HEAL 215- 3 MWF INTRO TO PUBLIC HEALTH COURSE SYLLABUS

Course No.: HEAL/PBHL 215  
Section No.: 03  
Credits: 3  
Semester: Fall 2014  
Room: Silcox 117  
Days: Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
Time: 11 to 11:50 AM  
Instructor: Paul Gangarosa, MPH  
Office:  
E-mail: gangarosap@cofc.edu  
Phone:  
Office Hours: by appointment

OAKS: I will use OAKS to post lectures, announcements, additional required readings, articles, assignment instructions, and grades. You must sign up for OAKS notifications (either by text or email); if you are not sure how to do this ask the instructor.

Course Description: This course is designed for College of Charleston students who are interested in exploring careers in public health.

Course Learning Objectives  
Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:
- Outline the various components of the public health system
- Understand the challenges posed to Public Health practitioners in communicating the need for and implementing Public Health interventions
- Explain the basic principles of epidemiology, including rates, risk factors, disease determinants, causation, and public health surveillance.
- Describe the impact of the environment and describe how communicable diseases, including animal and food-borne diseases, affect health
- Understand the components of an outbreak investigation
- Understand the various types of study design used in Public Health
- Understand the role of statistics in Public Health

Assigned reading materials:


World Health Organization (WHO) Basic Epidemiology 2nd Edition  

Other readings as assigned.

CLASS CALENDAR

Wed Aug 20   INTRODUCTIONS/ABOUT PUBLIC HEALTH/FORM GROUPS
Fri Aug 22   CH 1 PUBLIC HEALTH: SCIENCE, POLITICS AND PREVENTION
Mon Aug 25   CH 2 WHY IS PUBLIC HEALTH CONTROVERSIAL?
Wed Aug 27   CH 3 POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNMENT
Fri Aug 29   CH 4 EPIDEMIOLOGY
Mon Sep 1    CH 5 EPIDEMIOLOGY PRINCIPLES AND METHODS
Wed Sep 3    CH 6 PROBLEMS AND LIMITS OF EPIDEMIOLOGY
Fri Sep 5   CH 7  Statistics
Mon Sep 8   CH 8  The Role of Data in Public Health
Wed Sep 10  MMWR 1
Fri Sep 12  Statistics exercise
Mon Sep 15  CH 9  The “Conquest” of Infectious Diseases and Statistics Exercise
Wed Sep 17  CH 10  The Resurgence of Infectious Diseases
Fri Sep 19  Disease Detectives 1
Mon Sep 22  CH 11  Biomedical Basis of Chronic Disease
Wed Sep 24  QUIZ 1
Fri Sep 26  CH 12  Genetic Diseases
Mon Sep 29  MMWR 2
Wed Oct 1   CH 13  Do People Choose Their Own Health?
Fri Oct 3   CH 14  How Psychosocial Factors Affect Health Behavior
Mon Oct 6   CH 15  Tobacco  PEACE CORPS ASSIGNMENT DUE
Wed Oct 8   CH 16  Diet and Inactivity
Fri Oct 10  CH 17  Injuries
Mon Oct 13  CH 18  Maternal/Child Health
Wed Oct 15  NO CLASS (WORK ON OSWEGO!)  MIDTERM GRADES DUE
Fri Oct 17  CH 19  Mental Health
Mon Oct 20  CH 20  A Clean Environment: Basis of Public Health
Wed Oct 22  CH 21  Clean Air
Fri Oct 24  CH 22  Clean Water
Mon Oct 27  CH 23  Solid and Hazardous Wastes
Wed Oct 29  Guest Lecture
Fri Oct 31  CH 24  Safe Food and Drugs
Mon Nov 3   FALL BREAK
Wed Nov 5   CH 25  Population
Fri Nov 7   QUIZ 2
Mon Nov 10  CH 26  Is the Medical Care System a Public Health Issue?
Wed Nov 12  Disease Detectives 2
Fri Nov 14  CH 27  Why the US Medical System Needs Reform  OSWEGO ASSIGNMENT DUE
Mon Nov 17  CH 28  Health Services Research: Finding What Works
Wed Nov 19  CH 29  Public Health and the Aging
Fri Nov 21  CH 30  Emergency Preparedness
Mon Nov 24  CH 31  Public Health in the 21st Century
Wed Nov 26  MMWR 3
Fri Nov 28  NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING)
Mon Dec 1   REVIEW FOR FINAL

CHANGES TO SYLLABUS
The schedule, policies, and procedures listed in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Fair notice will be given to students. No changes will be implemented retroactively.

HOW FINAL GRADE WILL BE CALCULATED:
All assignments combined will be worth 1000 points, broken down as follows:
Quiz 1: 100 points
Quiz 2: 100 points
Final Exam: 200 points
Oswego Church Outbreak Study: 200 points
Disease Detectives: 50 points
Peace Corps: 200 points
MMWR 1: 50 points
MMWR 2: 50 points
MMWR 3: 50 points
EXPLANATION OF GRADED ACTIVITIES:

Assessments: Selected chapters will have a corresponding graded assignment. This could be an in class test or an online (OAKS) test. These are OPEN BOOK, OPEN NOTE assignments (i.e., you may use your textbook and notes to answer the questions). These will be collected and graded (or in the case of OAKS, graded online). Not every chapter will have an Assessment. In class assessments may be announced or unannounced. OAKS assessments will always be announced. In the OAKS gradebook these assignments will be a running total; each time you take an assessment your score (the number correct) will be added to the OAKS item ASSESSMENTS.

