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American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

**School of Health Sciences
PBHE498
Senior Seminar in Public Health
Credit Hours: 3
Length of Course: 8 weeks
Prerequisite:**

Instructor Information

Please refer to the Syllabus tab for your instructor's contact information and biography.

Course Description (Catalog)

This senior capstone course allows students majoring in public health to analyze specific program related issues and problems using the knowledge and understanding gained by completing the required courses in the program and a significant number of the major courses. This is a capstone course to be taken after all other Public Health courses have been satisfactorily completed. Student must have SENIOR standing to register.

Course Scope

PBHE 498 – Senior Seminar in Public Health provides the student with a capstone experience at the conclusion of core and required courses in the degree path. The course will include contemporary issues and emerging concepts in the Public Health field of study. Topics for the course may include:

1. The convergence of new concepts in public health.
2. A review of current legislation and Congressional testimony that has reshaped the science of public health.
3. Local, state, national, tribal, and international public health issues.

The primary purpose of PBHE 498 is to allow the student to explore in greater depth particular topics of interest in Public Health within the broad thematic topics addressed in the course and degree program, through a collaborative effort with other class members and the course instructor.

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Course Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Examine the theory and politics of Public Health.
2. Assess the relevancy of emerging concepts in Public Health.
3. Explain the norms and purposes of Public Health.
4. Discuss the various laws and regulations surrounding Public Health.
5. Evaluate the Nation's Public Health effectiveness.
6. Perform on-line research.

Course Delivery Method

This course delivered via distance learning will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be made available to each student. Online assignments are due weekly as noted in the course outline and can include Forum questions, written assignments, and exams. Assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

Course Materials

Required Course Textbook:

Turnock, Bernard J. (2012). Public Health: What It Is and How It Works, (5th Ed.). Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett.

Academic Writing Requirements:

The School of Health Sciences requires use of APA format and style and all students are encouraged to have a current copy of the *APA Publication Manual*. All written assignments are to be submitted in APA format style unless otherwise noted in the assignment directions.

Web Sites

In addition to the required course texts, the following public domain web sites are useful. Please abide by the university's academic honesty policy when using Internet sources as well. Note web site addresses are subject to change.

- See Lessons

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Evaluation Procedures

Forum

Please join the forums each week. Replies must be posted in the week due and replies after the end of the each week will not be graded. The Forums are for student interaction and input should be submitted before the week ends in order to fully participate in the discussions. Students should demonstrate their own knowledge in the forums and avoid copying and pasting from websites.

Guidelines:

- Post the initial response to each forum by 11:55pm, ET, Wednesday.
- Initial responses should be no less than 200-300 words.
- Initial responses are to be original in content and demonstrate a thorough analysis of the topic.
- Reply to at least 2 of your classmates in each forum by 11:55pm, ET, Sunday.
- Replies to classmates should be no less than 100 words.
- Responses to classmates are significant to advance the forum.
- All forums can be accessed in the Forums section of the course.

Assignments

Weekly assignments: There will be seven (7) graded weekly Assignments. Weekly assignments allow you to apply classroom learning to various situations in the world. Assignments are graded according to the criteria found in the Grading Rubrics posted in Week 1's Lesson.

Research Paper: Students will be required to complete a 5-10 page final paper for this course. The final paper will require the student to select a topic of their choice but it must be directly related to the course material. All papers will require an abstract (no more than 150 words), and referencing/citations (you must reference at least 5 scholarly sources in your paper) in proper APA format (these items will not be included in required page total). Any graphs or charts provided must be included in an appendix (these items will not be included in required page total). ***Your selected topic must be approved by the instructor (via messaging) by the end of Week 3. An outline of your paper must be submitted by the end of Week 4 through the Assignments tab. Your paper will be due by the end of Week 7.***

***PLAGIARISM:** Your papers will go through TurnItIn plagiarism software. If you receive a high score in TurnItIn, it is likely that you have committed plagiarism whether intentional or not. Review this website to insure you do not commit plagiarism: <http://www.plagiarism.org/>. You may rewrite and resubmit but it must be resubmitted before the due date.

