PUBLIC HEALTH STUDIES (PUBH)

PUBH 500 Foundations of Public Health
This course will provide a topical overview of the inter-disciplinary field of public health and provides grounding in the public health paradigm. Through a series of lectures and recitation sessions, students will learn about the history of public health and the core public health sciences including behavioral and social sciences, biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental health, and policy and management. Other topics include ethics in public health, context analyses (specifically sociographic mapping and urban health), community participation in research, public health promotion, and the prevention of chronic and infectious diseases. Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: NURS 570
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 501 Introduction to Biostatistics
Introduction to Biostatistics This course is designed to provide a broad overview of biostatistics methods as well as applications commonly used for public health research. Topics covered include measurement and categorizing variables, use and misuse of descriptive statistics, testing hypotheses, and applying commonly used statistical tests. An emphasis will be placed on the practical application of data to address public health issues, rather than theoretical and mathematical development. Students will learn how to choose and apply statistical tools to data sources, when and how statistical tools can be used to analyze data, and how to interpret others’ quantitative studies. Students will gain experience using online datasets and the STATA statistical software package.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 502 Introduction to the Principles and Methods of Epidemiology
This course will provide an introduction to the principles and methods of epidemiology as a research science. The course introduces the student designs applied to human populations, including randomized trials and observational studies (cohort, case-control, cross-sectional, ecological). Homework and in-class assignments focus on building skills in locating, assessing, and synthesizing evidence from the epidemiologic literature, with an emphasis on critical thinking, causal inference, and understanding bias and confounding.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 503 Environmental and Occupational Health
This course will provide a broad introduction to the scientific basis of occupational and environmental health. Content will address issues in the ambient, occupational and global environments as well as the tools, concepts and methods used in environmental health.
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 504 Public Health Theories & Frameworks
This course provides students with a solid foundation in behavioral and social science theory, research, and interventions as they pertain to public health. Content will provide exposure to a broad range of theories, including the theoretical foundations of social science applications for help-seeking, gender, race, ethnicity and social class. These theories will be discussed using examples of their applications to numerous public health problems including HIV/AIDS, violence, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, obesity, and diabetes.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 505 Public Health Policy and Administration
This course is an introduction to health policy and management. It examines both the historical and current state of health policy in America and integrates these concepts within the context of public health practice. We will examine key concepts in understanding US health care organization, financing and delivery, our current political and economic debate on health care reform, examining the role and management issues of public health departments, and case studies in public health policy and management.
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 506 Methods for Public Health Practice
This is a course designed around modules whose objective is to provide students with greater familiarity in a range of methods essential to public health practice. The course will be framed around an in depth capacity and needs assessment and community public health planning in Philadelphia. Topics covered will include data collection and evaluation, both quantitative and qualitative, uses of informatics in public health, analysis of vital statistics, working with communities, methods for developing and facilitating solutions to public health problems, including concepts of advocacy and policy formation and development of interventions. The course demonstrates how core public health competency areas in data analysis and communication provide foundations for applications for both practice and practice-based research.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 507 Public Health Law & Ethics
What is best - or, at least, seems best – for the public's health is not always consistent with society’s view of what is legal, ethical, or good policy. This course introduces key concepts of legal, ethical, and policy analysis and attempts to demonstrate with current examples how these forces empower, guide, and constrain public health decision-making and actions. The course will combine lecture, Socratic dialogue, and group discussion in an informal setting. The course will feature guest lectures by several distinguished experts from Penn and from other universities.
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
PUBH 508 Capstone Seminar I
The Capstone is a culminating experience required for graduation in the Master of Public Health Program. In two Capstone seminars, students will have an opportunity to synthesize the knowledge and public health competencies they have developed through their coursework. Capstone students will apply their knowledge and skills to public health problems in a chosen area of interest. They will engage their peers in scholarly discussion, drawing from relevant scientific literature and public health experience in order to begin to develop a common grounding and identity as public health professionals. The Capstone incorporates two semester-long seminars and a research project. over the course of the Castone, students will develop, propose, revise, implement, and present their projects. As their projects successfully come to fruition they will also advise their junior colleagues still in the proposal stage.
Two terms. student may enter either term.
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 509 Capstone Seminar II
This course is the second of two Capstone courses related to the culminating project required for graduation in the Master of Public Health Program. MPH students apply their knowledge and skills to public health problems in a chosen area of interest under the guidance of a Capstone Mentor.
Two terms. student may enter either term.
