INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC HEALTH
Fall 2017

Course Number: PUBH 1021
Credits: 3
Class meeting: Mondays/Weds 12:30pm - 1:45pm; HSC 120
Instructor: Maria Brunette, Ph.D.
Professor of Global Public Health
Office Hours: Mondays 9-10:30am; Weds 10:30am - 12pm
Office: Kitson 202 (North Campus)

Overview:
The course provides a historical and contemporary overview of public health topics and issues of importance to society. Students will gain knowledge of current technical issues and practical obstacles facing public health practitioners and policymakers alike. The course will provide students with an ecological understanding of the causation and prevention of disease with an emphasis on health issues that affect society as a whole.

Course Objectives:
By the end of the semester students will be able to:

1. Describe the historical development of public health
2. Explain the concept of public health
3. Discuss the basic principles of epidemiology that include determinants of disease, risk factors, rates, and causation of health problems
4. Analyze the role of various disciplines in contributing to the health of populations.
5. Describe the impact of environmental and socio-economic factors on health
6. Explain the concept of health and health status across various populations, including diverse, disabled, older adult, ethnic minority, and resource-poor communities.
7. Describe the concept of prevention, detection and control of infectious and chronic diseases
8. Explain the impact of behavior and interventions on health at the individual and societal level
9. Discuss issues of health care delivery and access to health care from a population perspective
10. Analyze the available tools for promoting population health

Learning methods:
1. Lectures
2. Group discussions
3. Assigned weekly readings
4. Guest lecturers
5. Short videos and documentaries
6. Brief literature reviews

Class Participation:
All students are expected to attend all classes and contribute meaningfully to the class discussions. The instructor expects you to give 100% of your effort in demonstrating that (a) you have read the material, (b) reflected on it, and (c) have something meaningful to say about it. Evaluation of class
participation will be based on the **quality** of your questions, ideas, interpretations and their **value-added contribution** to the class’ overall learning experience.

### Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual Short Papers (2)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infographics (2)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework bonus points, Reading quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance, Respect, and Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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#### Grading Scale:

- A = 94 - 100
- A- = 90 - 93
- B+ = 87 - 89
- B = 84 - 86
- B- = 80 - 83
- C+ = 77 - 79
- C = 74 - 76
- C- = 70 - 73
- D+ = 67 - 69
- D = 64 - 66
- F = below 64

### Course Requirements:

**Individual Short Papers (20%)**: Students will be asked to write a critical assessment of a public health issue assigned by the instructor. Students will a) identify relevant sources of information (peer-reviewed articles, reports, case studies, etc), b) synthesize the information, and c) discuss their perspectives. Students will share their work with the class and stimulate active discussion (5 pages).

**Midterm Exam (20%)**: Information covered during the first half of the semester will be evaluated via this midterm exam. All assigned readings, notes, group discussions, videos, etc. will be included.

**Final Project (30%)**: Students will be asked to develop a comprehensive final project on a critical public health topic. The report includes a brief literature review on the topic assigned by the instructor. Students will search scientific databases to identify relevant peer-reviewed articles only. Students will share their work with the class and stimulate active discussion. An infographic and an oral presentation of project are also included in the grading for final project (10 pages).

**Infographics (2 total, 10% each)**: Students will be asked to prepare an infographic for a particular topic covered during class. For additional information please visit the Center for Disease and Control (CDC) site and the World Health Organization – and search ‘infographic’ within each site.

**Homework bonus points, Reading quizzes, Attendance, Respect and Class Participation (10%)**: The instructor will individually evaluate these four parameters on an ongoing basis.

**Don’t forget...**

- All assignments are due in their entirety on the due date at the **beginning** of the class (10:30am)
- There will be a 20% penalty per day late
- No assignments will be accepted if late more than two days
- Your assignment or project report must be complete when submitted.
- Partial submissions are not allowed
- **All assignments must be submitted in hard copy, stapled and printed double-sided.**
• No electronic submissions are allowed.

Class Policies:

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. Your presence is necessary and expected at each class meeting. Students must notify faculty regarding absence between 12-24 hrs prior to the start of the class. Only emergency-related absences will be considered for excused absences.

Punctuality: You are expected to arrive to class on time. If you are late for class more than 10 minutes or if you leave before the class ends, you will be considered absent for that day. If you are arriving later than 20 minutes after class has started you will miss the class and will not be allowed to enter classroom since this may cause interruptions and it will not be respectful to the instructor and your classmates.

