

Registered students please go here for the most recent syllabus, readings and assignments:

<https://hserv.washington.edu/courses/course/view.php?id=127>

Sample Syllabus Summary:

The assignments and readings are from the Quarter listed. They will most likely change – use as an example ONLY.

To access the most recent syllabus and course schedule, click back on your browser and go to the “web page for registered students”. (You must be registered with ExDP to enter the course page.)

COURSE SYLLABUS

Health Services 501S
Public Health Practice at the Local Level
Summer 2008

COURSE DIRECTOR:

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[scroll down to the HSERV 501 listing and click on “website for registered students”]

About Public Health Practice at the Local Level

The responsibility of local health departments is awesome. Higher levels of public health, at the federal and state levels, may focus on public health science, policy, overarching guidance, and coordination. Local health departments, on the other hand, are where the rubber meets the road. On a day-to-day basis, almost all actual interventions to prevent or to control the spread of disease occur at the local level.

Bob England, MD, MPH, Acting Director,
Maricopa County Department of Public Health, Phoenix, Arizona

By definition, public health is interactive. Partnerships have been important and remain important because all public health is local. Most of the programs we implement at the CDC are dependent on other agencies at the local level.

HSERV 501
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Julie Gerberding, MD, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Without question, all public health is local. Unless things happen in communities across the country, we're not going to solve problems.

David Satcher, MD, Former Surgeon General of the United States

The lesson we learned from Katrina is that ultimately, all public health is local.

Paul Etkind, MD, Deputy Director for Public Health, Nashua, New Hampshire

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Present concepts and principles that currently drive the organization of state and local health departments;
- Describe the major changes public health jurisdictions are experiencing and the stresses and challenges created by such change;
- Demonstrate methods by which community health problems can be identified and partnerships formed to address them; and
- Develop a presentation with colleagues and a written paper that address public health issues in a specific practice area.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OVERVIEW

This course will examine public health challenges from a number of perspectives and consider the central role of public health within the American health system. The goal is to provide you with an overview of the principles of public health practice, focusing on current problems faced by local and state public health departments.

We have developed this course with the knowledge that students are themselves experienced practitioners and have as much to offer their colleagues as the course instructor and our outside speakers. The course therefore brings experienced public health practitioners into the classroom to describe the essential skills needed for public health practice, and also emphasizes class sessions organized by the students themselves.

This course focuses on public health rather than medical care. The following definitions may be useful to you to make the distinction:

Personal Health Services (Medical Care) – Diagnosis and treatment of disease or provision of clinical preventive services to individuals or families in order to improve individual health status.

Population-based Public Health Services (Public Health) – Interventions aimed at disease prevention and health promotion that affect an entire population and extend beyond medical treatment by targeting underlying risks, such as tobacco, drug, and alcohol use; diet and sedentary lifestyles; and environmental factors.

From:
Turnock, BJ. *Public Health: What It Is and How It Works*. Sudbury, MA: Jones And Bartlett; 2004. p.397.

COURSE MATERIALS

Key articles will be placed on electronic reserve for required readings. To access articles from the class web page, log in to the course web page by using your UW NetID. You can obtain your UW NetID via <https://uwnetid.washington.edu/newid/>. Readings are listed by session. You are expected to consult the readings, but there are no tests! Presentations and papers that incorporate and/or discuss the readings are likely to be very well received.

Students are strongly encouraged to secure as a supplemental text *Public Health: What It Is and How It Works (third edition)* by Bernard J. Turnock. Used copies of this important text should be available at the University Bookstore or through on-line booksellers. We recommend AbeBooks.com. This book is invaluable for anyone contemplating or continuing in a career in public health.

The following websites are also recommended for your information:

American Public Health Association – www.apha.org

The oldest and largest organization of public health professionals in the world, representing more than 50,000 members from over 50 occupations of public health.

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials – www.astho.org

The national nonprofit organization representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the US Territories, and the District of Columbia.

National Association of County & City Health Officials – www.naccho.org

The national organization representing nearly 3,000 local public health agencies in the United States.

Northwest Center for Public Health Practice – www.nwcphp.org

The Center links academia with the practice community in the Northwest; website provides information about the public health activities of the Center at the state, local and tribal level in the Northwest states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming, as well as links to national public health organizations

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Overview

There will be three assignments:

- The local public health description completed in your home community;
- A group project; and
- A final paper.

Grading

A major requirement for the course is your active participation in class and will constitute 25% of your grade. The remainder of the grade distribution for the course will be:

ASSIGNMENTS

Local Public Health Descriptive Paper

The first assignment is a detailed (5-7 page) description of a local public health jurisdiction (LHJ) in your home community. However, the interview with the health jurisdiction must be completed before you arrive for class in Seattle on June 23. Ideally, this assignment would include a site visit

to the local jurisdiction. However, because of time and distance constraints, the interview may have to be done by phone.

Group Presentation

- Students will be asked to take responsibility for organizing one class session during the last two weeks of class. You will work with colleagues to lead a class discussion focusing on a key area of public health. The opening presentation should be about 20-30 minutes in length, followed by discussion for the remainder of the class.

You will be presented with a summary of issues in each subject area identified by public health leaders on the first day of class and will be asked to select your content area.

Written Final Report

Your written report **will be due on the last Friday of the summer session, July 18. You can either turn the paper during the last class or email it to Jack.** The text of this paper should be no longer than 10 pages, and should continue your exploration of the topic or focus of your part of the group presentation, or a related topic worked out in advance with the instructor.