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 514 Environmental and Occupational Health Experiences
This course seeks to develop students’ ability to analyze and understand environmental and occupational health concepts, and identify and synthesize policy and practice solutions to the world’s most pressing environmental and occupational health issues. This course provides an introduction to environmental and occupational health concepts, with a focus public health policy and practice at the local, state, and federal levels. In-class lecture content includes tools, concepts, and research methods to examine categories of environmental and occupational risks and associated health conditions, and identify and develop solutions. Out-of-class experiences provide the opportunity to learn directly from experts in a variety of related fields, and gain first-hand experience in environmental and occupational health practice.
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 517 Geography and Health
This course will provide an introduction to GIS in public health research and practice. Through a series of lectures and labs students will explore theories linking health and the environment, spatial analysis and spatial epidemiology, and applications of GIS-related data collection and analysis.
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: EPID 518
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 519 Issues in Global Health
This course presents an overview of issues in global health from the viewpoint of many different disciplines, with emphasis on economically less developed countries. Subjects include: millennium goals; measures of disease burden; population projections and control; environmental health and safe water; demography of disease and mortality; zoonotic infectious diseases; AIDS and HIV prevention; vaccine utilization and impact; eradication of polio virus; chronic diseases; tobacco-associated disease and its control; nutritional challenges; social determinants of global health; harm reduction and behavioral modifications; women’s reproductive rights; health economics and cost-effective interventions; health manpower and capacity development; bioethical issues in a global context.
Course usually offered in fall term
Prerequisites: Undergraduates must have completed HSOC-010-401.
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 521 Program Evaluation in Public Health
There are many public health programs developed to promote change. The question most funders have for public health programs is: what outcomes do you expect? This course is designed to review the principles of identifying short term, mid term and long term outcomes and methods of measurement. Students learn about the application of data collection skills to all phases of developing a public health program or service innovation, from needs assessment to analysis of finding to implementation of changes based on results. Students learn to appreciate how these skills can be used as practical tools for identifying public health problems, program development, program implementation including taking a reflective practice approach, ensuring equity and fairness in program delivery (i.e. combating disparities), and generally promoting public health through effective and efficient programmatic efforts.
Course offered spring; odd-numbered years
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 523 Epidemics: Social causes and consequences of outbreaks, emergencies, threats
Our success as public health researchers, practitioners, and leaders often depends on our ability to think critically and act rapidly to address population health threats. This course will examine the fundamental challenges of public health action. Using a case-based method, the course will probe true public health emergencies, considering the information available to scientists; public access and reaction to that information; and the nature/ scope/ consequences of interventions levied to address the public health threat. The course will tackle cases from several areas of infectious and social epidemiology, such as the following: outbreak investigation (using a cholera example), lay epidemiology (examining cancer clusters), surveillance and rapid response (based on flu policy), and the difficulty of intervening to address social determinants of health (probably looking at poverty/SES and race/ethnicity). Students in the class will develop key skills in critical epidemiological reasoning. In all cases, the emphasis will be on evaluating the empirical base for public health decision-making, with attention given to public health goals and metrics used to evaluate success in public health interventions.
Course usually offered in spring term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
PUBH 525 Health & Human Rights
This course will explore the interplay between health and human rights and enable students to critically apply human rights to public health practice. We will explore the development of health as a human right and how public health research and policy can affect human rights. Students will learn about core human rights principles and mechanisms and the international development agenda. The class will examine topics at the intersection of global health and human rights including HIV/AIDS, harm reduction, migration, sexual and reproductive health, and climate change. Class material will primarily focus on public health challenges in the global south; however, we will also discuss health and human rights issues faced by vulnerable populations in the United States.
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 529 Public Health Perspectives on Sexual & Reproductive Health
This course will survey a range of key current and historic topics in reproductive and sexual health nationally and internationally with a particular emphasis on implications for public health. Policy, epidemiology, clinical practice, advocacy, and service delivery topics will be covered through presentations and conversations with leaders in the fields of reproductive and sexual health. The course will provide students with a broad general introduction to these topics which is appropriate for those interested in either public health or clinical aspects of the field. For students who wish to pursue a focused career in this area, this course is a necessary introduction. Students who will be working in related areas of public health will have exposure to a broad general understanding of reproductive and sexual health.
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 530 Environmental Toxicology: Risk Assessment and Health Effects
This course presents general principals of toxicology and the disposition of toxins in the body. Case studies of the effects of environmental and occupational toxins on individuals will be analyzed. This course is designed for students who desire a strong foundation in toxicological concepts and principals and provides an overview of major toxins in our environment and their association with human health.
