

PH102: Introduction to Public Health II Spring, 2011

Class Schedule: Tuesdays and Thursdays; 9:40 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.

Class Location: Meliora, Room 203; River Campus

Course Director: **Susan Fisher, MS, Ph.D.**
Professor and Chair, Department of Community and Preventive Medicine
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Course Faculty: **Katrina Korfmacher, MS, Ph.D**
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Teaching Assistant: **Kristin Evans**
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TA Office Hours: By appointment

Textbooks: Schneider MJ. Introduction to Public Health (3rd edition). Boston: Jones & Bartlett Publishers, 2011.

Materials from these textbooks will be supplemented with manuscripts from the peer-reviewed literature and other pertinent documents.

Course Description:

This broad survey course is designed to introduce beginning students to four core areas in public health (in addition to a fifth, epidemiology, which is addressed in Epidemiology 101):

- biostatistics (descriptive methods, probability, and statistical inference)
- environmental health science (environment and human health, environmental policy and regulation, sustainability)
- health policy and management (role of policy in public health, policy-making process, and health insurance)
- social and behavioral sciences (behavior and health, social and behavioral theories, health promotion)

Each of these areas will be addressed by experts in the field. The course will incorporate as an underlying theme the role and influence of nutrition in public health. Students are responsible for weekly readings; participation in class discussion; two in-class exams; and four short assignments.

Prerequisites: Public Health 101 (required), Epidemiology 101 (recommended)

Readings and Assignments: At least 1 week before the start of each section, a Readings and Assignment list for that particular section will be posted on Blackboard

Student Evaluation: The grade for the course will be determined by the following:

Midterm Exam:	25%
Assignments:	40%
Final Exam:	25%
Participation:	10%

**PH102: Introduction to Public Health
Overview of Class Schedule**

Week	Section/Faculty*	Date	Topic
1	Intro / Fisher	1/13/2011	Introduction: The role of food in public health
2	EH / Korfmacher	1/18/2011	Should we eat fish? PCBs in the Great Lakes
	Intro / Fisher	1/20/2011	Public Health Trends: <i>From bugs to behaviors</i>
3	EH / Korfmacher	1/25/2011	Should we eat fish? A global look at mercury
	EH / Korfmacher	1/27/2011	Sustainable Agriculture? Climate change and food
4	EH / Korfmacher	2/01/2011	Sustainable Agriculture? Comparing apples to ... bananas
	EH / Korfmacher	2/03/2011	Health Impact Assessment: Transportation and the built environment
5	EH / Korfmacher	2/08/2011	Health Impact Assessment: Hydrofracking
	HSR / Noyes	2/10/2011	Organization & financing of healthcare system in the US
6	HSR / Noyes	2/15/2011	Health Insurance
	HSR / Noyes	2/17/2011	Current health policy issues in the US
7	HSR / Noyes	2/22/2011	Health Policy: Process
	HSR / Noyes	2/24/2011	Health Policy: Applications
8	HSR / Noyes	3/01/2011	American Health Care Reform: A policy debate
	Fisher	3/03/2011	Midterm Exam
9	Hooray!	3/08/2011	Spring Break
	Hooray!	3/10/2011	Spring Break
10	SBM / Chin	3/15/2011	Introduction to SBM: The links between behavior and health
	SBM / Chin	3/17/2011	Nutrition and social justice
11	SBM / Chin	3/22/2011	Stress, social support and illness
	SBM / Chin	3/24/2011	Infant Nutrition: Breastfeeding and culture
12	SBM / Chin	3/29/2011	Multi-Level Interventions: Child nutrition and micronutrients
	SBM / Chin	3/31/2011	Nutrition and War
13	BST / Fisher	4/05/2011	Being certain about uncertainty
	BST / Fisher	4/07/2011	From populations to samples and back again
14	BST / Fisher	4/12/2011	Data, data and more data
	BST / Fisher	4/14/2011	Estimation: Not an exact science
15	BST / Fisher	4/19/2011	Hypothesis testing: Truth and consequences
	BST / Fisher	4/21/2011	Choosing & interpreting a statistical test
	Fisher	4/26/2011	Exam

*EH: Environmental Health; HSR: Health Services Research; BST: Biostatistics; SBM: Social & Behavior Medicine