UAB School of Public Health  
Past, Present, and Future of Public Health in the Southeastern United States

Course Number: PUH399/PUH690: Special Topics in Public Health

Course Title: Past, Present, and Future of Public Health across the Southeast

Credit Hours: 6 - Credit Hours

Course Offering: Summer 2018 (May Term)

Course Instructor(s) Name: Lisa McCormick, DrPH

Teaching Assistant(s) Name: Meena Nabavi, MPH

Office Hours: Office hours by request

E-mail Policy: I will check email daily during the weekdays. I will respond to emails within 24-48 hours. When emailing me about this course, please put ‘PUH 399 or PUH690’ in the subject line and copy Mnabavi@uab.edu.

Preferred Method of Contact: The instructor’s UAB email account: lmcormick@uab.edu

Introduction/Course Description and Purpose of the Course:
Public health is what we do together as a society to ensure the conditions in which everyone can be healthy. This course will provide students an opportunity to learn about both historical and contemporary public health issues, their effects on population health, and how public health systems are working to solve the health issues affecting our communities today. This course will focus on the Southeast United States. Students will tour historically significant sites, visit communities and community-based organizations, attend featured presentations around both contemporary and historical public health issues, as well as visit local, state, tribal and federal public health agencies to learn about their structure, programs, service delivery models, and approaches to addressing issues of public health. The sum of this experience will illustrate the interdisciplinary nature of public health practice and the need to add attention to the social determinants of health – the conditions in the social, physical, and economic environment in which people are born, live, work and age – in order to achieve health equity. Travel is required for this course.

Prerequisites: None
Learning Objectives/Course Competencies Alignment

This course is designed to support students in acquiring competence in the following areas, as indicated in the GSU School of Public Health Graduate Student Handbook (see MPH Competencies).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Objectives</th>
<th>Public Health Competencies</th>
<th>Assessment Method</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify root causes of both historical and contemporary public health issues across the Southeast United States and their effects on population health.</td>
<td>MPH I-VII</td>
<td>Written assignments (presentation essay).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Describe how health systems, public health agencies, and community-based organizations are addressing the social determinants of health across diverse cultures and communities.</td>
<td>MPH VII</td>
<td>Written assignments (presentation essay).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compare and contrast the structure, programs, service delivery models, and approaches to addressing issues of public health of local, state, tribal and federal health departments.</td>
<td>MPH V-VI</td>
<td>Written assignments (presentation essay).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Express critical thinking regarding the effects of politics on the policies and operations of public health systems.</td>
<td>MPH V-VI</td>
<td>Written assignments (presentation essay).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demonstrate effective written communication skills</td>
<td>MPH IV</td>
<td>Written assignments (presentation essay).</td>
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System Requirements:
View the system requirements specified by the School of Public Health. If your computer does not meet the standards, you may encounter problems testing or accessing content. Laptops that do not meet the standards may not be used for testing. If you use a laptop that does not meet the minimum requirements, you will not be given additional time or opportunities during an exam as a result of laptop issues. Contact 205-934-7728 for technical problems within the School of Public Health or AskIT@uab.edu or call 205-996-5555 for other technical problems.
Browser Requirements:
Students will need to use Firefox or Google Chrome browsers in order to access Canvas.

Online Delivery System (Course Platform):
Course materials and readings will be delivered through Canvas by Instructure. You can access Canvas through BlazerNet or by visiting http://uab.instructure.com. You should log in using your Blazer ID and password. At any time you can contact the Canvas support team or user guides by clicking the Help button in the top right-hand side of the screen. You can also contact the Office of Student Services at soph@uab.edu for assistance.

Course Policies and Procedures:
Assignments should be submitted through Canvas by the specified due date. Each assignment will have a submission link. Click this link to upload your file. Papers will be checked by Turnitin.com within the Canvas system. Modules will open at the beginning of the May Term and will remain opened until the end of the semester. You will have access to discussion boards or assignments throughout, but they will not be accepted for grading after due date/time.

Time Requirements/Commitment: During the first week of the May Mini-term, students will be required to meet in class for 10 hours. (Exact days/time TBD.) All course participants will be required to meet at the SOPH on Sunday, May 13th at 5 pm to depart for Jackson, MS (the first stop on the tour.) We will return to Birmingham on Friday, May 25th by 5 pm. During the week of May 28th, students will be required to meet in class for 4 hours. (Exact days/time TBD.)