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: NURS 677
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 531 Public Health Nutrition
The course is designed to introduce students to the core concepts, policies and practice of public health nutrition. The course will draw upon real world examples of local, national, and global initiatives to decrease risk of chronic diseases related to the World Health Organization’s (WHO) major nutrition-related chronic diseases.
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 538 Qualitative Methods in Health
The purpose of this course is to expose students to a variety of qualitative approaches/methodologies that may be used in health services/policy research. In didactics we will discuss the pros and cons of various methods, explaining how the method is actually implemented (with multiple experts presenting their approaches), and pair the presentation with a broader discussion in which we compare and contrast health oriented articles in which the method was used.
Course usually offered summer term only
Also Offered As: HPR 503
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 539 Designing Interventions To Promote Health and Reduce Health Disparities
Advanced analysis, design and evaluation of interventions to promote health and reduce health disparities with a focus on underserved vulnerable minority or ethnic populations, through culturally competent research, education and clinical practice. Areas to be evaluated include: Health disparities as it relates to health promotion and disease prevention behavioral intervention research in vulnerable communities; Concepts of marginalization, race, ethnicity, class, gender and culture as it relates to health disparities; Social-psychological theoretical and research approaches related to developing culturally congruent health promotion interventions to reduce health disparities for vulnerable populations; The use of elicitation, focus groups and ethnographic techniques to tailor health behavior theory to meet the needs of the population; Culturally competent research methodologies, involving education and/or clinical practice, e.g. culturally competent measures, recruitment, retention, and informed consent in hard to reach populations.
Also Offered As: NURS 823
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 540 GoGlobal
This course is designed to house a country-specific course with time in country to build partnerships and work through public health challenges. The country of focus rotates based on the year and current events.
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 541 Social Epidemiology
This class is designed to expand student knowledge about social factors that are known or suspected to influence population health. These factors include, among others, race, gender, socioeconomic status, and social support. Understanding how to talk and think about these social factors is essential to effective participation in public health research and practice. The course will focus on conceptual and theoretical basis of these social factors, exploring both their measurement in epidemiologic research, and the mechanisms by which they are thought to affect health. Potential strategies for ameliorating social determinants of disease and disability - and particularly those relying on legal and policy reform - will be discussed along with their associated political impendiments. HIV/AIDs and aggressive policing will provide recurring topical examples.
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
PUBH 545 Contemporary Issues in Maternal Child Health
This course will survey a range of key current and historic topics in maternal child health regionally, nationally, and internationally. Policy, epidemiology, clinical practice, advocacy, and service delivery topics will be covered through readings, lectures, presentations, and conversations with local leaders in the field of maternal child health.
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 551 Global Health Policy and Delivery
This participatory interdisciplinary seminar course examines contemporary issues in global health policy and delivery. The overall organizing framework for the class is the social determinants of health. The class will consider evidence that inequalities in education, income, and occupation influence health status. Students will develop skills in policy analysis, policy brief development, and policy impact monitoring. The public policy process will be explored using a variety of contemporary global health case studies which focus on content areas such as maternal health, HIV policy, refugee health an global healthcare delivery. Finally, we will examine the global health workforce and its impact of widespread global migration of health professionals on receiving and sending countries.
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: NURS 640, SWRK 793
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 553 Science and Politics of Food
This course provides an introduction to the many forces that shape what we eat. These include psychological, political, biological, legal, economic, and social influences. We will discuss and critically evaluate scientific research on food policies designed to improve the world’s diet. This course will have strong focus on the communication of health information and issues of health disparities as they relate to food environments and food policies. In addition, course assignments, activities, and lectures are designed to develop skills related to critiquing research and communicating evidence-based opinions in a clear and compelling manner.
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 554 Impact Evaluation of Global Health Programs
This course will provide an introduction to impact evaluation, an important methodology for evidence-based health policies and programs. Impact evaluation comprises a set of approaches to generating robust evidence of program performance against desired objectives. A distinct type of broader monitoring and evaluation approaches, impact evaluation focuses on identifying a credible counterfactual (what would have happened in the absence of the program of interest?) to permit attribution of observed outcomes to interventions. In this course, we will cover the why, when, and how of impact evaluation, including basic econometric methods for study design, data collection, and analysis. Both experimental and quasi-experimental designs will be discussed. Case studies and exercises will draw on classic studies and the contemporary evaluation literature, and will allow students to “get their hands dirty” with data manipulation and analysis.