Quizzes: There will two quizzes; Quiz 1 will cover material from the beginning of the course, Quiz 2 will cover material from Quiz 1 to Quiz 2. These are CLOSED BOOK, OPEN NOTE assignments. You will be allowed 1 piece of paper during the quiz with notes you have made from the book and lectures. This piece of paper must be your own notes, not a copy of anyone else’s. You will be asked to turn in your notes page.

Peace Corps Assignment: You will use the online Peace Corps game to help a fictional African village solve problems.

Oswego Church outbreak study: You will answer questions about a real life outbreak at a church picnic. You will work in groups but be graded individually.

MMWR: You will be asked questions from one of the weekly issues of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Morbidity and Mortality Weekly (MMWR) Report. This assignment will be in class and you may use the MMWR to complete it. You will be told beforehand which week of the MMWR the test will cover.

Disease Detectives: In class assignments which will test student’s ability to understand and answer questions related to real life public health issues. These will be done in groups.

Final Exam: The Final will cover all material presented during the course. It will be OPEN NOTE, OPEN BOOK.

CLASS ABSENCES AND MAKING UP WORK

Please make every effort to notify the instructor beforehand if you are going to miss a class (email is acceptable).

With prior notice, MMWR assignments and quizzes can be rescheduled. Without prior notice these assignments can be made up however you will lose 1 letter grade and they must be made up within one week of the missed assignment (please coordinate with the instructor).

With prior notice, missed in class assessments, MMWR and Disease Detective assignments can be made up, however they must be made up within one week of the missed assignment (please coordinate with the instructor). Without prior notice missed these assignments cannot be made up.

Missed online (OAKS) assignments cannot be made up; however, you will have a one week time frame to complete these assignments.

Please remember that this class is in high demand and you are occupying a seat that many other students tried to fill. Thus, if you are unable or unwilling to participate fully in the class, please do not seek to enroll in it.

LETTER/GRADE TOTAL POINTS PERCENTAGE

A 94% and above
A- 90% - 93%
B+ 87% - 89%
B 84% - 86%
B- 80% - 83%
C+ 77% - 79%
C 74% - 76%
C- 70% - 73%
D+ 67% - 69%
D 64% - 66%
D- 60% - 63%
F 59% and below

MMWR
Every week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta publishes its Morbidity and Mortality Weekly (MMWR) report, a weekly listing of reported diseases throughout the US. You will be required to subscribe to this report (by email). To sign up for the MMWR by email go to http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwrsubscribe.html and enter your email address.

What you should bring to every class:
Schneider Textbook
Paper
Pencil/Pen
Access to your electronic copy of the latest MMWR
Electronic copy of World Health Organization (WHO) Basic Epidemiology 2nd Edition

Statement Regarding Disabilities
The College makes reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply for documentation at the Center for Disability Services/SNAP, which is located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center (Suite 104; phone: 843-953-1431. Students approved for accommodation(s) are responsible for notifying Professor Gangarosa as soon as possible and for contacting Professor Gangarosa at least one week before any accommodation(s) will be needed. If you have any questions, please speak with Professor Gangarosa during his office hours or at another mutually convenient time.

The Honor System of the College of Charleston
All work for this class is subject to the Honor System of the College of Charleston. The Honor System of the College of Charleston is intended to promote and protect an atmosphere of trust and fairness in the classroom and in the conduct of daily life. The Honor System is composed of two major components: The Honor Code and the Code of Conduct. Specific policies fall under each major component. Students at the College of Charleston are bound by honor and by their enrollment at the College to abide by the honor and conduct codes. Any violations will be referred to the Dean of Students for review and resolutions.

Copyright and Plagiarism
As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one’s own the ideas, words, writings, of another person. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you have the permission of that person. Also, please note that all materials used in this course are copyrighted. This includes, but is not limited to, handouts (i.e., syllabi, in-class materials, quizzes, exams, and other forms). Therefore, no student has the right to copy the handouts, unless permission is expressly granted.

Extra Credit
Your attendance for every class is expected. Please do not ask for extra work to make up for classes and assignments missed. No extra credit will be given for the course.

Policy Regarding Use of Technology in the Classroom
Cell phones should be turned off or set to vibrate during class. No texting or use of Internet is allowed during class unless directed by instructor to research a class assignment.
Center for Student Learning

You are encouraged to utilize the Center for Student Learning’s (CSL) academic support services for assistance in study strategies and course content. They offer tutoring, supplemental instruction, study skills appointments, and workshops. Students of all abilities have become more successful using these programs throughout their academic career and the services are available to you at no additional cost. For more information regarding these services please visit the CSL website at http://csl.cofc.edu or call 843-953-5635.