture. Homework assignments will be posted one week in advance of the due date.

Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software
Students should have access to a computer with software capable of basic calculations and simulating probability distributions (Matlab, R, Stata, Excel, etc.). An optional basic introduction to Matlab will be provided to facilitate projects and homework.
## Course Schedule

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Textbooks and Supplementary Materials

There are no required textbooks. Some good reference books are:


Description and Assessment of Assignments
Readings:

- **Reading 1: CEAs**

- **Reading 2: Compartmental Models**

- **Reading 3: Simulation**

- **Reading 4: Network Models**

- **Reading 5: Queuing**

- **Reading 6: MDP**
• Reading 7: VOI

**Project Milestones and Final Paper:**
Each group should submit one document for each project milestone, final paper, and final presentation (please note that this is not the case for homework -- while students are permitted to discuss class concepts and homework questions, each student must submit their own homework).

*Milestone 1: Identify your project team members (up to 3 students on a team), your research question, and motivate the research problem. Why is this an important topic? Will it help inform health policy decision makers?*

*Milestone 2: Describe the structure of your model. Why did you choose this model structure? What advantages and disadvantages are there? Identify data sources for parameterizing your model, and describe how you will build and calibrate the model. The level of detail should be similar to the Methods section of a research article. Responses should be between 2-3 pages double spaced.*

*Milestone 3: Describe your preliminary results. If these results are correct, what implications do they have for health policy? What additional analyses need to be completed? Describe how you will perform sensitivity analyses. Responses should be between 2-3 pages double spaced.*

**Final Paper:** The final paper should have the following sections, and be limited to 10 pages double spaced, not including tables, figures, and references:
  • Introduction/Motivation: What is your research question and why should we care?
  • Methods: What did you do to answer the question and why is this reasonable?
  • Results: What did you find? How sensitive are they to model assumptions?
  • Discussion: What do your results mean? What limitations are there to this study?
  • Future Work: If you had more time, what additional resources would you use and how would you use them?

**Grading Breakdown**
Late assignments will receive no credit.
  • Attendance and class participation 10%
  • Homework 20%
  • Term project milestones 15%
  • Term project paper 40%
  • Term project presentation 15%

**Assignment Submission Policy**
Please submit all assignments via Blackboard.
Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

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” https://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. https://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. 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. https://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: 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. https://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. https://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. 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. https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa/

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. https://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, http://emergency.usc.edu

USC Department of Public Safety – 213-740-4321 (UPC) and 323-442-1000 (HSC) for 24-hour emergency assistance or to report a crime.
Provides overall safety to USC community. http://dps.usc.edu