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 555 Health Communication in the Digital Age
Health communication spans activities from in-person communication to technology-based interventions and mass media campaigns. Health communication interventions are applied across a variety of health promotion and disease prevention activities. In this course we will explore a variety of approaches to using communication strategies to improve individual and population health. The course will provide an introduction to the theory, design, and evaluation of health communication programs. We will review and critique several health communication interventions. The course will also include a special emphasis on new media and technology, as well as developing practical skills for developing health communication programs.
Also Offered As: NURS 353, NURS 565
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 570 Evidence-Based Strategies to Improve Adolescent and Young Adult Health
This course examines the health and well-being of young people between 10 and 26 years of age in the United States, and the influence of evidence-based practice, programs, and policy on the health of this important age group. The course includes an examination of adolescent and young adult (AYA) health and well-being within a life-course framework; biological, psychological, gender and sexual development between 10 and 26 years of age including issues specific to sexual minority youth; nutritional health and health policy; and reproductive health and health policy. We will examine the influence of systems and policy on key AYA health issues using case studies in injury prevention, obesity prevention, HIV testing and care, and access to routine health care and reproductive health services. The impact of MCH/Title V, Title X, the ACA, and legislation related to child nutrition and school food programs on AYA health will be integrated throughout the course.
Course usually offered in spring term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 573 Substance Use as a Public Health Issue
Over 70,000 people died from drug overdoses in the US in 2017 alone, exceeding the number of US soldiers who died in the twenty years of the Vietnam War. This course will provide an overview of the contemporary challenges in addressing substance use as a public health problem. Students will learn about the personal and environmental factors that often contribute to substance use, as well as the downstream consequences, including HIV and hepatitis C. Students will also learn public health strategies to address substance use, including primary prevention and abstinence reduction. Finally, issues around drug policy at the local, state, and federal level will be discussed. While this course will use opioids and the crisis in Philadelphia as the primary case study, other drugs will be touched upon as well. The course combines lecture, interactive class exercise, and group discussion.
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
PUBH 575 Intimate Partner Violence
Intimate partner violence (IPV), defined as physical, sexual, or psychological harm imposed by a current or former intimate partner, is a public health problem leading to increased morbidity and mortality worldwide. The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the definition, theories, dynamics, scope, and consequences of, and interventions to prevent and respond to, violence against intimate partners. The course will provide insight into the phenomenon of intimate violence by examining the ways in which it affects individuals, families, and communities; as well as how violence develops and is addressed within communities and societies. We will apply an ecological framework to examine the individual, relationship, community, and society factors associated with intimate violence risk and intervention and consider primary, secondary, and tertiary levels of prevention. This course is designed to address the educational needs of both public health and social work students.
Also Offered As: SWRK 775
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 578 Housing Quality, Equity and Public Health
This course examines housing as a social determinant of health through the lens of environmental justice and health equity. The course examines the direct mental and physical impacts of housing quality and access, specifically for urban, low-income children and adults; the plicies, social and economic factors that create inequities; and solutions to address these issues. Key concepts include: the public health impact of housing environmental quality and affordability; environmental justice; racial equity in housing policy.
Course usually offered in spring term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 588 Advanced Leadership Skills in Community Health
Grounded in a social justice perspective, this course aims to provide the student with a foundational overview of the field of community health and leadership skills in public health advocacy. The course encourages critical thinking about health outcomes framed by the broad context of the political and social environment. This course analyzes the range of roles and functions carried out by leaders in healthcare advocacy for marginalized communities; integrates knowledge of health policy and the key influence of government and financing on health outcomes; explores community-based participatory research and interventions as tools for change; and discuss ways to develop respectful partnerships with community organizations. An assets-based approach that draws upon the strengths of communities and their leaders provides a foundation for community-engagement skill building. The course emphasizes the development of skills and techniques to lead effective, collaborative, health-focused interventions for disenfranchised groups, including residents of urban neighborhoods.
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: HPR 588, NURS 587
Prerequisite: Enrollment in a Masters or Doctoral program
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: Undergraduates with permission of the instructor

PUBH 589 The Public Health Challenges of Alzheimer's Disease and Cognitive Aging
This course is an opportunity to understand two relatively new public health problems - Alzheimer's disease and cognitive aging - and to use this knowledge to identify and address the broad set of challenges created by cognitive impairment in industrialized nations, challenges at the intersections of medicine, ethics, public policy, culture, and health care. Student will learn about the history of Alzheimer's disease and cognitive aging and their current definitions, the concepts of cognition and function and how they are assessed, the science and practice of measuring the disease's prevalence and mortality, autonomy, and capacity, risk of preventative factors for cognitive decline, the demography and economics of caregiving, and the public health initiatives and models of care that could enhance cognition and maintain independence. they will apply biostatistical and epidemiological methods to critique papers, close textual analysis to understand concepts and their shifting meanings, and writing to clearly and succinctly frame a problem, its costs, and solutions.
