

PHC2100 : Introduction to Public Health
University of Florida College of Public Health and Health Professions
Fall 2006
August 23, 2006

Instructors:

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Course web site: WebCT accessible at lss.at.ufl.edu or through my.ufl.edu. You must have a valid Gatorlink ID and password. For assistance, call the UF Help Desk at 392-HELP.

Description: This is an introductory course intended to introduce undergraduate students in a variety of disciplines to the basic tenets of public health. The course will provide a history of public health, an introduction to the five core disciplines (Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Environmental Health, Social and Behavioral Health, and Health Policy & Management), and current events and issues in the field. In addition, a number of guest speakers will provide insight into career options in public health. Students are expected to attend all lectures and complete required readings and assignments.

Prerequisites: None

Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, the student will:

1. Define public health and the impact it has had on history
2. Describe the evolution of public health, including its future development
3. List and describe the core functions of public health
4. Describe how health is measured and compared across regions or populations
5. Describe how health interventions are created, implemented, and evaluated
6. Describe how the safety of environment is ascertained and improved
7. Describe the structure of the public health system in the United States including how policy is implemented and how it impacts public health practice
8. List the basic study designs used in public health and provide examples of how they may be used, analyzed and interpreted
9. Describe the impact of chronic and infectious diseases on the health of populations
10. Describe the variance in health status based on social and demographic factors
11. Explain how public health impacts other fields and how it may be integrated
12. Discuss the relationship between public health and the medical care system
13. Describe the role of public health in a global society

Course materials:

REQUIRED textbook: Schneider, MJ. *Introduction to Public Health, Second edition.* Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett Publishers. 2006.

Other required reading materials will be provided in class or on the course website.

Grading: The grading scale for this course consists of the standard scale below:

90% - 100% = A	70% - 74.9% = C
85% - 89.9% = B+	65% - 69.9% = D+
80% - 84.9% = B	60% - 64.9% = D
75% - 79.9% = C+	Below 60.9% = F

Grading Methods: There will be two exams, including a cumulative final, comprised of multiple choice and short answer questions. Four short essays will be assigned during the semester on various topics relating to in-class discussions. Tentative due dates are listed on the course schedule at the end of this document, and additional information will be distributed when the first assignment is given. Points will be awarded for participation in class discussions and attendance. There will be extra credit opportunities for brief but well researched presentations to the class on questions raised during discussions. Each student may do up to 2 such presentations for an extra 2% each (maximum possible 4% extra credit). These presentations must be approved by the instructor, be no more than 5 minutes in length, and include one page of references provided to the instructor. Handouts for classmates are optional. The extra credit opportunity will be discussed in more detail during the first class period.

Midterm.....	30%
Final.....	35%
Assignments.....	20%
Participation.....	15%

Attendance Policy: Per the University of Florida, students are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives as defined by the instructor. Acceptable reasons for absence from class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official University activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Remember that, when possible (i.e. extracurricular activities, official University activities, and religious holidays), **prior notification** of absence is required if the student plans to be given an extension on assignments or be excused from class. Attendance will be taken randomly throughout the semester and contribute to your grade in the course.

Make-up Exams and Work: If you are absent for a reason approved above and have given prior notification to the instructor when possible, you will be given adequate time to make up any coursework missed. All other missed or late work will receive a grade of zero. Make-up exams will be provided only in cases of excused absences or conflict during final exams per University policy (more than three final exams scheduled on one day or two exams scheduled at the same time) and MUST be discussed with the instructor in advance. Make-up exams will differ from the regularly scheduled exam.

University Honor Code: *We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.* On all work submitted for credit by students at the University, the following pledge is either required or implied: *"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."* Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and will be dealt with as such; any student found cheating on coursework or exams will receive a failing grade on the assignment and potentially in the course, and be routed through the appropriate judicial process.

Classroom Etiquette: Turn off all cell phones, pagers, alarms, etc. upon entering the classroom. Please also make every attempt to arrive to class on time. We hope to engage the class in discussions and encourage you to ask questions of the instructor and any guest lecturers, but please keep side conversations to a minimum. Also, please refrain from packing up your materials until class is dismissed. Cell phones are not allowed during exams. If any student is seen using or looking at a cell phone, he/she will receive a grade of zero on the exam. If you are expecting an emergency call, please notify one of the instructors before class and we will hold your phone for you.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Support services for students with disabilities are coordinated by the [Disability Resource Center](#) in the Dean of Students Office. All support services provided for University of Florida students are individualized to meet the needs of students with disabilities. To obtain individual support services, each student must meet with one of the support coordinators in the Disability Resources Program and collaboratively develop appropriate support strategies. Appropriate documentation regarding the student's disability is necessary to obtain any reasonable accommodation or support service.

University Counseling and Mental Health Services:

University Counseling Services: P301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575

<http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/services.asp>

Student Mental Health Services: Student Health Care Center Room 245, 392-1171

<http://www.health.ufl.edu/shcc>

Draft Course Schedule (August 23, 2006)

Date	Topic	Readings	Lecturer
8/23	Introduction and History of Public Health	Prologue, 1, 2	DeFries
8/28	Public Health in the United States	3	DeFries
8/30	Measuring Health and Introduction to Epidemiology	4-5	Asal
9/4	NO CLASS - Labor Day		---
9/6	Epidemiology: Where do data come from?	6,8	Andresen
9/11	Epidemiology: Current events	15	DeFries
9/13	Biostatistics: What do the numbers mean?	7	Burr
9/18	Using a Public Health Model to Inform us about Older Driver Safety		Classen
9/20	Public Health in Dentistry and Pharmacoepidemiology & Drug Safety	23	Tomar, Winterstein
9/25	Social and Behavioral Sciences and Public Health	13-14	Lopez/Dodge
9/27	Challenges for the Future of International Health		Burns/Andresen
10/2	Case Studies in Social and Behavioral Sciences		Lopez/Dodge
10/4	Environmental Health: Clean air	19-20	Freeman/Ilacqua
10/9	Environmental Health: Clean water	21	Freeman
10/11	Environmental Health: What to do with all the waste?	22	Freeman
10/16	Review and Synthesis		---
10/18	MIDTERM		---
10/23	Public Health and Health Care Management	25	Hall
10/25	Health Policy Development, the Medical System and the Uninsured	26	Chacko
10/30	Health Services Research	27	Chacko
11/1	Global Public Health	24	McKune
11/6	Infectious Diseases	9	Shapiro
11/8	Outbreaks, Zoonoses, and More Infectious Diseases	10	Shapiro
11/13	Maternal and Child Health	18	Peoples-Sheps
11/15	Major Risk Factors: Diet and physical activity	16	Perri
11/20	Health Disparities: Gender, race, and income		Dailey
11/22	Bioterrorism and Disaster Preparedness	29	Wilson
11/27	Evidence-Based Public Health		Guyer
11/29	Public Health in Other Fields		Panel (TBA)
12/4	Chronic Diseases	11	Beyth
12/6	The Future of Public Health	30	DeFries
TBA	FINAL EXAM		---