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Late Submissions

Late submissions will be subjected to a 10% per day late penalty. Forums posted after the week has ended (after Sunday) will not be counted towards the grading of the forum.

Course Grading Outline

Grading Instrument		Percentage of Final Grade
Forum (8 @ 100 pts each)	800 pts	25%
Introductory Forum Post	10 pts	
Assignments		40%
Weekly (7@50 pts each)	350 pts	
Research Paper		35%
Outline	50 pts	
Final Paper	100 pts	
TOTAL	1310 pts	100%

Course Outline

Lesson	Topic	Learning Objective(s)	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)
1	What is Public Health?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracing the development of the public health system in the U.S. Broadly characterizing the contributions and value of public health Describing public health as a system Identifying 3 or more distinguishing features of public health 	Turnock: Ch. 1	Week 1 Assignment – Public Health Achievements	Week 1 Forums: -Introduction - Your Top 5
Lesson	Topic	Learning Objective(s)	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)

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2	Health from an Ecological Perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articulate several definitions of health • Identify factors that contribute to health • Identify measurements of health status • Using information on factors that influence health and measures of health to develop community health priorities and effective interventions 	Turnock: Ch. 2	Week 2 Assignment: Healthy People 2020	Week 2 Forum: - Debate: Official Cause of Death
Lesson	Topic	Learning Objective(s)	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)
3	Public Health and the Health System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify five intervention strategies and apply them • Describe the expenditures for all health and medical services • Describe why the health system is a public health concern • Identify important economic, demographic, and utilization dimensions of the health sector 	Turnock: Ch. 3	Week 3 Assignment: Prevention Strategies <i>Message Instructor with Final Paper Topic by Sunday for approval</i>	Week 3 Forum: - Disease Treatment vs. Prevention

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Lesson	Topic	Course Objective(s)	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)
4	Law, Government, and Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify strategies used by governments to influence the health status of their citizens Identify federal health agencies and describe their general purpose and activities Describe common features of local health departments (LHD) Discuss implications of different approaches among states to carrying out public health roles 	Turnock: Ch. 4	Week 4 Assignments: -Research Paper Outline -Federal Health Agencies	Week 4 Forum: - State Health Departments
Lesson	Topic	Course Objective(s)	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)
5	Core Functions and Public Health Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and describe the core functions of public health Discuss approaches to assess the extent to which public health's core functions are being carried out in the community Describe approaches to improving state-local public 	Turnock: Ch. 5	Week 5 Assignment: - Community Health Plan	Week 5 Forum: - Health-related initiatives

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		health systems			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the operations of the core functions of public health 			
Lesson	Topic	Course Objective(s)	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)
6	Infrastructure of Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the major components of public health infrastructure Describe universal competencies for public health professionals Describe major categories of public health information systems Identify strategies for enhancing the infrastructure of public health 	Turnock: Ch. 6	Week 6 Assignment: -Food Safety	Week 6 Forum: - Public Health Response to Outbreaks
Lesson	Topic	Course Objective(s)	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)
7	Public Health Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe categories of public health programs and interventions Describe the difference between community prevention and clinical prevention 	Turnock: Ch. 7	Week 7 Assignment: Research Paper	Week 7 Forum: - PSAs in Public Health

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the major steps in planning, implementation, and evaluation of a public health program Explain the difference between doing things right and doing the right things as related to outcome, impact, and process objectives 			
Lesson	Topic	Course Objective(s)	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)
8	<p>Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response</p> <p>Future Challenges for Public Health in America</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Differentiate between different types of public health emergencies and disasters Explain the concepts of vulnerability, risk, disease preventions, and links to long term effects Discuss the role and responsibilities of public health professionals in emergency preparedness and response 	Turnock: Ch. 8 & 9	<p>Week 8 Assignment:</p> <p>- Future of Public Health</p>	<p>Week 8 Forum:</p> <p>- Emergency Preparedness and Response</p> <p>-Course Reflections (optional)</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify and discuss current issues and challenges in public health and public health practitioners			
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Policies

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

[Drop/Withdrawal Policy](#)

[Plagiarism Policy](#)

[Extension Process and Policy](#)

[Disability Accommodations](#)