

Public Health 101
Fall 2013
Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:05-12:20
Lattimore 201

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Teaching Assistants: Office Hours will be Posted on Black Board
Tolulope Ogunbor

Jillian Dunn	Alap Patel
Amanda Chang	Aditya Suresh
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Course description: This is a broad survey course designed to introduce beginning students to public health history, concepts, and contemporary issues locally, nationally, and globally. The 14 week course is divided into 4 sections: What is Public Health (history and definitions); Social and Biological Determinants of Health (health and wealth; race, class, gender; chronic diseases; infectious diseases); Topics in Public Health (obesity, tobacco, injury); and Global Health Issues (globalization and development; nutrition). Students are responsible for weekly readings and films; four blog postings; 1 team project; a brief position paper; and a mid-term and final exam.

Course Learning Objectives: By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Discuss the 5 core disciplines of public health and how each contributes to understanding the health of the public
2. Critically assess the public health literature and recognize the cultural and social influences on public health
3. Explain how social and behavioral interventions affect population health
4. Identify the impact of the environment on public health
5. Discuss the roles of public health in addressing health disparities and the needs of vulnerable populations

Textbook: Schneider, Mary Jane. Introduction to Public Health, 3rd edition, 2011.
Materials from this textbook will be supplemented with manuscripts from the peer-reviewed literature and other pertinent documents.

Facebook Page: A FB page for the course, open to all those enrolled in Fall 2013, will be maintained throughout the semester as a way to support us as a learning community. You are not required to participate but you may contribute items and ideas or just log-on and read/comment.

Student Evaluation: Student mastery of course content will be determined as described in Table 1.

Activity	% Grade
Class participation: writing summaries; case study work shops	5
4 Blog postings	15
Team Project – County Health Report Cards	15
Exam #1	20
Position paper	25
Exam #2	20

PH 101 Introduction to Public Health – Fall 2013

Date	Topic	Readings/Assignments
T 9/3	What is Public Health?	
TH 9/5	Why is PH controversial?	Text: Prologue, Chapters 1 & 2
T 9/10	Who is responsible for the health of the public?	Text: Chapters 3 How to Write a Blog: TA 15 - Amanda
TH 9/12	Theory in Public Health	Readings: TBA will be posted on BB
T 9/17	Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) Social Class	Film in-class: Unnatural Causes
TH 9/19	SDoH: Social Class	Text: Chapter 13 Articles: "Whitehall II" Ethics of Social Justice TA 15 - Jill
T 9/24	SDoH : Race	Text: Chapter 14
TH 9/26	Maternal and Child Health: A Social Problem?	Text: Chapter 18
T 10/1	The Health Transition and Its Causes	Article: Omran Blogs due
TH 10/3	SDoH	Discussion – review the readings and your notes
T 10/8	FALL BREAK – NO CLASS	
TH 10/10	Biological Basis of Public Health: Infectious Diseases	Text: Chapter 9; Chapter 10 pages 157-171 Article: Typhoid Mary TA 15 – Social Conditions of TB infection: Alap
T 10/15	Biological Basis of Public Health: Chronic Disease	Text: Chapter 11
TH 10/17	Biological Basis of Public Health: Epi-genetics	Text: Chapter 12 Film in-class: The Ghost in your Genes
T 10/22	Biological Basis of Public Health	Discussion – review the readings and your notes
TH 10/24	Writing a Position Paper	Position Paper Assignment: Due Nov 27
T 10/29	Exam #1 --- MULTIPLE CHOICE – IN CLASS	
TH 10/31	Issues in Public Health: Obesity Get TA topic approval for your position paper	Article: "Unhappy Meals" by Michael Pollan Film in-class: Food, Inc. Blogs due
T 11/5	Issues in Public Health: Obesity	Text: Chapter 16
TH 11/7	Issues in Public Health: Breastfeeding	Article: Chin & Dozier
T 11/12	Issues in public health: Injury	Text: Chapter 17 TA talk: Victoria -- Injury
TH 11/14	Issues in public health: Injury	Article: Intimate partner violence Guest Speaker: Kate Cerulli, JD, PhD
T 11/19	Issues in Public Health: Tobacco	Chapter 15
TH 11/21	Issues in Public Health: Tobacco	Guest Speaker: Scott McIntosh, PhD Article: TBA
T 11/26	Issues in public health: Discussion	Discussion – review the readings and your notes TA: Adi transfat
TH 11/28	THANKSGIVING BREAK -- NO CLASS	
T 12/3	US Health Care System	Text: Chapters TA: Alyssa – Health Access Adolescents Blogs due
TH 12/5	Global Health – Health Care Systems	Readings: TBA
T 12/10	Global Health – Mental Health	Readings: TBA TA: Lupe – Community Mental Health
Th 12/12	Exam #2 --- MULTIPLE CHOICE – IN CLASS	
12/15		Blogs due

COURSE POLICIES

Honesty (READ IT): www.rochester.edu/college/honesty/

Laptops

Laptops (if you choose to bring one) will be used for class room activity purposes and not for surfing the internet or other extracurricular activities not related to the class discussion. Please remember that engaging in such activities during class time is disruptive to fellow students who can see your screen. It is also unacceptable for any of our esteemed visiting guest lecturers to see such non-academic activities during class time. This goes for texting in class as well. Full engagement in class activities is part of the class participation component of the grade.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Summary Writings (Participation)

Where: In-class
Due dates: Random

Instructions: If you are not writing, you are not thinking. In the last 15 minutes of class on unannounced dates, the instructor will ask you to write your (thoughtful) reactions to the materials presented in class that morning. Responses will be collected before you leave the room, reviewed by the instructor, and be returned the next class period. There will be 6 such summary writings. You will get 1 point for each summary, dropping one zero (giving some flexibility if students get sick). You only have to complete 5 of them for full credits. No make-ups.

Blog Assignments

To be posted monthly on the Blackboard Discussion Board for all to read.

Due Dates: **Listed on the course schedule.** Early submissions are welcomed. Late submissions will not be given credit.

Instructions: Choose a topic, readings, speakers, or films from the past month on which to comment. Write 1-2 paragraphs (no more than **500 words**) on the topic. **This is a strict word limit. Points are deducted for exceeding the word limit.**

Blog #1: Consider how the topic you've chosen has affected your community. How might the community be involved in considering a solution to this problem?

Blog #2: Who is responsible for mounting a response to this problem? What other information would you like to collect to better understand the problem?

Blog #3: Analyze the roots of this problem using 3 or more levels of the social ecological model.

Blog #4: Who benefits from the current conditions and who is disadvantaged?

Blogs are most successful when they are drafted and revised at least twice before submission.

Students are expected to read other students' postings and **comment on at least one other student's blog posting.**

Blog comments are governed by the same ground rules for conducting in-class discussions: comments are to be respectful, thoughtful, non-intimidating, and linked to the evidence.

Team Project: County Health Report Cards

Instructions will be distributed in class and posted on Blackboard. The course instructor will assign you to an inter-disciplinary team and your team will be given a public health problem to describe and analyze.

Position Paper: Pick a public health topic of interest to you. In a 4-page paper*:

- 1) Describe the dimensions of the problem (how many Americans are affected, what groups suffer disproportionately from this problem);
- 2) Cite **one** (1;uno) evidenced-based intervention or solution to the problem;
- 3) Discuss how you might implement this solution within the 2 or more levels of the social ecological model.

***Format:** Double-spaced, 1” margins, Arial font, 11 points. Header: Student Name & Paper Title;
Footer: Page numbers!!!!

(2) Examinations: In class. Multiple choice questions. Pick the BEST answer. Exam #2 is not cumulative.