Academic honesty: Plagiarism in any form is banned. Please refer to UML academic honesty policy information available at http://www.uml.edu/catalog/undergraduate/policies/academic_dishonesty.htm. It is the students’ responsibility to familiarize themselves with these policies.

Disability: Students requiring special accommodations for disabilities should notify the instructor during the first two weeks of class.

Use of electronic devices: Students may not use laptops, tablets or mobile phones during class time. Cell phones should be turned off -are not to ring in class under any circumstances. There is plenty of evidence that their use diminish students’—and their classmates—engagement with instructional activities. Sanctions for violation of this policy are determined by the instructor and may include dismissal from the class or loss of class participation points.

Course Materials:

BOOK: No Time to loose by Dr. Peter Piot
Available in Amazon: http://www.amazon.com/No-Time-Lose-Pursuit-Viruses/dp/0393345513

and:

Required weekly readings (assigned)
A selection of 2 or more electronic resources (journal articles, case studies, global news, video links) will be weekly distributed to the students.
Web base Curriculum Materials


- Association for Prevention Teaching and Research- Prevention Education Resource Center (PERC) provides syllabi, curriculum materials and other curriculum resources, as well as a location to upload and share educational materials are available at www.teachprevention.org

- Supercourse: Epidemiology, the Internet and Global Health. A wide range of lectures generally presented in PowerPoint format with selective introduction to public health materials. Available at http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/index.htm

- The Association of Schools of Public Health has developed a web site that includes recommended books and videos to accompany an introductory course in public health available at www.thisispublichealth.org

- Pfizer Public Health Group has published books on Milestones in Public Health and Careers in Public Health that can be order free of charge on the web. Podcast interviews with public health experts about specific milestones in public health are also available at http://www.pfizerpublichealth.com/podcasts.aspx

Useful Web site for research and background materials

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) available at www.cdc.gov


- Healthy People 2020 available at www.healthypeople.gov


- American Public Health Association available at www.apha.org

- Access Excellence at the National Health Museum available at http://www.accessexcellence.org/

1 Source: Teacher’s Guide, Riegelman 2010

2 Source: Teacher’s Guide, Riegelman 2010
## COURSE OUTLINE³

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assigned Readings &amp; Homework</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1: Sept 6</td>
<td>Welcome! Introduction to the course/What is Public Health?</td>
<td>Public Health: Q&amp;As (APHA site) Milestones in Public Health (homework)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2: Sept 11/13</td>
<td>Healthy People 2020</td>
<td>Healthy People Website News article (homework)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3: Sept 18/20</td>
<td>Health Policy &amp; ethics</td>
<td>Infographic #1: Due 9/20, 10:30am Piot Book - Part I</td>
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<td>Week 4: Sept 25/27</td>
<td>Health Inequalities</td>
<td>Short Paper #1: Due 9/25, 10:30am</td>
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<td>Week 5: Oct 2/4</td>
<td>Analytical Methods in Public Health</td>
<td>Final project: Abstract due 10/4, 10:30am Piot Book - Part II</td>
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<td>Week 6: Oct 11</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>WHO Bulletin (homework)</td>
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<td>Week 7: Oct 16/18</td>
<td>Social &amp; Behavioral Sciences</td>
<td>Infographic #2: Due 10/18, 10:30am</td>
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<td>Week 8: Oct 23/25</td>
<td>Chronic diseases</td>
<td>Piot Book - Part III</td>
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<td>Week 9: Oct 30/Nov 1</td>
<td>Maternal and Child Health</td>
<td>Final project (draft) due 11/1, 10:30am</td>
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<td>Week 10: Nov 6/8</td>
<td>Infectious diseases</td>
<td>Short Paper #2: Due 11/8, 10:30am</td>
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<td>Week 11: Nov 13/15</td>
<td>Mental Health</td>
<td>Piot Book - Part IV</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12: Nov 20/22</td>
<td>Injuries</td>
<td>Final project (report) due 11/22, 10:30am</td>
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³ Subjected to revisions/modifications

M. Brunette – Fall 2017
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<tr>
<th>Week 13: Nov 27/29</th>
<th>Population growth/Aging</th>
<th>Final project (infographic) due 11/29, 10:30am</th>
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<td>Week 14: Dec 4/6</td>
<td>Environmental issues in Public Health</td>
<td>Final Oral Examination (infographic presentation)</td>
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<td>Week 15: Dec 11/13</td>
<td>Public Health in the 21st century</td>
<td>Course evaluation</td>
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