HEAL 215 INTRO TO PUBLIC HEALTH COURSE SYLLABUS

Course No.: HEAL 215  
Section No.: -02  
Credits: 3  
Semester: Spring 2017  
Room: Silcox 116  
Days: Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
Time: 1 to 1:50 PM  
Instructor: Paul Gangarosa, MPH  
Office: Silcox 223  
E-mail: gangarosap@cofc.edu  
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).

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.

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:  
Quizzes: 160 points  
Final Exam: 200 points  
Oswego Church Outbreak Study: 200 points  
Peace Corps: 200 points
Class attendance and participation  120 points
Current Event in Public Health  120 points

EXPLANATION OF GRADED ACTIVITIES:

Quizzes: On Fridays there will be weekly quizzes (not every week) on the material covered for the previous week. You must do your own work on these quizzes. The due dates for these quizzes will not be extended. These quizzes cannot be made up.

Peace Corps Assignment: You will use the online Peace Corps game to help a fictional African village solve problems. More information on this assignment will be provided in the Peace Corps module on OAKS.

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 and you will turn in your own work. This assignment must be handwritten.

Attendance and Participation: Your presence in the class is encouraged and expected. There are two kinds of absences: excused and unexcused. An excused absence is when you notify me beforehand that you will not be in class. These include athletic events, doctors appointments, previously planned travel, etc. An unexcused absence is when you simply don’t show up to class (even if you notify me afterward). Excessive tardiness will result in an unexcused absence. Note that if you are sick and miss class without notifying me (an unexcused absence) you can still have this changed to an excused absence after the fact with a doctor’s note. HAVING 5 UNEXCUSED ABSENCES WILL RESULT IN A GRADE OF W FOR THE COURSE. Please remember that this class is in high demand and you are occupying a seat that many other students tried to fill.

Current Event in Public Health: Each student will be required to do a presentation to the class of a news article which discusses a current issue relating to Public Health. The article must be approved in advance by the instructor.

Final Exam: The Final will cover all material presented during the course. You will be allowed two “cheat sheets” – 8.5x11 pieces of paper with notes. These must be handwritten.

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/mmwrssubscribe.html and enter your email address.
What you should bring to every class:
- Schneider Textbook
- Paper
- Pencil/Pen
- 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
From time to time there may be opportunities to earn extra credit in 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.