

University of Texas at Dallas
Course Syllabus

Course Information: Sociology 4369

Public Health and Society

Fall, 2014

Professor Contact Information: Audra Kirkendall, MPH

email: ajk120030@utdallas.edu

Dept. Public Affairs and Sociology, School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences

Office hours: Monday & Wednesday 9:00am – 10:00pm

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, Restrictions: no requirements.

Course Description: An overview of public and population health, with an emphasis on the relationship between social forces and health. Topics to be covered include the history of public health institutions and occupations, the determinants and social components of infectious and noninfectious diseases, including major public health epidemics and the response to them; public health rates, risk factors, indicators, and vital statistics; public health law, policy and ethics; and the effects of social forces on health, including social inequality, culture and lifestyle, and environmental and occupational influences on health. Particular emphasis will be devoted to health disparities in the U.S. and globally.

Course Objectives/Outcomes: By conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Apply social and behavioral science theory and methods to analyze public health problems in terms of the factors that influence their development and alternative approaches to their resolution.
2. Assess the utility of interventions aimed at different socio-ecological system levels, including individual behavior, family systems, community organization, complex social systems, and the social and physical environment.
3. Identify practical implications of social science approaches to contemporary problems in one's own field of public health.
4. Apply social and behavioral science research to assess the social justice implications and potential effectiveness of public health policies and programs.
5. Identify and critically discuss the ethical implications of public health research and practice.

Required Textbook:

Social and Behavioral Foundations of Public Health. Jeannine Coriel, editor. 2009. Second edition. Sage Publications, Inc., Thousand Oaks, Cal. ISBN 978-1-4129-5704-5

Required Articles/Handouts:

1. Brownson, R. C., Fielding, J. E. & Maylahn, C. M. (2009). *Evidence-based public health: A fundamental concept for public health practice*. Annual Review of Public Health 30:175-201.

2. Susser M. (1993). *Health as a human right: an epidemiologist's perspective on the public health*. American Journal of Public Health. 8(33), 418, 426.
3. Principles of Ethical Practice of Public Health. Public Health Leadership Society. 2002.
4. Integrated Framework for Assessing the Value of Community-Based Prevention. Institute of Medicine, 2012.
5. Environmental Justice: Human Health & Environmental Inequalities
6. In Town at Ease with Its Firearms...Moss and Rivera. N.Y. Times, A-22, Dec. 17th, 2012.

Assignments & Academic Calendar:

TEST: Students will take a total of three tests. Tests are based on assigned readings, class lectures, handouts and discussions. Multiple choice/essay

GROUP RESEARCH PROJECT: The assignment is to review and apply contemporary social science research to a current public health issue. The presentation should be no more than 10 minutes in length and include a minimum of five journal articles and/or books cited as references.

Guidelines: Groups of three or four will examine a single public health issue with a focus on health disparities and ultimately recommend public health interventions to alleviate the issue. The assessment tools could include data gathered by the your local public health department, data and research by the Centers for Disease Controls and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) or the statistics reported by the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (www.naphsis.org). Using the Causal Continuum Model, create a presentation that details your findings as if you are presenting your issue to various agents of change. For the presentation, include: purpose, research summary, ethical and social justice issues, assessment of current organizational efforts and conclusions. This summary must be concise and effectively communicated and include any recommendations. Groups must write a summary of the project in addition to the class presentation. More details will be presented in class

Due Date: December 8 12:00am

<u>Calendar</u>		Chapters (Articles, Handouts)
Week Dates		
1 Aug. 25 - 28	Social and Behavioral Determinants in Health	1, (Brownson Fielding, Maylahn, 2009)
2 Sep. 3	Public Health Ethics	2, (Susser 1993)
	Population & Disease: Historical View	
3 Sep. 8-10	Social Epidemiology	3
4 Sep. 15 - 17	Social and Behavioral Theory and Health	4
	Health & Illness Behavior	5
5 Sep. 22 - 24	Social Environmental, Culture, and Health	6
	Local and Global Responses to Disease	7
6 Sep. 20, Oct. 1	Comparative Health Cultures/Health Disparities, Diversity & Cultural Competence	8, 9, (Principles of Ethical Practice)
	Lecture on Projects	

