

PH 660
Current Topics in Social and Behavioral Health Sciences
Fall 2008
Department of Public Health Sciences
University of Hawaii at Manoa

Meeting Time: Tuesdays 2:00-3:50pm

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Course goals

PH 660 will examine the role of the social sciences in public health. Topics covered will include both skill development for health promotion/health education as well as issues relevant to research and practice in the field. The instructor will select a broad mix of published articles and chapters which address the major public health skills and topics in the field. The seminar approach emphasizes the exchange of ideas and the identification of alternative approaches to address each issue. Each class is an opportunity for students to develop critical skills.

Competencies Addressed

1. Define a public health problem.
2. Communicate effectively with professional and lay audiences both in writing and orally
3. Advocate for public health programs and resources.
4. Work effectively in a team environment.
5. Interact sensitively, effectively and professionally with persons from diverse cultural, socioeconomic and professional backgrounds.
6. Identify the role of cultural, social, and behavioral factors in determining disease, disease prevention, health-promoting behavior, and medical service organizations and delivery.
7. Identify and assess determinants of community and population health, including cultural, social and biobehavioral factors contributing to health related behaviors.

Format:

This seminar course emphasizes the exchange of ideas. For articles, one student will be assigned to review the article and one student will serve as a discussant. Other students will write two discussion questions on each article. For topics from the B& B book, the class will be divided into 2 groups, with one leading and the other participating. Assignments will be given out the week before. Class work and in-class participation will be emphasized. Content will vary greatly depending on the topic of the day.

Grading Scale

The final course grade will be based on total points the student has received and according to the following criteria. There will be no extra credit given in class. There

are seven topic related classes and six skills classes. You will be asked to lead the discussion once (20 points). Your group will lead three skill classes (12 points each). You are expected to be an active participant in the other 6 topic classes and 3 skill classes (5 points each). The highest possible total is 101 points. In class participation is required for many of the assignments in this course. These assignments may not be made up outside of class.

A	=	101-90 points	Excellent distinctive work. Demonstrates sophisticated understanding. Nuanced and insightful account, powerful and effective application of concepts., frameworks and theories discussed in class and articulated in written work. Exceeds both expectations and requirements of all class assignments.
B	=	89-80 points	Above average work. Demonstrates accomplished understanding: Thorough, well documented account; adequate and apt application of concepts, frameworks and theories discussed in class and articulated in written work. Exceeds the requirement of the assignment.
C	=	79-70 points	Average work, sufficient, but not distinctive. Superficial understanding. Acceptable view with some misconceptions or oversight. Not fully supported. Acceptable but limited application of concepts, frameworks and theories discussed in class.
D	=	69-60 points	Poor, insufficient work. Naïve or inadequate understanding: simplistic account and use of concepts, frameworks and theories discussed in class. Unable to articulate thoughts and ideas in written work. Significant misconceptions and/or absence of key ideas; rigid/narrow “plug in” performance. Fails to meet some requirements.
F	=		Unacceptable work

Text: Bensley, R.J. & Brookins-Fisher, J. (2009). Community Health Education Methods 3rd edition. Jones and Bartlett, Sudbury, MA.

Additional readings at: <https://laulima.hawaii.edu/portal>

The University of Hawaii has implemented a plus/minus system. Pluses will be given for scores between 7 & 9. Minuses will be given for scores from 0-2.

PH 660: Current Topics in Social and Behavioral Health Sciences

- Aug 26 - Course overview and workgroups; Ottawa Charter
- Sept 2 – Climate Change (Primer; Pacific Islands) - Laulima
- Sept 9 – Focus groups (Rutherford) - Laulima
- Sept 16 - Marketing Unhealthy Foods to Children (Story, 2004; Robinson, 2007) – Laulima
- Sept 23 – Health Communication/Social Marketing (B& B Chapter 4&5)
- Sept 30 – Homelessness (Gladwell, 2006; Hawaii’s response, 2005) - Laulima
- Oct 7 – Building and Sustaining Coalitions (B&B Chapter 12)
- Oct 14 – Sex and Public Health (HPV; Plan B Hawaii)
- Oct 21 – Influencing health policy (B&B Chapters 13 & 14)
- Oct 28 – Globalization and Health (Globalization articles 1-3)
- Nov 4 – Election Day – No class
- Nov 11 – Veteran’s Day – No class
- Nov 18 – Avian and Pandemic Influenza (Hawaii Flu Plan, 2008)
- Nov 25 – Developing Effective Presentations (B&B Chapters 7 & 8)
- Dec 2 – Pacific Island Health (Cassels, 2006; Pobutsky 2005)
- Dec 9 – Facilitating Groups (B&B Chapter 11)