

University of Hawaii at Manoa
 Department of Public Health Sciences
PH 751 – Social Epidemiology
Spring 2007

Meeting Place: Biomed C104
Meeting Time: Tuesday 1:00pm-3:50pm
Instructor Information: Claudio Nigg, Ph.D.
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 Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description:

This course will examine the epidemiologic study of the social distribution and social determinants of states of health, including the identification of social-environmental exposures and their relation to physical and mental health outcomes. Topics will include social capital, social integration, social networks, income inequality, working conditions, discrimination, depression and affective states and their relation to health. Methods to improve health including psychosocial interventions, ecological approaches, and multilevel approaches will also be explored.

Course Learning Objectives

1. Identify social aspects and mechanisms of health promotion/disease prevention
2. Understand frameworks appropriate for social level health interventions
3. Conceptualize social level health interventions
4. Research and identify appropriate assessments of social epidemiological components of health.
5. Work effectively in a team environment.

SBHS Competencies

- SBHS 1 Identify and assess determinants of community and population health, including cultural, social and biobehavioral factors contributing to health related behaviors.
- SBHS 3 Identify a range of social epidemiological health promotion and disease prevention strategies.

MPH Competencies

- AS 1 Define social epidemiologic aspects of a public health problem.
- AS6 Identify information collection methodologies used in public health, including advantages and flaws of specific methods, and determine methods appropriate to specific needs
- CO 1 Communicate effectively with professional and lay audiences both in writing and orally.
- CO 2 Solicit input from individuals and organizations.
- PHS 1 Define, assess, and describe the health status of populations, determinants of health and illness, factors contributing to health promotion and disease prevention
- CS 1 Interact sensitively, effectively and professionally with persons from diverse cultural, socioeconomic and professional backgrounds.
- CS 2 Identify the role of cultural, and social factors in determining disease, disease prevention, health-promoting behavior, and medical service organizations and delivery.

Required Readings: The weekly readings will be found in the OGSAS office Biomed D court second floor, or distributed in class.

Course Schedule:

Class 1 (1/10): *Introduction to social epidemiology/Group Selection*

Class 2 (1/27): *Social Integration, Social Networks and Social Support*

Class 3 (1/24): *Social Cohesion and Social Capital*

Class 4 (1/31): *Socioeconomic Position/Income Inequality*

Class 5 (2/7): *Discrimination*

Class 6 (2/14): *Mental Health*

Class 7 (2/21): Student Presentations on Assignment 1
(Assignment 1 due)

Class 8 (2/28): Student Presentations on Assignment 1

Class 9 (3/7): *Media and Health*

Class 10 (3/14): *Health Behavior*

Class 11 (3/21): *Psychosocial Interventions*

NO CLASS – (3/28)

Class 12 (4/4): *Multilevel Models of Health Behavior*

Class 13 (4/11): Group Presentations for Assignment 2

Class 14 (4/18): Group Presentations for Assignment 2

Class 15 (4/25): Group Presentations for Assignment 2
Final paper due

Class 16 (5/2): *Social Epidemiology: Future Directions*
Class Discussion and pick up final paper

Course Policies: (What you expect in class participation, attendance, how papers are submitted, etc.) Some examples:

- Late assignments will receive 2 points less per day late at 5pm the following day. Assignments not submitted by the following Tuesday at 5pm will not be accepted. In class participation is required in this course.
- No extra credit assignments given.
- Final grades are based on completed assignments, class attendance, and participation.
- Plagiarism will result in a failing ("F") grade for the assignment. Students should familiarize themselves with the university of Hawai'i Student Conduct Code.

Grading Scale for Class Assignments & Description of Course Assignments:

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The course will be based out of 100 points.

20 points will be given for participation in the class. All class members will be expected to be active participants in the class discussion and readings. *Note - it is impossible to participate if you are not there.*

25 points will be given for Assignment 1. This will consist of a group presentation and paper on the social capital of a neighborhood for a chosen health behavior or disease outcome of interest.

25 points will be given for Assignment 2. This will consist of a group presentation of a social epidemiology topic

30 points will be given for Assignment 3. This will consist of a paper on assessing the social network of an individual for a chosen health behavior or disease outcome of interest.

Course 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.

A	=	100-90 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: Through, 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. Naive 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

A plus/minus system will be used. Pluses will be given for scores between 7 & 9. Minuses will be given for scores from 0-2.