

**PH 737: "Policies and Programs in MCH Services"
University of Hawaii at Manoa ~ Fall Semester 2008**

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	Days/Time: Thursdays 4:00pm-6:45 pm online
	Course Location: online
	Office Hours: By appointment (Biomed C-103-UHM), also via email or phone

Course Description:

This course is designed to be taken as a core requirement for the Certificate in MCH Leadership, or as an elective course for MPH or MS students in public health. The purpose of the course is to promote greater integration of MCH and public health policy and program theory and skills with personal experience in the field of Public Health and/or Maternal Child Health areas, and how to better address the disconnect between MCH policy and programming at the global, national, state and local levels.

Per the Association of Schools of Public Health's MPH Core Competency Development Project, health policy and management is a multi-disciplinary field of PH inquiry and practice that addresses the delivery, quality and costs of health care for individuals and populations. PH 737 applies an MCH-specific focus on the managerial and policy concerns, looking at the structure, process and outcomes of health services for MCH populations, and the underlying assumptions that affect this process.

The course is open to MCH Leadership Program as well as MPH graduate-level students in public health. Course materials will be derived from local, state, national and international MCH case examples and current policy and program issues. The course will offer students the opportunity to develop and strengthen their basic capacity in MCH and PH health policy and management competencies.

Objectives:

As a result of participation in the course, the student should be able to demonstrate increased competency in:

1. Defining key components and major issues in the organization, financing and delivery of MCH health services and public health systems in Hawaii & the US
2. Describing key elements of the State and federal policy process that help establish, maintain or expand MCH services
3. Applying PH leadership skills to identify and build on MCH policy and program partnerships.
4. Identifying and applying principles of PH program planning, development and management to case studies of MCH organizational and community initiatives.
5. Demonstrating "PH systems thinking" process steps for addressing MCH organizational problems.

Methodology:

PH 737 is a synchronous online course—that means that all students and faculty will be online for the 3 hour class each week. Class participation requires registration and access to the class URL, a computer with direct internet access, a headphone with microphone and a mini-Webcam, if wish to be seen online. (Webcam is optional).

Ph 737 will follow a problem-based learning approach with reading and policy updates, lectures and guest presenters with diverse perspectives, class interactive sessions with group discussion/ activities as well as individual student policy papers to be presented to the class. All students will develop a total of 2 reflection papers and three policy papers while in PH 737, and present one policy paper, as well as participate in weekly interactive class activities online.

Coursework will include covering the chapters in the required text for the class (*Kotch, J. (2005). Maternal and Child Health: Programs, Problems and Policy in Public Health. Jones and Bartlett (2nd Ed)*), but will not necessarily be in sequential order. Students will be expected to read all chapters of the required textbook, since weekly class activities will draw on textbook and other readings for the week. Other readings will be assigned as well, and be placed on Laulima for downloading at <https://laulima.hawaii.edu/portal>.

Course Requirements:

Students are required to accomplish the following:

1. Attend all class sessions online (attendance will be taken weekly).
2. Read all required readings as assigned and incorporate concepts into class discussion and assignments due.
3. Make meaningful contributions via weekly online group discussions and activities. The in-class discussions/activities will generally include a variety of discussion questions, and topic-specific activity. Active and meaningful participation in these exercises/case studies is expected of all class members.
4. Reflection papers (2 papers @ 10 points each) (due Oct. 9th and Dec. 11th)
Reflection papers allow you to explore underlying value implications of readings and experiences in this class. There will be two reflection papers relating to MCH Policy and Programs (2-3 pages each) for this class. In these papers, you are to describe an issue brought up in the class which has stimulated thinking on your part (e.g., what new questions has this learning raised and how do you feel it might best be addressed?) and explore what its implications are for you.
5. Policy Papers: a total of three (3) topic-specific papers on MCH Policy and Programs will be completed for this class; each at least 4-5 pages in length but no longer than 8 pages (3 papers @ 15 points each). Policy Paper # 1(Due 9/25) will focus on a global MCH issue in a health policy framework (to be provided), Policy Paper #2 (Due 10/23) will focus on a national MCH policy/program issue, and Policy Paper #3 (Due 11/20) will be in a policy brief format (to be provided) and will focus on a State MCH policy/program issue.

All policy papers must be turned in by the due dates, be typed with one-inch margins, have class and student author identification and a title, have numbered pages and cite all references, according to APA convention (see Laulima for APA formatting guidelines). Papers will be graded on the quality of critical thinking and writing skills. You will be asked to briefly present one of these paper's topic, findings, and conclusions to the class at the end of the semester.