7 Oct. 6 - 8	(Test 1) Health Promotion Planning	13
8 Oct. 13 - 16	(Project Topic and brief description due) Community-Based Participatory Health Research	14, 15, (Integrated Framework)
9 Oct. 20 -22	Guest Speaker: Elaine Hernandez <i>Public Health in Central America</i>	19, 20
10 Oct. 27 - 29	Violence & Injury Special Populations	17, 11, 12
11 Nov. 3 - 5	(Test 2) Policy and Advocacy	16, (Environmental Justice)
12 Nov. 10 - 12	Mental Health and Workplace Health Promotion	18, 21 (“In Town...”)
13 Nov. 17 - 19	Health Promotion Approaches: Future Directions New Directions	15, Afterward
	(Test 3)	

(Fall/Thanksgiving Break)

14 Dec. 1 – 3	Course Debrief Project Presentations
15 Dec. 8 - 10	Project Presentations

Grading Policy:

1. Participation: Students integrate course readings with information in class lectures and presentations, and participate in class discussions, activities, and discussion boards.

2. Test: Tests are based on assigned readings, class lectures, handouts and discussions. Multiple choice/essay

4. Group Project: Students are required to present a group project that applies social science research to a current public health issue. Suggested topics and guidelines (page 3) will be discussed in class. The project topic and a brief description are due on Oct. 8th. The written project is to be based on review of a minimum of five articles and/or books, published in print or on-line (in addition to assigned readings). It must be submitted on the date due and presented in class.

5. Evaluation:

Basis for final grade:		Grading Scale:
Participation:	10%	A= 90-100
Test 1:	20%	B= 80-89
Test 2:	20%	C= 70-79

Test 3:	20%	D= 60-69
Group Project:	30%	F= 0-59

Total: 100%

Suggested Journals:

American Anthropologist
American Journal of Health Behavior
American Journal of Health Promotion
American Journal of Public Health
American Journal of Sociology Health: An Interdisciplinary Journal

Suggested Books:

An Introduction to Community Health. McKenzie, J. F., Pinger, R. R., & Kotecki, J. E. 2008 6th edition. Sudbury, Mass.: Jones and Bartlett.

Anthropology and Public Health. Hahn, R. and M. Inhorn. 2009 Oxford University.

Community-Based Participatory Research for Health. Minkler, M. and Wallerstein, N., editors. 2003. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Health Behavior and Health Education. Glanz, Rimer, Viswanath, editors. 2008 4th ed. San Francisco, Cal Jossey-Bass.

Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New World of the Poor. Farmer, Paul. 2005 University of California Press.

Portrait of Health in the United States: Major Statistical Trends and Guide to Resources. Melnick, Daniel and Beatrice Rouse, editors. 2001. Lanham, Maryland: Bernan.

Public Health and Social Justice. Donahoe, Martin. 2012. San Francisco, Cal.: Jossey- Bass Wiley.

Social Injustice and Public Health. Levy, Barry and Victor Sidel, editors: 2006. New York: Oxford University.

War and Public Health. Levy, Barry and Victor Sidel, editors: 2000. Washington, D.C.: American Public Health Association.

Journal of Health and Social Behavior

Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved

Journal of Public Health Policy

Journal of the American Medical Association

Medical Anthropology Quarterly

Social Science and Medicine

Course and Instructor Policies

Student and faculty contributions to the class are mutually respected by all participants.

Each student is expected to attend classes as scheduled and to notify the instructor when he or she must be absent.

Course assignments may be discussed with the instructor throughout the course. Tests and project must be completed as assigned, on dates due, to be eligible for full credit.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.