Required Reading/Course Materials
All readings will be provided via Canvas.

Class Format: Blended (Classroom and Travel).

Grading:
Attendance and Participation:
You are required to attend the in-class sessions the first week of class. Important information will be discussed, and you will be divided into groups that week.

Because this is a travel course and we are on a schedule, promptness regarding arrival and departure time is essential. Some evenings will be free and you will be allowed to explore on your own, but please make sure that you are ready to go at the appropriate time the next day.

Evaluation:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>% of Final Grade (Undergraduate)</th>
<th>% of Final Grade (Graduate)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public health priority concerns across the SE – Pre-presentations</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in travel portion of course, class attendance and active participation in discussions/lectures.</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daily Journal Reflection</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blogging Assignment - Weekly</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summary discussions of each public health topic, including the post-summary presentation development</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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**Graduate:** pre-trip presentations (25 points total): For each presentation, students address the following:

1. Describe the assigned public health issues or concern and discuss historical context in the Deep South.
2. Discuss relevant public health practice, policy, and/or research around issues.
3. Find at least three peer-reviewed journal articles published within the past 5 years related to your topic. Briefly summarize the article (2-3 sentences), and state how the work in the article compares to, complements, or builds on your assigned public health issue/concern?
4. What are the implications of issue/concern regarding population health?

**Undergraduate and Graduate:** Journal reflections (25 points total)

1. Students will be required to reflect on visits and presentations that were attended each day. This can be done via a paper journal, or via Canvas. A template will be provided to students outlining all components that should be included. Paper journals will be submitted the last week of class to allow time for the instructor to read and grade.

**Undergraduate and Graduate:** Blogging Assignments (5 points total)

1. Students will be divided into teams and will be required to write one pre-determined blog post for the day. Blog posts should include an outline of the day, including topics covered and places visited. Pictures should also be included. The blog will be updated daily and will be shared publically.

**Undergraduate and Graduate:** Post Presentation (20 points total)

1. Summary discussions of each public health topic, including the post-summary presentation development. Details TBD.
Grading Scale:
Graduate school does not use the grade of D.

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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>89-80</td>
<td>79-70</td>
<td>69-60</td>
<td>59-0</td>
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Incomplete Grades:
The UAB Incomplete Grade Policy states that a temporary grade notation of “I” for incomplete may be requested by the student prior to the end of the term and submitted at the course master’s discretion due to unforeseen circumstances that effect the student’s ability to complete course requirements. Students requesting consideration of an “I” grade must discuss with the course instructor, and agree upon a plan and a schedule for, completion of course requirements. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate this discussion, assure completion of this form and return it to the Office of Student and Academic Services. If no permanent grade is reported by the end of the subsequent term, an “F” will be automatically assigned to replace the “I”. Extension of “I” grades may be granted only upon written request of the course instructor to the associate dean for academic affairs. Here is the web link for SOPH Incomplete Grade Request Form: http://www.soph.uab.edu/media/osas%20forms/I%20grade%20form.pdf.

Policy on late assignments:
Due to the nature of this course, late assignments will not be accepted. Please plan on spending evening hours working in your groups, and submitting blog posts.

Accessibility:
UAB is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students. If you are a student with a disability that qualifies under Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and you require accommodations, please contact Disability Support Services for information on accommodations, registration and procedures. Requests for reasonable accommodations involve an interactive process and consist of a collaborative effort among the student, DSS, faculty and staff. If you are registered with Disability Support Services, please contact me to discuss accommodations that may be necessary in this course. If you have a disability but have not contacted Disability Support Services, please call 934-4205 or visit http://www.uab.edu/dss.

Title IX:
The University of Alabama at Birmingham is committed to providing an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have been the victim of sexual discrimination, harassment, misconduct, or assault we encourage you to report the incident. UAB provides several avenues for reporting. For more information about Title IX, policy, reporting, protections, resources and supports, please
visit [http://www.uab.edu/titleix](http://www.uab.edu/titleix) for UAB’s Title IX Policy and UAB’s Equal Opportunity and Anti-Harassment Policy.

