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## **PH - PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **Course Descriptions From Graduate Catalog**

#### **PH 7010 (3.00 credit hours)** **Foundations of Public Health Administration and Policy**

This course aims to both present and discuss the essential features of public health, linking general concepts to application in the real world. Topics will include a historical overview of public health structures and initiatives, focusing largely on efforts in the United States; health and illness; prevention versus treatment; identification of risk factors; and the current US public health system (federal, state and local). Students completing the course will gain a basic understanding of the mission, function, practices and examples of outcomes of public health efforts.

#### **PH 7011 (3.00 credit hours)** **Epidemiology for Public Health**

This course will cover basic principles of epidemiology, including outbreak investigation, disease control, and analysis of risk factors. Topics will include the history of epidemiology, overview of interdisciplinary collaborations, and examples of the use of epidemiology in developing and evaluating public health interventions. Class exercises will include developing case investigation forms, investigation of food borne disease, and establishing the cause of illness outbreaks.

#### **PH 7012 (3.00 credit hours)** **Health Planning and Program Development**

This course introduces the skills and techniques required to research and develop health planning initiatives at the community level and in regional and state systems. Students will be presented with the concepts, processes and techniques used in community health planning and will engage in various planning exercises. The course will provide the student with an understanding of the post-planning phases of program development and evaluation design. Health planning reviews will feature health service and systems promotion activities as well as planning functions employed by regulatory and financing entities.

**PH 7013 (3.00 credit hours)**  
**Health Care Quality Issues and Strategies**

This course will include a comprehensive review of health care quality and safety (access, process, outcomes, and disparities), patient experience (ability to make care decisions and self-manage care in a partnership with practitioners and providers), and efficiency (why waste, overuse, and costs of poor care). Additionally, health care quality issues and public and government strategies to address these areas will be discussed.

**PH 7014 (3.00 credit hours)**  
**Introduction to HIV/STD Public Health**

This course will provide a comprehensive overview of the public health of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) such as syphilis, chlamydia, gonorrhea, and hepatitis. Topics covered will focus on HIV/STD surveillance, epidemiology, behavior, prevention, and policy but include related aspects of history, medicine, society, politics, law, ethics, evaluation, advocate/activist community, and emerging developments. Though an international perspective will be provided, topics will be presented primarily in the context of domestic HIV/STD public health, particularly within the state of Georgia. HIV/STDs will be studied to assess similarities and differences of acquiring these infections and strategies/ challenges for their prevention and control. Presentations will be made by expert guest speakers as they are available and appropriate. By the end of the course, students will gain a comprehensive and practical understanding of HIV/STD public health and develop/improve skills that public health professionals routinely use as scientific writing, speaking, making presentations and critical thinking.

**PH 7015 (3.00 credit hours)**  
**Cancer and Society**

This course will help students understand the molecular and cellular aspects of cancer etiology and formulate a biological understanding of the process of cancer. Students will receive sufficient background to demystify and in some ways depersonalize the occurrence of cancer so as to facilitate discussion of cancer medicine, psychology, sociology, community programs and support.

**PH 7016 (3.00 credit hours)**  
**Introduction to Health Promotion**

This course examines the philosophical, theoretical and epidemiological assumptions underlying the planning, implementation, and evaluation of contemporary health promotion programs. Emphasis will be given to: (1) major trends in health promotion practice and research, (2) the essential skills associated with effective health promotion practice, and (3) the strategic importance of carrying out health promotion programs and policies in the context of various cultural and organizational entities that make up a community system.

**PH 7019. Health Research Methods (3.0 credit hours)**  
*Prerequisites: PH 7011, STAT 7010*

This course provides classroom instruction and application of research methods for studying public health problems. It provides general introduction to research methods, emphasizing systematic approaches to collection and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data. Students will learn to identify the kinds of research problems for which qualitative and quantitative methods are appropriate, and to critique research in terms of design, technique, analysis and interpretation. Topics will include questionnaire design, ethical conduct and informed consent, sample size determination, data management, manuscript preparation, and grant application methods.

