

Health Policy 812 – Special Topic on Public Health Infrastructure

Syllabus – Spring 2009 (Updated January 7, 2009)

Instructors:

Steve Metraux, PhD
Office: 4101 Woodland Ave. #124
Phone: (215) 596 7612; Fax (215) 596 7614
Email: s.metraux@usp.edu
Office hours: by appointment

Ruth Schemm, Ed.D.
Office: 4101 Woodland Ave. #126
Phone: (215) 596 8990; Fax (215) 596 7614
Email: r.schemm@usp.edu
Office hours: by appointment

Course Description:

This course seeks to provide students with in-depth knowledge about public health and the systems charged with maintaining the public's health. The course is organized so that much of the first half of the course consists of addressing general topics on what constitutes public health and the infrastructure built to deliver these public health services. In the second half of the course more specific topics related to public health will be examined and students will choose and become familiar with a public health-related topic – which includes presenting orally and writing a term paper on this topic. The goal is for each student to become knowledgeable in this topic and share this knowledge in a classroom setting. This class will be held in a seminar format and will emphasize intellectual interaction between the students and faculty centered on the material presented in class as well as the material that the students research and present.

Course Objectives:

From this course, students will:

- 1) gain a thorough overview of the workings of public health;
- 2) critically assess current policies and policy directions related to public health;
- 3) Perform a study of a specific public health topic and use it as a case study to apply and evaluate ideas and concepts covered in class.

Course Grading:

The following criteria will be used to determine your final grade:

- Writing during semester (non-inclusive of seminar paper) – 20%
- Participation and Preparation (includes oral presentations) – 35%
- Seminar paper (10-15 pps) – 25%
- Final exam – 20%

Course Readings:

All course readings but the assigned texts are available on Angel. Angel (<http://angel.usip.edu>) is a web based classroom aide that will facilitate activities for this class. The readings will be downloadable, either in .pdf or .rtf format, on this site (the readings will also be available from the instructor on CD-ROM upon request).

There are three required texts to purchase:

Bernard Turnock, *Public Health: What It Is and How It Works, 4th Edition* (Jones & Bartlett; ISBN# 978-0-7637-5444-0).

Davis, Mike (2005). *The Monster at Our Door: The Global Threat of Avian Flu*. (Henry Holt; ISBN# 0-8050-8191-7).

David Rosner; *Are We Ready: Public Health Since 9/11* (University of California Press; ISBN #0-5202-5038-9).

These books are NOT available at the USP bookstore and should be ordered independently by you through other bookstores (real and online), libraries, etc.

Course Policies:

- 1) Students are strongly encouraged to attend class and should consult with instructor on any need to miss class.
- 2) Preparation for class is very important, as the success of the class (and much of student learning) will rely heavily on student interaction, both in and out of class, in considering the class materials.
- 3) Instructor will be accessible (in person, over phone, and through email) as needed to students.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is at the center of the educational experience at USP. Students are therefore expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity and not engage in nor tolerate academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, fabrication, cheating or plagiarism. Any violation of academic integrity will be investigated and, where warranted, the student will receive appropriate sanctions through the University's Student Conduct Process. Please familiarize yourself with the current USP Student Handbook. In particular, adherence to the Student Conduct Policy and Academic Integrity Policy will help to ensure that your learning and living experiences are founded on integrity.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Statement

USP supports the educational endeavors of all students, including students with disabilities. ADA defines a disability as a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

If you believe you have a disability whether permanent or temporary that may impair your ability to fulfill your course or degree requirements, and you would like more information on applying for an accommodation, please contact the Director of the Office of Students with Disabilities. By law students must advocate for themselves so if you have any questions or concerns call 215-596-7480 and ask to make an appointment with Dr. Hoefling.

Course Calendar

This calendar provides a schedule for the course. Dates are subject to revision as needed.

Week 1 (Jan. 13): Introductory Class (Metraux & Schemm)
(no reading due)

Week 2 (Jan 20): Public Health in a Vacuum: Complex Emergencies (Metraux)

Readings: Salama et al., "Lessons Learned from Complex Emergencies over Past Decade."
Toole & Waldman, "The Public Health Aspects of Complex Emergencies and Refugee Situations."

Assignment due: Team presentation profiling a country undergoing a major "complex emergency"

Week 3 (Jan 27): Public Health Infrastructure – A historical perspective (Schemm)

Readings: Tulchinsky, TH and Varavikova: "A History of Public Health"
Assignment due: Analysis and presentation of historical public health ephemera.

Week 4 (Feb 3): The Institute of Medicine Reports – An Overview (Metraux)

Readings: IOM; *The Future of Public Health (1988)*, Summary & Recommendations (pps. 1-18)
IOM; *The Future of the Public's Health (2002)*, Executive Summary
Turnock; "Core Functions and Public Health Practice" (chapter 5)
Baker et al.: "The Public Health Infrastructure and Our Nation's Health"

Assignment due 2-3 page paper summarizing, comparing and commenting on the 1988 & 2002 IOM readings. Include what Turnock and Baker et al. have to say about the IOM reports, as well as your own opinion (see handout).

Week 5 (Feb 10): Healthy People 2010 & 2020 (Schemm)

Readings: U.S. DHHS; *Healthy People 2010*
Secretary's Advisory Committee: "Recommendations for the Framework and Format of Health People 2020"
Turnock; "Understanding and Measuring Health" (chapter 2)
PA Dept. of Health; *State Health Improvement Plan: 2006-2010* (chapter 4)
Assignment due: Provide in-depth briefing on one of the primary *Healthy People 2010* goals

Week 6 (Feb 17): Governmental Public Health Infrastructure (Metraux)

Readings: IOM (2002): "The Governmental Public Health Infrastructure" (chapter 3)
Turnock; "Law, Government & Health" (chapter 4)
Field; "Regulation of Public Health"
Assignment due: Provide in-depth briefing on one governmental public health agency

Week 7 (Feb 24): Public Health & Health Care (Schemm)

Readings: Turnock: "Public Health and the Health System" (chapter 3)
IOM (2002): "The Healthcare Delivery System" (chapter 3)
Assignment due: One paragraph description of paper topic

Spring Break (Mar 2-6): No class

Week 8 (Mar 10): Community Public Health Sites (*no class*)

Readings: (none)
Assignment: In lieu of class and reading, each student will make a site visit to a local entity involved with public health and do necessary background research.

Week 9 (Mar 17): Community Public Health – student presentations (Metraux & Schemm)

Students will present from experiences at public health sites that were visited
Readings: Tilson & Gebbie, "The Public Health Workforce"
Oliver, "The Politics of Public Health Policy"
Assignment due: 4-6 page paper on site visit from prior week and related research

Week 10 (Mar 24): Emergency Preparedness (Schemm)

Readings: Rosner; *Are We Ready: Public Health Since 9/11*
Garrett; "Biowar" (chapter 5) - skim
Turnock; "Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response" (chapter 8) - skim
Wilmoth, John, "Citation Guide for Demography 126" (optional)
Assignment: 3-page summary, with bibliography (5 items) on seminar paper topic

Week 11 (Mar 31): Urban Health (Metraux)

Readings: Dye: "Health and Urban Living"
Harpham, "Urban Health in Developing Countries"
Vlahov et al: "Cities and health: History, approaches, and key questions"
Assignment: work on seminar paper

Week 12 (Apr 7): Different Perspectives on Public Health (Metraux)

Readings: Farmer: "Health, Healing and Social Justice"
Beauchamp: "Public Health and Individual Liberty"
Beaglehole: (one chapter on public health in different countries per student)
Assignment due: Drafts of seminar paper

Week 13 (Apr 14): Paper presentations and review (Metraux & Schemm)

Assignment due: Review of classmates' seminar papers

Week 14 (Apr 21): Pandemic (Metraux & Schemm)

Readings: Davis: *The Monster at our Door*

Assignment due: Final draft of seminar paper

Final Exam (Apr 28 or take home)

Bibliography (partial)

Baker, Edward L., Margaret A. Potter, Deborah A. Jones et al. (2005). "The Public Health Infrastructure and Our Nation's Health." *Annual Review of Public Health*. 26:303-18.

Beaglehole, Robert (2003). *Global Public Health: A New Era*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Beauchamp, Dan E (1980). "Public Health and Individual Liberty." *Annual Review of Public Health* 1: 121-136.

Davis, Mike (2005). *The Monster at Our Door: The Global Threat of Avian Flu*. New York: Henry Holt.

Dye, Christopher (2008). "Health and Urban Living." *Science* 319: 766-769.

Farmer, Paul (2005). "Health, Healing and Social Justice." In *Pathologies of Power*. Berkeley: University of California Press. 139-159.

Field, Robert I. (2006). *Health Care Regulation in America: Complexity, Confrontation, and Compromise*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Garrett, Laurie (2000). *Betrayal of Trust: The Collapse of Global Public Health*. New York: Hyperion.

Harpham, Trudy (2009). "Urban Health in Developing Countries: What Do We Know and Where Do We Go?" *Health & Place* 15:107-116.

Institute of Medicine (2002). *The Future of the Public's Health*. Washington DC: National Academies Press.

Institute of Medicine (1988). *The Future of Public Health*. Washington DC: National Academies Press.

Oliver, Thomas R. (2006). "The Politics of Public Health Policy." *Annual Review of Public Health* 27:195-233.

Pennsylvania Department of Health (2001). *State Health Improvement Plan: 2001-2005*. Harrisburg: author.

David Rosner; *Are We Ready: Public Health Since 9/11*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Salama, Peter, Paul Spiegel, Leisel Talley & Ronald Waldman (2004). "Lessons Learned from Complex Emergencies over Past Decade." *Lancet* 364:1801-13.

Secretary's Advisory Committee On National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives (2008). "Phase I Report: Recommendations for the Framework and Format of Health People 2020." Washington DC: US Department of Health and Human Services.

Tilson, Hugh & Kristine M. Gebbie (2004). "The Public Health Workforce." *Annual Review of Public Health* 25:341-56.

Toole, Michael J. and Roger J. Waldman (1997). "The Public Health Aspects of Complex Emergencies and Refugee Situations." *Annual Review of Public Health* 18:283-312.

Tulchinsky, TH and Varavikova, EA (2000) *The New Public Health: An Introduction for the 21st Century*. San Diego: Academic Press. 5-54.

Turnock, Bernard J. (2004). *Public Health: What It Is and How It Works* (Fourth Edition). Boston: Jones & Bartlett.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2000). *Healthy People 2010: Understanding and Improving Health*. 2nd ed. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

Vlahov, David, Emily Gible, Nicholas Freudenberg, & Sandro Galea (2004). "Cities and Health: History, Approaches, and Key Questions." *Academic Medicine* 79(12): 1133-1138.

Wilmoth, John (2004). *Citation Guide for Demography 126*. Accessed 1/3/05 at <http://www.demog.berkeley.edu/~jrw/126/citation.pdf>.