**Honor Code:**
As a student in the School of Public Health, you are subject to the School of Public Health Student Honor Code which can be found at [http://www.soph.uab.edu/about/vision/honorcode](http://www.soph.uab.edu/about/vision/honorcode). You are responsible to understand the contents of the Honor Code and to abide by it. Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism is the undocumented use of other authors’ words, texts, images, and ideas that don't come from your own head. Making up sources, altering numbers, statistics, or just a few words of a document is considered plagiarism. Poor documentation or paraphrasing of a source is also considered plagiarism. Plagiarism in this course is taken seriously; any violations will be punished to the full extent allowable under the School of Public Health Honor Code. All assignments will be submitted through the Turn-It–In system to document the originality of your contributions to the class.

**Note:** Instructors reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus or course content at any time. It is your responsibility to check the announcements from the instructor often for changes in assignment requirements, due dates, and materials.

**Course Calendar:**

**Week #1**
Monday- May – All student’s meet for introduction and overview of course. Public Health Systems Lecture. Students divided into blogging teams. Graduate student assigned priority health concern/issue topics.

Friday – All students meet for graduate presentations.

Sunday May 13 - Leave Birmingham, Alabama travel to Jackson, Mississippi, Spend night in Jackson.

Monday, May 14-
- MSDH Tour. Meet with state health officer/state epidemiologist. Learn about structure of department, priority health concerns, key programs, and how funding public health in changing political climates. Also, how MSDH plans to better health status of its population.
- UMMC - ESF 8 Warehouse - Mass Casualty Disaster Response - Resources - Altered Standards of Care - Call center
- Spend the night in Jackson, MS
Tuesday, May 15 –
- Meet with Dr. Leandro Mena. HIV trends in Jackson, MS area - How to stop the epidemic - HIV continuum - Practice Transformation, etc.
- Meet with Daniel Chavez-Yenter - My Brother’s Keeper, Inc. (MBK).
- Mississippi State Sanatorium Museum - Tour and speaker in Magee, MS.
- Spend the night in Hattiesburg, MS.

Wednesday, May 16 –
- Visit the Salmon Test Site - Salmon Event at Tatum Salt Dome - Arrange speakers from MSDH Division of Rad Control and others - Public health concerns of populations in Baxterville, MS.
- Travel to New Orleans, LA in afternoon.
- Spend the night in New Orleans, LA

Thursday, May 17
- Visit New Orleans Health Department (Urban local health department versus MSDH)
- Visit Lower 9th Ward - Issues of poverty/public health and Hurricane Katrina
- Spend the night in New Orleans, LA

Friday, May 18
- Culture, food and eating healthy... in New Orleans!!!!
- Group Lunch.
- Travel to Bay St. Louis, Mississippi
- Travel to Biloxi. Spend the night in Biloxi.

Saturday, May 19
- Ship Island, Mississippi.
- Fort Massachusetts = 1880 first quarantine station
- Travel to Gulf Shores in the evening. Spend night in Biloxi.

Sunday, May 20
- Stay at Gulf Shores (Beach Day)
- Visit Gulf Coast Research Lab Or Dauphin Island
- Travel to Atmore, AL. Spend night at Atmore, AL.

Monday, May 21
- Poarch Creek Indian Health Department (State vs. Local vs Tribal). Spend morning at Dauphin Island.
- Travel to Montgomery in afternoon. Spend night in Montgomery.
Tuesday, May 22
- Travel to Tuskegee, AL.
- Visit Tuskegee Legacy Museum.
- Visit Tuskegee University (Syphilis experiment, and Human Subjects Research).
- Travel to Auburn. Spend night in Auburn.

Wednesday, May 23
- Visit Animal Health and Diagnostic Lab (Brad Fields is contact)
- Travel to Atlanta in the afternoon. Spend night in Atlanta.

Thursday, May 24
- Tour and Meetings at CDC
- Discussion of Health Policy at (City vs Tribal vs State vs Federal).
- Public Health Service Speaker
- Group Dinner in Atlanta.
- Spend night in Atlanta.

Friday, May 25
- Meetings at Emory University.
- Visit Atlanta Zoo.
- Visit Carter Center?
- Atlanta Belt Line Project?
- Travel to Birmingham in afternoon.