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American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Public Service and Health

Public Health Program

PBHE 211 Public Health in America

Credit Hours: 3

8 Weeks

Prerequisite: None

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Instructor Information

Instructor: See information provided in the Syllabus link in the classroom

Email: Please use internal classroom messaging system

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Course Description (Catalog)

This course is a study of the public health system in America, to include national, state, and local public health policies, implementation, providers, and structures. The course addresses the system's strengths and weaknesses, and it looks out into the future to address looming issues in the first quarter of the 21st Century.

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Course Scope

This course is designed to provide the student with the understanding and importance of the role that Public Health plays in the United States. Students will study public health, politics, managed care issues and the changes that have evolved over the past several decades regarding public health. Students will conduct research in several areas related to public health and interest. This course will also allow students to distinguish the different roles played by local, state & federal government officials.

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Course Objectives

1. Define "Public Health"
2. Identify the core functions, scopes and limitations of "Public Health."
3. Describe how Epidemiology pertains to Public Health.
4. Identify methods by which Public Health can respond to the threat of new emerging infections & other diseases entities.
5. Identify how race, gender & socioeconomic circumstances can influence modern responses to public health crises.
6. Discuss why setting standards for air & water quality, food & drug safety and control and disposal of hazardous material has proved to be politically controversial.
7. Define the role that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) plays in assuring food and drug safety.
8. Identify factors that influence health care costs in the United States.
9. List the "Top 10 Public Health Achievements of the 20th Century."
10. Identify the goals set by Healthy People 2020.

*Also please see weekly course objectives

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Course Delivery Method

This course delivered via distance learning will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access

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to an online learning management system will be made available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday evening of the week as noted and include Forum questions (accomplished in groups through a threaded forum), examination, and individual assignments submitted for review by the Faculty Member). Assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

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Course Resources

Required Course Textbook(s):

Schneider, M. *Introduction to Public Health* (4th Ed.). Jones and Bartlett Publishers International, Canada. ISBN: 9781284046359

American Psychological Association (2009). *American Psychological Association Publication Manual*, 6th Edition Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Required Readings

N/A

Software Requirements

Microsoft Word (if you don't have MS Word, please save all files a Text file (.txt) or a Rich Text Format (.rtf)

Adobe Reader -- Go to <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html> to download the latest version. This download is free.

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Evaluation Procedures

Reading Assignments: Please refer to the Course Outline section of this syllabus for the weekly reading assignments.

Supplemental Readings: Any supplemental readings in this class will be listed in the "Lessons" area of the courseroom.

Forum Assignments: Each week students will submit the assigned internet exercises to the forum only for that week. This assignment is due no later than midnight Sunday of Weeks 1-7 of the term. Details for this assignment are

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discussed below. **More detailed information will be given in the beginning of the class.**

Original responses to the forum group question need to be substantial and significant and, if possible, supported **by at least one additional scholarly reference that goes beyond the course textbook.** Students are encouraged to use the APUS Online Library to search for peer-reviewed journal articles that help support their argument. The citation and references will be in APA Style.

The weekly essay will be at least **250-300** words in length. Please post directly on the forum by **Wednesday** of each week to give your fellow students a chance to respond. If received late, the initial response will incur 3% per day late penalty based on the established class late policy. You do not need to upload this essay to your files. All postings should contribute and advance the class knowledge of the course themes. You are encouraged to "get out of your comfort zones" when making your arguments. The reason behind this activity allows everyone to analyze work from many different perspectives allowing the critical thinking process to grow. Please be aware that just 'cutting and pasting' sections of articles (in lieu of writing an essay) is not acceptable and will negatively impact the grade for that week.

You will also be required to respond to at least two (2) other students posting with significant comments that have substance by **Sunday** of each week. The 2 participation responses to other classmates (or to my additional questions/responses) are due no later than the end of the week. If these 2 responses are posted after the week is ended (after Sunday), they receive a zero in that the discussion is over and you cannot receive credit for participation in a discussion with others after the discussion week has been closed. If possible, your postings should be supported by a good scholarly reference in APA Format. If possible - one of the student's responses to another's work should be from an opposing viewpoint. Your response to your peers work should be engaging and informative with good substance (just stating "I agree..." is not acceptable). Your responses should contribute in a meaningful way to helping advance our knowledge of the topics the class explores.

All essays and responses must be written in a scholarly manner - utilizing good grammar and punctuation (I encourage everyone to use Spell Check - available in the Forum). Your responses to another's work should be posted as a sub-thread to the student's original posting whom you are commenting. All responses are due no later than Sunday at 2359 hours.

Any reference citations should be formatted in APA Style. There is help with

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proper APA Style formatting in the course materials section of the electronic classroom which can be found on the menu bar on the course homepage. I have also included some additional APA articles and sites in the Week 7 Lesson.

Students will be responsible for providing a peer response posting for at least two (2) of their peers' postings, unless there are less than 3 students in the course, where only one (1) peer posting will be required. Peer postings should challenge or expound upon at least one of the points made by your peer, and "I agree" does not constitute as an adequate response. Students will be expected to provide comprehensive, relevant and well supported points in your assignments.

