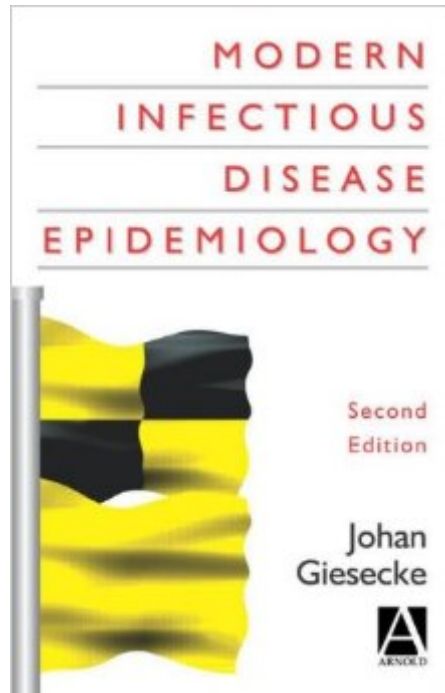


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Modern Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Second Edition



Synopsis

The second edition of *Modern Infectious Disease Epidemiology*, in line with changing health concerns, is a thorough revision of the first. Written from an infectious disease perspective throughout, the book aims to teach epidemiology to those with a background in this field. It seeks to fill the gap between the standard textbooks of epidemiology, which rarely approach the subject from an infectious disease perspective, and standard books on infection surveillance and control, which tend to slant more towards microbiology and practical measures than towards analytical epidemiology. Divided into two parts, the first covers the tools of epidemiology much like other textbooks, but always from an infectious disease perspective. The second covers the role of contact pattern from an assessment angle, and uses the tools learnt to illustrate the study of fundamental infectious disease concepts, such as infectivity, incubation periods, seroepidemiology and immunity. This detailed theoretical epidemiology textbook is clearly set out, with an expanded chapter on practical statistical methods, and a new chapter on descriptive epidemiology. Key features include new clinical examples and infectious disease problems of recent interest, such as tuberculosis and vCJD. All students of epidemiology, infectious disease medicine, and microbiology will find this an invaluable guide.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Introductory epidemiology texts have historically been very weak on the special features of the epidemiology of infectious disease. The only texts available that adequately covered infectious

disease epidemiology were too intense (mathematically and otherwise) for an undergraduate course, too expensive to impose on students, and/or lacking in the broad concepts of epidemiology that apply to non-infectious as well as infectious diseases. Dr. Giesecke's book smoothly integrates the broad concepts of epidemiology with the specific features of infectious disease. You will find here all the requisite concepts of introductory epidemiology such as incidence and prevalence, sensitivity and specificity, case-control and cohort studies, confounding and interaction. You will also find chapters on seroepidemiology, vaccination epidemiology, mathematical models for epidemics (with relatively low intensity math that most undergrads might handle), the study of contact patterns and other topics related to infectious disease, and others. In all this, Dr. Giesecke uses intuitive explanations that make difficult subjects comprehensible. Teachers of epidemiology will find this book very useful for introductory epidemiology courses. As a primer and/or refresher for those in public health and various medical professions, this book is--among a vast multitude of competitors--uniquely fitting.

I'm currently an MPH candidate, concentrating in infectious disease epidemiology. While there are other well-written books in this field (particularly Dr. Kenrad Nelson's outstanding "Infectious Disease Epidemiology"), I have been looking for a text which succinctly encapsulates the general epi/biostats functions that might be considered the standard 'tools of the trade.' This book fills that role exceptionally well. Topics range from natural history of disease, to epidemic curves, to chi square and basic regression analysis. Each chapter is just as simple as it should be, with very concise descriptions and clear, useful explanations. There are also several case studies which help to synthesize and better illustrate the subject matter within the framework of an actual real-world investigation. This book is an excellent companion to the broader scope of Dr. Nelson's work (above) and the APHA's "Control of Communicable Diseases Handbook." No new epidemiologist should be without all three!

I use this textbook in my introductory epidemiology course. I like the format and the way topics are introduced and dealt with in an approachable, easily-understandable manner. The book takes a very practical outlook on epidemiology, and it is easy to apply the concepts as explained. However, there are several bad errors or typos in the mathematical equations in several sections, which can be extremely confusing-- the math in Giesecke's examples is generally worked correctly, but the equations themselves are written incorrectly, and it is necessary for the instructor to give the students the correct formulas and tell them to correct the ones in the textbook. He also does not

explain where certain constants (e.g. Z-values) come from, but simply says things like "For a 95% confidence interval, multiply by 1.96," which leaves the reader with the impression that this is some sort of magical number, and without anywhere to turn if one happens to want a 90% or 99% confidence interval instead. All in all, I like this book as a basic introductory text *IF* one is able to correct the (relatively simple) errors as one goes. It is probably not suitable for an advanced course or for someone wanting to study the subject independently, who does not have a reference for the equations.

This book covers twenty chapters of epidemiology. The book is over the average, centered in explaining the traps of statistics and how to escape from that. The explanations are clear and reflect the high author's rationality capacity. Though the book title mentions disease epidemiology, it has many parts of general epidemiology concepts. It has limited exercises about the themes. Mario Approbato, MD, PhD. Master Degree and PhD Post Graduation Course Federal University of Goiás State, [...].

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