Required Textbook and Other Class Readings:

Kotch, J. (2005). Maternal and Child Health: Programs, Problems and Policy in Public Health. Jones and Bartlett (2nd Ed). Available at UHM Bookstore or online at Amazon.com or other online bookstore

Other required readings will be in **Laulima** online course management system under PH 737 Modules (readings & assignments) to download.

Online Resources:

See Laulima Site for PH 737 under Resources for specific recommended online sites:

<https://laulima.hawaii.edu/portal>

Tentative Course Schedule

DATE	TOPIC	Readings/Deliverables/Due
Class 1 8/28/08	Course Introduction, Laulima and Elluminate Online course orientation (N. Partika, R. Meeder, N. Aung)	Kotch, Chap. 1-2 What is PH.org reading
Class 2 9/4/08	MCH Policies & Programs: Definitions and Overview (N. Partika)	Kotch, Chap. 3-4
Class 3 9/11/08	MCH/PH Policy development and Implementation(N. Partika)	Kotch-Chap. 5-6
Class 4 9/18/08	International/Global MCH Policies & Programs (P. Whitar? NP)	Kotch-Chap. 7-8
Class 5 9/25/08	Policies and Programs in the Pacific (C. Wasem, NP)	Kotch-Chap. 9-10 Policy Paper #1 (Global/Pacific) Due
Class 6 10/02/08	Policies and Programs at the Federal Level (K.Strawder, NP)	Kotch-Chap. 11-12
Class 7 10/09/08	Policies and Programs at the National Level (M.Fraser-AMCHP, NP))	Kotch-Chap. 13-14 Reflection Paper #1 Due
Class 8 10/16/08	Policies and Programs at the State Level (D.Fuddy, NP))	Kotch-Chap. 15
Class 9 10/23/08	Policies and Programs at the State Level (S.Marinelli, NP)	Kotch-Chap. 16 Policy Paper #2 (National) Due
Class 10 10/30	No Class-APHA: readings and work on paper #3	Kotch-Chap. 17

Class 11 11/06/08	Policies and Programs at the Community Level (R. Delacruz, NP)	Kotch-Chap. 18
Class 12 11/13/08	Policies and Programs at the Community Level (TBA)	Reading on community/policy process
Class 13 11/20/08	Working with Policy-Makers and Influencers (S. Chun-Oakland, NP)	Research Glut/Info Famine rding Policy Paper #3 (State/Community) Due
Class 14 11/27/08	No Class-Thanksgiving—readings and prep. for PPT presentations	reading: NGA-PH Services Policy Position Paper
Class 15 12/04/08	Class Presentations on your selected policy paper (Student presentations)	Reading on MCH career dev. & skill building in policy/prog.
Class 16 12/11/08	Careers in Policy and Programs; Wrap-up; Evaluation (NP)	Reflection Paper # 2 Due

Course Policies

1. Maximum benefit from this class can be achieved only if you attend class, complete the readings and projects as they are assigned, and actively participate in online class discussions.
2. Final grades will be issued on the basis of completed assignments, projects, class attendance and participation. ALL assignments must be completed and turned in for a passing grade. There will be no Incompletes issued. Students are advised to concentrate on doing well on all the assignments given.
3. All written assignments must be typed with one-inch margins, with page numbers on each page, and with references cited according to APA convention. In addition to the grading criteria given for each assignment, all assignments will be graded on the quality of critical thinking and writing skills.
5. PLAGIARISM is unacceptable and will result in a failing (“F”) grade for the assignment. Students are expected to be familiar with and abide by the University of Hawaii Student Conduct Code. Copies of the Student Conduct Code are available at the Office of Student Affairs at the Student Services Center.
6. The class schedule is tentative. Topics for discussions may be re-scheduled depending on availability of guest speakers, and the needs and interests of the class as the semester progresses.
7. I am always willing to meet with you to discuss your progress or to clarify course assignment requirements. Best ways to contact me is via e-mail at nantika@hawaii.edu or via my office phone #(808) 956-5756

Evaluation:

Student assessment for this course will be based on the following:

	Assignments	Points
1	Class Attendance and Participation in weekly Discussions and Class Activities	25
2	Reflection Papers (2 @ 10 points each)	20

3.	Policy Papers (3 Global, State and Local @ 15 points each)	45
4	Class Presentation on Policy Issue	10
	Total Points	100

Grading Scale – I use the “+/-” grading system

A = 90-100	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.
B = 80-89	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.
C = 70-79	Average work, sufficient, but not distinctive. Acceptable view with some misconceptions or oversight; not fully supported; acceptable but limited application of concepts, frameworks and theories discussed in class.
D = 60-69	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.
F < 60	Unacceptable work