

COURSE: HS-06 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH

PROFESSOR: Natalia López Holgado, Ph.D.

CONTACT HOURS: 50

CREDITS: 3 American (recommended), 5 ECTS

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

DESCRIPTION: This course provides a topical overview of the inter-disciplinary field of Public Health and grounding in the public health paradigm. Through a series of lectures, students learn about the core public health sciences including social sciences, biostatistics, economy, epidemiology, environmental health and policy and management. Other topics include spiraling health care expenditures, ethics in public health, new therapies in medicine, community participation in research, public health promotion, and the public health challenges in the 21st century.

OBJETIVES:

Upon completion of the course, students have a general background of significant social, economic, cultural, and behavioral issues related to public health. The students will be able to:

- Describe Public Health's essential missions, goals, services and core functions.
- Understand the economic challenges that govern public health systems.
- Identify ethical principles that guide public health practice.
- Identify social dimensions of public health such as urban health, culture and ethnicities, academic-community partnerships, and community assets and resources.

CLASS FORMAT:

Teaching methods in this course include lectures, case studies, teamwork and class discussion and debate. Videos, documentaries and other visual materials are used as supporting means of teaching during the length of this course. Visits to different medical/health centers will take place during the course.

TOPICS:

- Unit 1: Introduction to Public Health Paradigm: social determinants and economic inequalities of health.
- Unit 2: Principles of epidemiology in Public Health: measures of disease frequency, comparing disease, etc.
- Unit 3: Public Health and its relationship with economic and social aspects of globalization:
- Unit 4: Public Health challenges: pandemic flu, HIV/AIDS, obesity, tobacco use, environmental degradation.
- Unit 5: Interventions to promote equality and reduce health disparities. Can they be economically sustainable?
- Unit 6: Health Behavior: Prevention and interactions between Public Health and Society.
- Unit 7: Ethics in Public Health: community participation in research, information patterns,...
- Unit 8: New therapies in Medicine (gene and cell therapies,...) and its cost to Public Health System.
- Unit 9: Spanish model of Public Health: relation cost-benefits.
- Unit 10: Spanish model of Transplantation and the role of the ONT organization.

- Unit 11: Social and economical comparison between different Public Health systems over the world.
- Unit 12: Role of the World Health Organization (WHO) in PH
- Unit 13: Increasing costs in Public Health: what must be done to protect the system?
- Unit 14: Role of families and spirituality in Public Health and/or medical care.
- Unit 15: New challenges for Public Health in the 21st century: how suitable are existing institutions?

GRADING SYSTEM:

- Middle exam: 35 % (Units 1-7)
- Final exam: 35 % (Units 8-15)
- Class/Group participation: 10%
- Practicum work: research paper and public health news discussion/critique: 20%

GRADE EQUIVALENCE

UPSA	USA
10	A+
9.5 - 9.9	A
9 - 9.4	A-
8.5 - 8.9	B+
7.5 - 8.4	B
7 - 7.4	B-
6.5 - 6.9	C+
6 - 6.4	C
5 - 5.9	C-
0 - 4.9	F

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Every student is expected to attend all regularly scheduled class sessions on time and to be thoroughly prepared for day class activities.

In order to meet the requirements of crediting institutions, instructors compile regular attendance records for every course and when evaluating student participation and performance, the instructor takes this record into account. Absences in excess of 5 contact hours are not permitted and will result in failure of the course.

Limited absence from regularly scheduled class time may be permitted for properly document illness and emergencies. Students must petition in writing the Academic Dean to authorize excused absence. For such excused absence, the students shall immediately consult with the instructor concerning make-up work.

Both the course instructor and the Academic Dean retain the right to dismiss from the course any student who has been absent more than the maximum amounts stipulated above.

ONLINE REFERENCES:

- www.commonwealthfund.org
- www.worldwewant2015.org
- www.who.int
- www.cdc.gov
- www.healthpeople.gov
- www.sempsph.com
- www.sespas.es
- www.ont.es