We all bring something unique to the classroom, from our understanding, our experiences, and our value systems. We honor and respect each person's diverse beliefs to help us see beyond the classroom to be the most effective individuals we can be. Therefore, we should all be respectful of others while expressing our viewpoints and opinions. Proper netiquette behavior is expected. Any inflammatory, demining or disrespectful language in a posting will be immediately removed from the discussion space.

*****All initial responses are due to the Forum area of the course by Sunday of the week; while all peer responses are due to the Forum area of the course by Tuesday of the following week*****

Homework Assignments: Assignments **must** follow American Psychological Association (APA) guidelines for reference and bibliographic citation. If necessary, refer to *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th Edition). 2009. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association. Other APA websites are available through the Library and some are listed in the Week 7- Research Paper Packet.

****The paper must be typed, double-spaced with 1-inch margins in 12-point Times New Roman font with all references cited. Papers will be graded based upon: 1). the extent to which students followed directions for the assignment, and 2). overall presentation (including clarity of argument, grammar and spelling) (see grading rubric for more specific grading information).**

You must submit your final papers through **Turnitin.com** and place a copy of your final paper in your student file as a back-up. Refer to the section on Turnitin in the Academic Resources section of this syllabus. Below are instructions for you to access Turnitin for this course. Please be aware that Turnitin is a site that checks for plagiarism. The University Library offers tools in the Research Center to help you analyze your papers for possible plagiarism violations. [Online Library Research Center](#)

Exams: There will be 2 exams during the course. The quizzes will be open book open notes. Students will complete the quiz off line and input responses into the

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Quiz Shell located in the Test and Quizzes on the Course page. The students will have unlimited amount of time to work on the quizzes but students can only submit the quizzes once as a final submission.

Final Paper: An important component of this course is the research paper (25%). Select a topic pertinent to Public Health in America. Write an 8-12 page paper that will include at least 4-6 evidence/research-based references (**no Wikipedia!**), an abstract, a graph or chart (data) if applicable to your topic (*should not take up more than 1/4 of a page*).

Your research paper may include (if applicable to your topic) the following information:

- Historical Perspective/Background information on your topic
- Population affected
- Environmental issues
- Epidemiological Research
 - o Data Use
 - o Morbidity & Mortality Patterns
- Public Health issues & interventions
- Medical Response
 - o Prehospital (if applicable)
 - o Hospital
 - o Other
- Government response
 - o Local vs. State vs. Federal
- Economic Factors/Issues
- Media Coverage/Communication Issues
- Logistical Issues
 - o What worked – what didn't - why
- Aftermath
- Lessons Learned

The research paper should include an introduction of the topic, a body in which the topic is developed and references cited, and a well-defined conclusion. I **strongly recommend** that you contact me with the topic of your paper before you begin your research. The topic you choose may be too broad or too narrow, and a discussion may help you to focus so that your learning will be maximized and your paper will be the best it can be. Your paper can be turned in at any time, but must be submit no later than the last regularly scheduled day of Week 7.

Students' final grades will be posted as soon as the instructor receives and evaluates all the work. Official grades will continue to be issued by the University on the grade report form. Instructors have 7 days from the end of the semester to

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submit their grades to the University. Students should not telephone the University looking for grades until at least 30 days after the end of the semester.

<u>Grade Instruments:</u>	<u>% of Final Grade</u>
Forum Initial Post & Replies	35%
Exam # 1	20%
Exam # 2	20%
Final Paper	<u>25%</u>
	100%

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8 – Week Course Outline

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference the University's [grading scale](#).

