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Theory and Practice Seminars 2001-2009

MPH

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Fall 2004

### MPH Theory & Practice Seminar Syllabus 2004

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**PH 508 – Section 001  
THEORY AND PRACTICE SEMINAR 1  
Family Practice Center, Room 340  
FALL 2004  
(For first year MPH students only)**

**EVERY OTHER MONDAY, 6:10 PM – 8:00 PM  
1 Credit Hour  
Call #: 16011**

**Instructors:**

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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 an examination of the history, core competencies, ethics, leadership and the systems-population based focus of the field;
- Increase awareness of high-quality statistical resources relevant to public health practice.
- 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 (See paper outline at end of syllabus). 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 6, 2004.

## **REQUIRED BOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS**

Materials will be distributed in class or through the relevant URL.

## **WEEKLY READING AND OTHER ASSIGNMENTS**

### **August 30 Course and Program Mechanics, Ground Rules**

**Jon Eldredge: Ten Great Public Health Achievements of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

**Will Athis: Ten Great Public Health Challenges: New Mexico and the Nation**

- Review syllabus
- Agree on process ground rules of course: What may influence participation in this course?
- What's up in Public Health

Mokdad, A. H., Marks, J. S., Stroup, D. F., & Gerberding, J. L. (2004). Actual causes of death in the United States, 2000. *Jama*, 291(10), 1238-1245.

### **September 13 Public Health on the Web Guest Speaker: Michelle Malizia, MA**

- Obtain data sets and statistics relevant to public health on a state, local and national level
- Identify resources to support health education and promotional programs and activities
- Identify resources available to stay informed of developments related to public health

## **September 27**

### **Public Health Informatics Jon Eldredge, PhD**

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

- Review the scientific basis for using structural abstracts.
- Evaluating health websites.
- More sources of public health statistics.
- Access relevant articles for the assigned papers and presentations via PubMed and other relevant databases.

Public health informatics assignment distributed will be due October 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **October 11**

### **Public Health Infrastructure in the New Mexico**

Please download

#### **Statewide Comprehensive Health Plan**

<http://www.health.state.nm.us/about-doh.html>

## **October 25**

### **PH Surveillance**

**Wil Athis, Ph.D.**

- Legislative mandates, mechanics and evaluation
  - Data collection
  - analysis
  - interpretation
  - dissemination

Dato, V., Wagner, M. M., & Fapohunda, A. (2004). How outbreaks of infectious disease are detected: A review of surveillance systems and outbreaks. *Public Health Rep*, 119(5), 464-471.

## **November 8**

### **Community Diagnosis and Needs Assessment**

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.

## **November 22**

### **Case Study in Public Health Assessment**

- Understand how assessment establishes a foundation for policy development

## **December 6**

### **Paper Presentations, Final Papers Due**

**THEORY AND PRACTICE SEMINAR**  
**PH 508**  
**OUTLINE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE ASSIGNMENT**  
(DUE DECEMBER 6, 2004)

**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.

**FORMAT:**

Every paper and presentation should be structured using the following major headings commonly employed in professional and academic communications:

Background or Objective- (sections 1 and 2 above)

Methods (See description below)

Findings (sections 3, 4 and 5 above)

Conclusion: What are the assessment, policy or assurance gaps for your topic in New Mexico?

At mid-semester (Oct 11<sup>th</sup>) each group should turn in a two page outline using these four headings, a full description of their literature search (see below) and 90% + of their references.

### **METHODS:**

Students need to provide a detailed description of their literature search(es) including what databases they used, for what years, and their search strategies. Most databases offer a feature of allowing you to view a summary of your search. For example, in PubMed, one simply can click on "History" to view the summary of the entire search strategy. Students can attach these printouts as Appendices to the written paper.

Students should also include how many "key informant" interviews you conducted and your strategy for selecting key informants.

### **REFERENCES:**

References should be complete and accurate. References should include more "classic" works but generally contain the best, most recent evidence. References should contain minimal errors and include accurate personal communications (email, phone, interview) and full website information. Be sure you understand the difference between an "Op. Cit." and an "Ibid." reference.

Students should employ either the Vancouver Style or the American Psychological Association Style consistently throughout their group paper for citing their references.

Vancouver Style:

See recent issues of either the American Journal of Public Health <http://www.ajph.org/> or JAMA for examples. Or, review the Instructions for Authors for either journal.

APA Style:

See the Publications Manual of the American Psychological Association.

UNM Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center Reference/Reserve Collection WZ 345 P976 2001.

Presentations should include the more relevant references.