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

One-term course offered either term
Corequisites: For BGS Public Health Certificate studs only.
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 599 Independent Study in Public Health
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Independent Study
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: The option to complete an independent study requires approval from academic advisor and Director of the MPH program.

PUBH 604 Qualitative Research in Social Sciences
This research course explores the philosophical issues and critical thinking that underlie qualitative methodology. Research using qualitative methods can be particularly effective for learning the perspectives of vulnerable and oppressed individuals whose voices are overshadowed by dominant discourses. We will discuss questions of epistemology, ethics, power, diversity, and social justice, as well as the use and impact of self in doing qualitative research.
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 605 Epidemiology and Control of Infectious Diseases
This course will focus on the application of epidemiological methods to the discovery, detection, and evaluation of infectious disease threats together with an evidence based assessment of the value of public health interventions intended to reduce prevalence and severity of disease in people. In-class assignments are intended to build skills in location, interpreting, assessing, and synthesizing evidence from the epidemiologic literature, with an emphasis on critical thinking, causal inference, and understanding bias and confounding.
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
PUBH 606 Synthesis and Translation of Epidemiologic Literature
This course is designed for students interested in further exploration of epidemiologic methods and the challenge of establishing a causal relationship between exposure and outcome using an observational science. We will utilize case studies to address the application of epidemiologic data to specific issues of relevance to public health. The nature of observational data will be explored through these case studies and specific methodological challenges will be highlighted and examined. Also Offered As: NURS 616
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 607 Adv Local Policymaking
This course is designed to provide the foundational context and practical skills necessary to effectively advocate for evidence-based policy change in furtherance of public health objectives. The class will be interactive in nature and will require participation in public health advocacy exercises in order to hone advocacy skills. There will also be a focus on persuasive communication, both oral and written. We will explore the entire advocacy process from the identification of a problem and evaluation of possible policy solutions to utilizing the full range of advocacy tools to promote policy change. We will be using real-time examples of public health challenges affecting the health, safety and well-being of children and families here in Philadelphia and in communities across the country.
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 608 Behavioral Econ & Health
This course will explore answers to pressing public health questions through the lens of behavioral economics. Behavioral economics, a field at the intersection of psychology and economics, suggests that humans rarely behave rationally when making health-related decisions. The course will take a very pragmatic, hands-on orientation to behavioral economics and health research and practice. It will also leverage the deep and rich expertise of Penn's Center for Health Incentives and Behavioral Economics, a leading research organization in the field.
Also Offered As: NURS 613
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 609 management & leadership in public health
The goal of this course is to build upon management and leadership skills, and learn and apply public health management and leadership tools (mlts) to effectively use in practice. This course uses pubh 506 to build a foundation, with increased emphasis on financial, administrative, operational, and human resource management and leadership in public health. Students will have the ability to apply key concepts and further develop their leadership and management skills and apply specific mlts tools. The course uses a case-based framework an dpulls from real life examples. The course is ideally designed for the student who will use the mph to advance in careers leading and managing public health initiatives across a variety of sectors.
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 610 Mathematical Models for the Control of Infectious Diseases
As infectious diseases are transmitted from one host to another, the dynamics of transmission in the population of hosts follow certain basic rules. If one knows and understands these rules, one can plan rational strategies to prevent or control infections. One of the principal tools of those interested in public health interventions to control or ameliorate infectious diseases is the mathematical model. A model is just a means of representing and manipulating something that would not otherwise be accessible. This elective course provides students with the opportunity to construct models of the transmission of infectious diseases and to use these models to plan or compare disease control strategies. The course is predicated upon the notion that the act of building a mathematical model of disease transmission is often the very best way to understanding what is going on. This understanding will be further refined by the examination of more complicated and sophisticated model structures as they appear in the recent published literature.
Also Offered As: EPID 516
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

PUBH 637 advocacy & public health
this course is designed to provide the foundational context and practical skills necessary to effectively advocate for evidence-based policy change in furtherance of public health objectives. the class will be interactive in nature and will require participation in public health advocacy exercises in order to hone advocacy skills. there will also be a focus on persuasive communication, both oral and written. we will explore the entire advocacy process from the identification of a problem and evaluation of possible policy solutions to utilizing the full range of advocacy tools to promote policy change.
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: HPR 637
Prerequisites: pubh-500, pubh-507
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit