

PH 101: Introduction to Public Health

Graduate School of Public Health San Diego State University Fall 2006

Meeting Time: M, W, F 9 - 9:50AM
Location: Class (M & W): Hepner Hall 221
Discussion Sections (F): Section 1 – Hepner Hall 221
Section 2 – Hepner Hall 146
Section 3 – Hepner Hall 214
Section 4 – Hardy Tower 022

Instructor: Robert Seidman, PhD
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Office Location: Hardy Tower 105
Office Hours: M, W 10AM-noon; other hours by appointment

Teaching Assistants: Christina Hawley, Suzanna Martinez, and Carol Sipan

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. To identify different public health disciplines, professions, and organizations.
2. To develop an understanding of the difference between personal health and public health.
3. To explain the most important public health problems and issues facing society, including educational, political, environmental, regulatory, and organizational factors that support health of population groups and entire communities.



REQUIRED TEXT

Mary-Jane Schneider, Introduction to Public Health, 2nd ed.. Jones and Bartlett, 2006.

DISCUSSION SECTIONS

Friday classes will be reserved primarily for questions and answers with your assigned Teaching Assistant as well as reviews of material covered on exams. Exams will also be given in your discussion section. Please check the Fall Class Schedule or the information shown above for the room where your discussion section will be held. You must attend only your assigned discussion section corresponding to the course schedule number in which you enrolled.

GRADING CRITERIA AND ASSIGNMENTS

The grade for this course will be determined according to the following grading scheme:

- 20% Exam #1 (on 9/22)
- 20% Exam #2 (on 10/20)
- 30% Exam #3 (on 12/15: 8-10AM)
- 15% Summaries of newspaper articles (due dates shown in course outline below)
- 15% Attendance and class participation

Grades: Course grades will be assigned based on each individual's absolute percentage score; grades will not be "curved". Grades will be based on the following percentages of the semester grades earned:

A 96-100	A- 90-95	B+ 87-89	B 84-86	
B- 80-83	C+ 77-79	C 74-76	C- 70-73	F < 70

Exams

There will be three exams. Each exam will cover material presented in class and the readings since the previous exam. The final exam is not comprehensive.

All exams will consist primarily of objective (i.e., multiple choice and true-false) questions, although there may be several short answer questions included. You do not need to bring blue books.

Article Summaries

There will be three short summaries of newspaper articles during the semester. The expectations and requirements for these will be provided in your Friday discussion section. All completed article summaries must be submitted in class or electronically via email no later than the beginning of class on the date they are due. No late submissions will be accepted.

Makeup Exams

If you miss either Exam #1 or Exam #2, you must plan to retake the exam on 12/8, which is the scheduled makeup exam date. No other makeup exam dates will be available. Also, please note that there will be no makeup date for Exam #3. If there is any problem attending any exam, please contact the instructor before the scheduled exam time.

Exam #3 will not be given before its regularly scheduled time (at 8AM on 12/15). For this reason, please make any travel plans accordingly.

BLACKBOARD

There will be PowerPoint slides or other visuals accompanying most class presentations. I will try to post these on BlackBoard prior to class and send an email so you may print and bring them to class if so desired. If the PowerPoint presentation is not posted on BlackBoard by 9AM the day before class, it will be provided in class. Please be sure your email address in BlackBoard is up-to-date and that you check for postings the day prior to each class. PH 101

COURSE OUTLINE

<u>Week</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Chapters in Text</u>	<u>Topics</u>
1	8/28 – 9/1	1, 2	Introduction to course and public health Public health milestones, accomplishments, and history Overview of public health fields and disciplines
2	9/4 Labor Day (no class) 9/6 – 9/8	3	Public health organizations and professions Role of government in public health
3	9/11 – 9/15	4, 5	Epidemiology: principles, methods, statistics, applications, and limitations
4	9/18 – 9/20 9/22	6, 7	Epidemiology (continued) Public health infrastructure, capacity, and workforce Core public health functions and essential services Exam #1
5	9/25 – 9/29	9, 10	Infectious disease
6	10/2 – 10/6 10/6	11, 12	Chronic and genetic diseases Article Summary #1 due
7	10/9 – 10/13	13, 14, 16	Psychosocial and behavioral factors in public health Diet, activity, and exercise
8	10/16 – 10/18 10/20	15, 18	Tobacco and alcohol as public health problems Maternal and child health issues Exam #2
9	10/23 – 10/27	19, 20, 21	Environmental and public health issues Clean and safe air and water

<u>Week</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Chapters in Text</u>	<u>Topics</u>
10	10/30 – 11/3 11/3	22, 23	Solid and hazardous waste Safe food and foodborne illness Article Summary #2 due
11	11/6 – 11/10	17	Injuries and injury prevention Health disparities Cultural competence
12	11/13 – 11/17	25, 26	Organization of U.S. health care system Insurance, finance, and delivery of services Health care reform Ethics and public health
13	11/20 – 11/22 11/24 Thanksgiving (no class)	8, 28	Public health data and informatics GIS in public health Aging issues in public health
14	11/27 – 12/1 12/1	29	Emergency preparedness International and global health issues Article Summary #3 due
15	12/4 – 12/8	24, 30	Population and public health issues Border health issues Future challenges facing public health
Finals	12/15		Exam #3