**PH 7020 (3.00 credit hours)**  
**Principles of Tobacco Control**

Progress in reducing tobacco use is one of the ten greatest achievements of the 20th Century; however, tobacco use still remains as the leading preventable cause of death in America. The control of tobacco use draws upon many if not all of the academic disciplines that compose public health. In many ways the study of tobacco control serves as a case study for understanding the broad field of public health. This course will provide an overview of the history and evolution of tobacco in society, with particular emphasis on variety of public health disciplines used to reduce tobacco use, including behavior change, communications, law, regulation, public policy and community action.

**PH 7130 (3.00 credit hours)**  
**Law and Public Health Practice**

This course will provide non-law students with a basic understanding of the role of law in protecting the health interests of the public, implementing public health programs and conducting public health research.

**PH 7140 (3.00 credit hours)**  
**Social and Behavioral Aspects of Public Health**

The social and behavioral sciences are a core element of the practice of public health. Disciplines such as psychology, sociology, economics, anthropology, policy and communications underpin our understanding of health behavior and help devise interventions to improve population health. This course will review the contribution of the various social and behavioral sciences disciplines in improving the public health with special attention to approaches which influence health behavior, health policies and lead to community participation and empowerment.

**PH 7150 (3.00 credit hours)**  
**Environmental Health**

This course provides a basic multidisciplinary understanding of the science (biology/toxicology, chemistry, and engineering), practice, and selected laws and policy of environmental public health sciences (EPH sciences). Topics to be covered include: types and sources environmental contaminants; exposure assessment including media and pathways; types of microenvironments and role of human behavior and time-location-activity patterns; toxicology and the risk assessment paradigm; environmental and occupational epidemiology; communicating to the public about technical aspects (science, potential risks) of EPH sciences.

**PH 7155**  
**Air Quality and the Environment (3.0 credit hours)**

*Prerequisite: PH 7150*

This course reviews principles of exposure assessment and the basic components of risk assessment, management and communication. Students will explore representative, important historical and contemporary human exposure issues due to the contamination of the air outdoors (local and regional levels) by criteria pollutants and toxic air contaminants; and, biological, chemical, physical and radiological agents indoors at industrial and non-industrial (homes, schools, offices) settings that people live, work, learn, play and commute in/through. Course work will include critical reviews of research designs, chosen measurements of exposure, and interpretation of the descriptive and regression model statistical results.

**PH 7160 (3.00 credit hours)**  
**Introduction to the Healthcare System**

This course introduces and describes the health delivery system and the resources that comprise it. The theoretical basis for the system as well as the principal means of system organization and evaluation are discussed.

**PH 7170 (3.00 credit hours)**  
**Using Research to Develop Health Policy**

This course examines the relationship between research and policymaking. Complex health policy problems facing federal, state, and local policymakers today will be discussed.

**PH 7250 (3.00 credit hours)**  
**Health Care Finance**

The course will provide an introduction to health care finance with a particular emphasis on public health insurance issues. Students will be presented with the foundations of public and private health care financing, program operations and parameters with respect to coverage and payment, and the role states play in federally supported programs. The course will familiarize students with federal, state, and local funding mechanisms and outline the tools used to evaluate the impact of insurance programs on the health care delivery system. The problems of uninsurance, health care coverage and access, scarce health care resource allocation, and cultural challenges will be discussed, with an emphasis on learning how or if public and private funding and insurance programs can successfully address such problems.

**PH 7265 (3.00 credit hours)**  
**Epidemiology and Prevention of Violence**

This course examines the public health approach to the prevention of interpersonal and self-directed violence. This approach has four steps: Defining the problem; identifying the risk and protective factors; developing interventions or policies to address the problem; and, broadly implementing effective intervention and prevention programs. This includes a focus on scientific research which is essential for developing effective intervention and prevention programs. With these basic precepts as the underpinnings of the course, the areas of violence prevention to be covered are: child maltreatment, youth violence, intimate partner and sexual violence, elder abuse, and suicidal behavior.

**PH 7270 (3.00 credit hours)**  
**Intermediate Epidemiologic Methods**

*Prerequisite: PH 7011*

The methodological issues important to the design of epidemiologic studies of both infectious and noninfectious disease will be covered at an intermediate level. The material to be covered is intended to broaden and extend the student's understanding of the elements of study design, data analysis, and inference in epidemiologic research, including issues related to causation, bias, and confounding. The primary aims of the course are to provide a working knowledge of the fundamentals of epidemiology as well as to serve as a foundation for more advanced study of epidemiologic methods. This will provide the student with a rigorous approach to critical reading of the medical literature. Each week articles reporting on research using varied designs and methods will be reviewed in order to illustrate the application of epidemiologic principles. By the end of the course, the student will be able to critique an article and identify its strengths and weaknesses. The course will consist of lectures.

**PH 7275 (3.00 credit hours)**  
**Chronic Disease Epidemiology**

*Prerequisite: PH 7011*

The course focuses on review of major issues in chronic disease epidemiology, summarization or relevant pathology and analogies of population determinants and strategies for prevention. Topics include risk factors, trends, interventions and health care issues. An interdisciplinary approach to prevention and control will be addressed. Readings and discussions on classical and contemporary research papers in cardiovascular disease will be emphasized throughout the course.

**PH 7280 (3.00 credit hours)**  
**Infectious Disease Epidemiology**

*Prerequisite: PH 7011*

Infectious Disease Epidemiology is an in depth course on the epidemiology, surveillance, control, and prevention of current and emerging infectious diseases. The importance of the HOST (humans), the AGENT (bacteria, viruses, parasites, fungus, etc.) and the ENVIRONMENT (air, water, vectors, etc) as well as modes of TRANSMISSION, known RISK FACTORS, and TREATMENT modalities will be presented through guest lecturers and case studies. Student presentations on specific infectious diseases and active class discussion will be an integral aspect of this course.

### **PH7290 Case Studies in Epidemiology (3.0)**

This course will utilize real world epidemiologic case studies to enhance the students' knowledge in outbreak investigations, surveillance systems design and function, screening programs designs and objectives, the impacts of effect modification and confounding, vaccine efficacy, forensic epidemiology, and public health ethics. Each topic will be introduced through an interactive group-based case study or an in class discussion. The current literature relevant to each of the topics will also be critically evaluated. Students completing this course will apply theories of epidemiology and gain hands on experience through real public health data and real public health events.

### **PH 7295. Topics in Environmental Epidemiology (3.0)**

*Prerequisites: PH7011, PH7150*

This course will review of the main types of epidemiological study designs, the principles of exposure assessment (identify hazards, media and pathways then quantitative and qualitative measures, including before and after physical and/or educational interventions), and the basic components of health impact/risk assessment, management and communication. The course explores important historical and contemporary exposure-to-disease relationships due to the contamination of waters (drinking water, surface water and ground water aquifers) and of air (outdoors and inside homes, schools, offices and industrial settings). Students will undertake critical reviews of research study designs, measurement of exposure and health outcomes, and interpretation of the statistical results.

### **PH 7300 (3.00 credit hours)**

#### **Urban Health**

Disparities in health status are increasingly apparent in urban settings. Urban residents tend to have higher rates of cancer, heart disease, mental illness, substance abuse, HIV/AIDS and violent behavior than national averages. This course will examine the condition of urban health in America with particular focus on the health status of those living in the city of Atlanta. In addition, the possible determinants of poor health outcomes in urban areas will be examined, including issues such as poverty, housing, access to care, and discrimination. This course will showcase the research of the Georgia State University faculty participating in GSU's "Partnership for Urban Health Research."

### **PH 7350. Biological Basis of Disease (3.0)**

This course will cover the basic biological concepts of human health and disease. It will present human anatomy and physiology, genetics, immunology, and nutrition in the context of infectious and non-infectious causes of disease. The complex interaction of the human body with agents of disease and with the environment will be presented as it relates to risk factors, methods of prevention, and treatment options.

### **PH 7500 (3.00 credit hours) Health Communication**

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the dynamically emerging field of health communication -- the study of human interaction in the health care process. From a clinical perspective, communication is the singularly most important tool health professionals have to provide to their clients. Within public health fields, health communication is the dissemination and interpretation of health-related informational messages, persuasive health promotion, and motivational behavior recommendations. This course will explore health information sharing within the intrapersonal, interpersonal, group, organizational, and societal domains. The class will consider and discuss principal theories, rhetorical issues, and health communication practice with special attention to the challenges and perspectives of provider-client, organizational, and health promotion communication.

### **PH 7521 (3.00 credit hours) Evaluation Research**

An examination of the techniques and practice of program evaluation for effectiveness in program administration. The course contrasts deductive and inductive approaches. The instructor illustrates the advantages of using evaluation as a mechanism for program improvement.

### **PH 7530 (3.00 credit hours) Prevention Effectiveness and Economic Evaluation**

This course will provide students with important exposure to the rigorous, standardized approaches used to assess the effectiveness and economic impact of public health prevention interventions. It provides an overview and applied experiences in study design, decision analysis, measures of effectiveness, and measures of cost, including cost-benefit analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis and cost-utility analysis.

**PH 7600 (3.00 credit hours)**  
**Global Health**

This course focuses on public health issues resulting from the globalization of the world's economies, cultures, production systems, transnational polices, and increasingly-shared environmental. As national borders become less restrictive to the movement of people, products, toxins, capital, and lifestyles, enormous changes are resulting in the etiologies of diseases and efforts to promote health across the globe. Responding to the call of the Institute of Medicine, students will consider global views of causation, emerging determinants of health, and the ecological approach to global health problem analysis and solution building.

**PH 7650 (3.00 credit hours)**  
**Health Promotion: Applications in Community Settings**

This course focuses on the application of health promotion techniques and practices in community settings, including schools, work sites and health organizations. Students will use competencies and skills developed in earlier course work to review best practices programming and research and to develop and evaluate health promotion efforts in community venues.

**PH 7680 (3.00 credit hours)**  
**Behavioral Health Policy and Research**

This course explores the fields of mental health and addictive diseases as components of the broader public health system with the goal of enabling students to analyze major policy initiatives and trends, to apply their understanding to systemic problems and dilemmas facing the field, and to strengthen their ability to raise important questions for research in behavioral health. The course will explore federal and state policy formulation and consider issues in managed care, legal and judicial roles, children's services, consumer empowerment, disparities, and other areas related to quality and efficacy. Students also will become familiar with research methods used in mental health and substance abuse services and analyze the emerging research in the fields.

**PH 8100 (3.00 credit hours)**  
**Special Topics**

In depth exploration of public health issues and research in urban and/or international environments. Course may be taken again for additional credit if topic various.

**PH 7900 (1.00 – 6.00 credit hours)**  
**Contemporary Issues in Public Health**

*Prerequisite: Consent of the instructor*

This course provides an advanced research- or theory-oriented treatment of special or emerging topics in public health practice. The course can be repeated when topics vary.

**PH 7950 (3.00 – 6.00 credit hours)**  
**Public Health Internship**

*Prerequisite: Consent of the Instructor*

This course involves supervised field placement for the purpose of utilizing and extending the theories, concepts and practices learned through previous coursework. The work may involve a project.

**PH 7960 (3.00 – 6.00 credit hours)**  
**Public Health Practicum**

*Prerequisite: Consent of instructor*

The practicum is supervised application of skills, concepts and theories in a chosen public health setting. The work may also involve a research project.

**PH 7980 (1.00 – 12.00 credit hours)**  
**Research Practicum**

Directed research in collaboration with a faculty member. For graduate assistants. Does not count towards degree requirements.

**PH 7990 (1.00 – 3.00 credit hours)**  
**Thesis**

*Prerequisite: Consent of instructor*

Individual research and study of a selected topic of public health under the direction of the student's faculty advisor or designated faculty member.

**PH 8910 (1.00 – 3.00 credit hours)**  
**Directed Readings**

Directed readings in special areas.