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NS 550: Obesity: Prevention and Control

Autumn 2008

Instructor: Pam Charney PhD, RD
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Office hours: By appointment

Course objectives:

To explore obesity and its complications from the standpoint of nutrition science and public health. By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Discuss the etiology and prevalence of obesity and its medical complications
- Outline and evaluate key modalities for the treatment of obesity, including nutrition, pharmacologic, and surgical interventions
- List, discuss, and evaluate public health and policy approaches to obesity prevention and control.

Course audience:

Graduate students in the health sciences. Prerequisites are graduate status, enrollment in a program in public health, nutrition or other health sciences, or permission of instructor.

Grading:

The course is structured to include weekly lecture topics, student readings, activities and discussions. Students are expected to participate in all discussions and to complete all assignments on time. Course content is structured into 3 major sections:

- Etiology and epidemiology
- Food environment
- Treatment and prevention

While there is no required text, a list of required readings is provided – additional readings and updates will be added during the course.

Grades will be based on participation in discussions, case study write-ups, review paper, and evaluation of Internet obesity resources project. Students are expected to participate fully in all discussions and group assignments. It is essential for students to read the selected papers in advance.

Readings: Key readings for each topic area are listed with syllabus materials as well as with each weekly module.

Class website: Class syllabus and class schedule may be found at
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