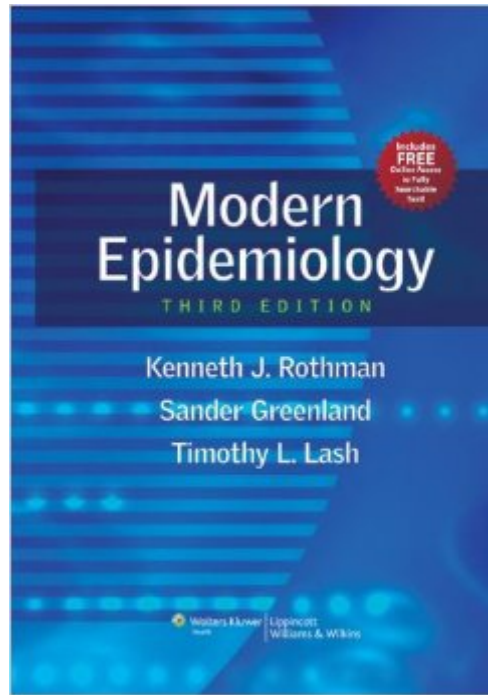


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Modern Epidemiology



Synopsis

The thoroughly revised and updated Third Edition of the acclaimed Modern Epidemiology reflects both the conceptual development of this evolving science and the increasingly focal role that epidemiology plays in dealing with public health and medical problems. Coauthored by three leading epidemiologists, with contributions from sixteen experts in a variety of epidemiologic sub-disciplines, this new edition is by far the most comprehensive and cohesive text on the principles and methods of epidemiologic research. The book covers a broad range of concepts and methods, including epidemiologic measures of occurrence and effect, study designs, validity, precision, statistical interference, and causal diagrams. Topics in data analysis range from Bayesian analysis, sensitivity analysis, and bias analysis, with an extensive overview of modern regression methods including logistic and survival regression, splines, hierarchical (multilevel) regression, propensity scores and other scoring methods, and g-estimation. Special-topics chapters cover disease surveillance, ecologic studies, social epidemiology, infectious disease epidemiology, genetic and molecular epidemiology, nutritional epidemiology, environmental epidemiology, reproductive epidemiology, clinical epidemiology, and meta-analysis.

FEATURES: Comprehensive and cohesive text on the principles and methods of contemporary epidemiologic research
Addresses the methodologic issues crucial to the wide range of epidemiologic applications in public health and medicine
Major sections cover basic concepts, study design and conduct, data analysis, and special topics
Completely revised and updated to bring you the most updated information
New chapters cover causal modeling: Bayesian analysis, probabilistic bias analysis, social epidemiology, and use of secondary data
Includes online access to full text so you have access to the content anytime (Errata, July 2014)

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Customer Reviews

Masterly. Rothman and coworkers' 3rd edition of the classic 'Modern Epidemiology' is a landmark step in presenting with cohesiveness and clarity traditional + cutting-edge concepts and methods for observational research (and by extension for experimental research on human subjects as well, since problems like unblinding or loss-to-follow-up may reintroduce bias in clinical trials after randomization, with a corresponding need for epidemiological interpretative and analytical tools). This highly regarded volume has no equal, as it has been not only an authoritative source of information but 'the' reference on epi methods for almost a quarter century. For those looking for an introductory level textbook, Rothman's one by Oxford University Press is highly recommended, since the comprehensive 'Modern Epidemiology' requires some previous exposure to the concepts and biostatistical methods presented. The 3rd edition is an encyclopedic effort, brings methodological coherence to a whole new level, is highly readable, and confirms itself as the standard reference on epidemiological and clinical research for many more years to come. An outstanding scholarly achievement. Definitely a must-have for anyone who needs to learn and apply basic/advanced epidemiological methods rigorously in clinical as well as general population settings.

This is an excellent book (5 stars for content), but this edition, which is described as "Third Edition, Mid-cycle revision" and dated 2012 appears to be the exact same text as the 2008 Third Edition (3 stars for unclear product description). The only difference is that this product comes with online access to the e-book version and "additional resources". The only added resource I could find was errata - and this should be available to anyone who purchased the 2008 book anyway. The publisher should make this information clear so customers can make informed buying decisions.

This book is a seminal text in the field of Epidemiology. Some readers may be looking to gain a basic understanding of Epidemiology with this textbook, but other books are more suited to that task (Kleinbaum or Aschengrau or Gordis). Rothman has been called one of the "Gods" of modern epidemiology by various acquaintances in the field, and for good reason. His contributions are easily verified with searches and with study in this field. His textbook lays down the philosophical and methodological foundation necessary to truly master the various aspects of modern epidemiology.

Much like the mathematics student would not start their studies in calculus before learning algebra, so too must a reader have a familiarity with epidemiological concepts and methods before picking up this book. Nevertheless, for those willing to put in the effort, it is a highly logical and rewarding exposition on modern epidemiology.

I am a social scientist, not an epidemiologist, and I found this book to be exceptionally good. It is the most current, complete, and clear presentation of methods for causal inference for observational (i.e. non-experimental) studies that I have seen. The things that really set this book apart for me include:

1. It synthesizes contributions by Pearl and Rubin on the foundations of causal inference, and contributes its own perspective via the sufficient cause model. This is truly cutting edge, not to mention impeccably coherent.
2. The first third of the book is on study design, including measurement, sampling, and defining effects. This is just fantastic. Many methods textbooks jump right into approaches to analyzing data with little time taken to discuss how to make the data in the first place. This book provides a major corrective to that tendency.
3. In data analysis, a lot of attention is given to sparse data problems, which again is just great. So many textbooks overlook this problem, which is a huge omission.
4. The data analysis section includes discussion of up-and-coming data mining and non-parametric methods (e.g. BART, boosted regression, etc.) to characterize response surfaces in the service of causal inference. That's amazingly cutting edge for a textbook.
5. The meta-analysis section emphasizes simplicity and provides a very nice list of common errors that should be avoided.
6. The references are to state of the art literature not only in epidemiology, but also in econometrics, education research, and statistics. It's great to see such cross-fertilization across disciplines, and it shows how these various disciplines are converging, it seems, on common analytical tools for causal inference in observational studies. There are lots of nice examples throughout the book too. For other social scientists out there, I highly recommend this as a primer on state of the art methods for carrying out observational studies.

Book is dense. Instructors have recommended another version, "Epidemiology: An Introduction" by Rothman, instead. Nicknamed "Baby Rothman," it is a shorter, easier read containing all the main concepts.

If you're an epidemiologist (or studying to be one), this is definitely a resource you need to have on hand. I've found it useful in studying for my PhD qualifying exams, and also as a reference in teaching students. It is the "go-to" whenever there is a question at hand.

This is an outstanding textbook, explaining the state-of-the-art thinking in Epidemiology. I am giving it 4 stars, because the book is quite dense and you basically have to read most chapters several times to really understand what they are saying!

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