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MPH Theory & Practice Seminar 2001 Syllabus

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THEORY AND PRACTICE SEMINAR 1: BIOMED 579 SECTION 001
CALL #14900 EVERY OTHER MONDAY, 6:15-8:30
FPC #340
(For first year MPH students only)

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GOALS OF SEMINAR - PARTICIPANTS WILL:

- Have an opportunity to collectively make sense of and integrate their first semester experience in the MPH program;
- Begin examining public health roles, responsibilities, values and foundations through a examination of the history, core competencies, ethics, leadership and the systems-population based focus of the field;
- Explore contemporary and popular cultural theories about the spread of disease and the social factors that impact population health status;
- Understand how public health problems are prioritized through advocacy, consensus building, empirical evidence, public input, politics, etc.
- Begin to be able to formulate public health information searching strategies and to utilize these strategies for finding appropriate information resources.
- Increase awareness of the principles of interdisciplinary collaboration in public health and skills in negotiation and consensus building.
- Gain knowledge in communication and group skills, such as team building, listening, group process, decision making and presentations for a wide variety of audiences.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING CRITERIA:

- 1) Attendance and appropriate participation in regularly scheduled seminars (16 hours). Appropriate participation includes demonstrating understanding (either through discussion or integration into written assignments) of weekly assigned readings. [20]
- 2) Analysis of a New Mexico Public Health Problem: Working in groups of 3 or 4 and using a community assessment framework, do an in-depth analysis of a public health problem identified in the document "The State of Health in New Mexico". Develop a background and problem statement (15-20 pages per group), which compiles and synthesizes epidemiologic data, reports of key informants, community surveys and any other relevant information. The paper must also include an overview of the agencies, individuals or groups working on these issues and their amelioration strategies. Papers must be typed (12-pt font) 1.5 or double spaces, standard research paper format—APA, Chicago, Numbered, etc. [30 points] Due December 3, 2001.

REQUIRED BOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS

Course Reader: Available at Digital Printing, basement of the BMSB. Other materials will be distributed in class.

WEEKLY READING AND OTHER ASSIGNMENTS

August 19

Course and Program Mechanics, Ground Rules

The History of Public Health

Guest Speaker: Jo Fairbanks, Ph.D. (6:30 to 7:30)

- Review syllabus
- Agree on process ground rules of course: What may influence participation in this course?
- Understand the historical development of public health

CDC (2000). Celebrating a Century of Success: Ten Great Public Health Achievements--United States, 1900-1999. www.cdc.gov/phtn

September 9

**Public Health Core Competencies and Leadership
Public Health Infrastructure in the United States
Bonnie Duran, Dr.P.H.**

- Review the Public Health core competencies for the general MPH degree and the competencies for the community health intervention and epidemiology concentration
- Introduction to PH informatics with assignment: literature and databases
- Explore the Federal Public Health infrastructure

Institute of Medicine (1988). A Vision of Public Health in America: An Attainable Ideal. Chapter 2 in The Future of Public Health. Washington, D.C., National Academy Press.

September 23

**Public Health Informatics
Jon Eldredge**

Meet in Library Classroom 226, UNM Health Sciences Library & Informatics Center

Public health informatics assignment distributed will be due October 7th.

October 7

**Public Health Infrastructure in the New Mexico
Guest Speaker: Patsy Nelson, MA**

Materials to be distributed in class.

October 21

**Public Health Informatics (6:15 to 7:30)
Jon Eldredge, Ph.D. Health Sciences Library & Informatics Center**

**State Epidemiologic Surveillance (7:30 to 8:30)
Ron Voorhees, MD. MPH, Deputy State Epidemiologist**

Meet in Library Classroom 226, UNM Health Sciences Library & Informatics Center

Notifiable Conditions in New Mexico

The State of Health in New Mexico – 2000 Report. Available at
<http://www.health.state.nm.us/website.nsf/frames?ReadForm>

Public Health informatics assignment distributed will be due November 4th.

November 4**Community Diagnosis and Needs Assessment
Lily Dow, Ron Voorhees and Bonnie Duran**

Building Our Nation's Public Health Systems: National Public Health Performance Standards Program, Local Instrument, State Instrument, Governance, Instrument. <http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/dphs/nphpsp> .

Siegel, L. M., Attkisson, C. C., & Carson, L. G. (1987). Need Identification and Program Planning in the Community Context. In F. Cox, J. Erlich, J. Rothman, & J. Tropman (Eds.), Strategies of Community Organizing, Macro Practice, (Fourth ed., pp. 71 - 97). Itasca, Illinois: F.E. Peacock.

Varela, F (1999) Data Sources for New Mexico. Handout. MPH Program, UNM, SOM.

November 19**Public Health Assessment:
Ron Voorhees**

- Understand how assessment establishes a foundation for policy development

G.E. Alan Dever, Introduction: Status of Prevention in the United States, and Health and Our Belief Systems. Community Health Analysis, second Edition, Aspen Publishers, 1991, pp.xiii-30.

December 3**Paper Presentations, Final Papers Due**

THEORY AND PRACTICE SEMINAR
BIOMED 579
OUTLINE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE ASSIGNMENT
(DUE DECEMBER 3, 2001)

Instructions: *Working in groups of 3 or 4, choose a public health problem of interest. Complete a paper of 15-20 pages outlining a response to the questions below.*

- 1) **Describe the problem including the magnitude of this public health issue in New Mexico and nationally:** Use epidemiological and demographic data, trends, relationship of the issue to achievement of Year 2010 objectives for New Mexico. What impact does this issue have on the quality of individual, family or community life, health care costs, productivity or anything else?
- 2) **Determinants of this public health issue:** Review the literature to identify the determinants or the root causes of this public health issue. What are the particular determinants and protective factors of this public health issue for populations in New Mexico?
- 3) **Strategies for addressing this issue:** Review the literature to identify the primary, secondary and tertiary prevention strategies that are effective in addressing this issue. Cite the research.
- 4) **What were the multiple influences at the national, state and local level that paved the way for this public health issue to emerge as a priority:** Discuss national or state assessments, reports, concept papers, constituency building efforts, policy initiatives etc that created the environment for this to emerge as a priority. Who are the stakeholders? Is there political opposition to how this problem is framed or to public health solutions to this problem?
- 5) **Describe how the public health system in New Mexico has responded to and is addressing this issue:** Conduct key informant interviews to identify the following:
 - a) -Describe any assessments or policy reports which created the programs in New Mexico;
 - b) -Identify the strategies state agencies adopted to addressing the public health issues and what level of prevention or intervention they represent (primary, secondary, tertiary)
 - c) -Identify any other strategies used to deal with this public health issue beyond what is represented in New Mexico. How are they the same or different from those uncovered in your literature review.