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Week	Topic(s)	Learning Objective(s) Weekly objectives will be found in the Lessons	Reading(s) All material is available in the Weekly Lessons	Assignments
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<p>Week 1</p>	<p>What is Public Health ?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Public Health: Science, Politics & Prevention <input type="checkbox"/> Why is Public Health Controversial? <input type="checkbox"/> Powers & Responsibilities of Government 	<p>Define what is meant by Public Health and identify its core functions</p>	<p>Schneider: Prologue and Chapters 1-3</p> <p>View video "Why Don't We Do it In Our Sleeves"</p> <p>Read article</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> "Rise in Health Care Spending & What to do About it" <input type="checkbox"/> 'Professions of Public Health" <input type="checkbox"/> Market Justice/Social Justice <p style="text-align: center;">* * *</p> <p>Additional articles & websites available in Week 1 Lesson (located under Lessons)</p>	<p>New group: Virtual Introduction: Introduce yourself to the class by posting a message about yourself on the Forum</p> <p>Essay Question #1 – See Forum – Week 1 for more information</p> <p>Post Essay inside Forum and respond to two other postings</p>
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<p>Week 2</p>	<p>Analytical Methods of Public Health <input type="checkbox"/> Epidemiology: The Basic Science of Public Health <input type="checkbox"/> Epidemiologic Principles & Methods <input type="checkbox"/> Problems & Limits of Epidemiology <input type="checkbox"/> Statistics: Making Sense of Uncertainty <input type="checkbox"/> The Role of Data in Public Health</p>	<p>Describe how epidemiologic methods are used to investigate causes and trends in disease occurrence.</p>	<p>Schneider: Chapters 4-8</p> <p>View PBS Nova: "1918 Influenza" <input type="checkbox"/> The virus that killed up to 50 million people is brought back to life to decipher its deadliness. See the commonalities between this virus and the fear of an Avian & Swine Flu pandemic in our time</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p>Additional articles/websites (available in Week 2 Lessons</p>	<p>Essay Question #2 -</p> <p>See Forum - Week 2 for more information</p> <p>Post Essay inside Forum and respond to two other postings</p>
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<p>Week 3</p>	<p>Biomedical Basis of Public Health <input type="checkbox"/> The "Conquest" of Infectious Diseases <input type="checkbox"/> The Resurgence of Infectious Diseases <input type="checkbox"/> The Biomedical Basis of Chronic Diseases <input type="checkbox"/> Genetic Diseases & Other Inborn Errors</p>	<p>Identify methods by which Public Health can respond to the threat of new emerging infections & other diseases entities.</p>	<p>Schneider, Chapters 9- 12 Read Article: <input type="checkbox"/> 'Healthcare Worker (HCW) Response to an Influenza Pandemic' <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Facts about HIV & AIDS *** Additional articles/websites (available in Week 3 Lessons)</p>	<p>Essay Question # 3 See Forum – Week 3 for more information Post paper inside Forum and respond to two other postings</p>
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<p>Week 4</p>	<p>Social and Behavioral Factors in Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Do People Choose their Own Health? <input type="checkbox"/> How Psychosocial Factors Affect Health Behavior <input type="checkbox"/> Tobacco – Public Health Enemy 	<p>Analyze how race, gender & socioeconomic circumstances have influenced modern responses to public health crises.</p>	<p>Schneider, Chapters 13-18</p> <p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> "Young Smokers – Are They Different" <input type="checkbox"/> "Food Fights & Food Trends" <p>View: Frontline Video: "Diet Wars" (esp. section on Childhood Obesity)</p> <p>Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Broken Promises 2007 <input type="checkbox"/> Obesity in America <p>*** Additional articles/websites (available in Week 4)</p>	<p>Essay Question # 4</p> <p>See Forum – Week 4 for more information</p> <p>Post paper inside Forum and respond to two other postings</p> <p>Mid-Term Exam</p>
<p>Week 5</p>	<p>Environmental Issues in Public Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A Clean Environment: The Basis of Public Health <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Air: Is it Safe to Breathe? <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Water: A limited Resource <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Wastes: 	<p>Discuss why setting standards for air & water quality, food & drug safety, and control & disposal of hazardous material has proved to be to politically controversial. Define the role that the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) plays in assuring food & drug safety</p>	<p>Schneider, Chapters 19-24</p> <p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Knowlton, K (2001) "Urban History, Urban Health" <input type="checkbox"/> "Effects of Air Pollution on Blood Pressure" <input type="checkbox"/> "Deaths from Water-related diseases" <p>*** Additional articles/websites (available in Week 5 Lessons)</p>	<p>Essay Question # 5</p> <p>See Forum – Week 5 for more information</p> <p>Post Essay inside Forum and respond to two other postings</p>

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<p>Week 6</p>	<p>Medical Care and Public Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Is the medical Care System a Public Health System <input type="checkbox"/> Why the U.S. Medical System Needs Reform <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services Research: Finding What Works <input type="checkbox"/> Public Health and the Aging Population 	<p>Identify factors that influence health care costs in the United States. List 3 challenges faced by our aging population</p>	<p>Schneider, Chapters 25-28.</p> <p>View: (as many as possible)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Frontline Video: "Living Old" <input type="checkbox"/> Frontline Video "Sick Around the World" <input type="checkbox"/> Frontline Video "Sick Around America" <input type="checkbox"/> 60 Minutes: "Health Care Gets a Boost From Charity" <input type="checkbox"/> <p style="text-align: center;">* * *</p>	<p>Essay Question # 6</p> <p>See Forum – Week 6 for more information</p> <p>Post Essay inside Forum and respond to two other postings</p>
<p>Week 7</p>	<p>Public Health in America and Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Examine an issue pertaining to Public Health that is of importance to you 	<p>Using Evidence-based research articles and web-sites</p>	<p>Explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> AHRQ website (link in Lesson) <input type="checkbox"/> Read: <input type="checkbox"/> "Evidence-Based Practice" <input type="checkbox"/> "Consumer Health, Patient Education & the Internet" <p>* Additional articles/websites (available in Week 7 Lesson) **APA format & Turnitin information available in Week 7 – Final Paper Lesson.</p>	<p>Research Paper Due</p> <p>On Forum submit a brief synopsis of your final paper topic & respond to two other postings</p>

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<p>Week 8</p>	<p>The Future of Public Health <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Preparedness Post 9/11 <input type="checkbox"/> Public Health in the 21st Century: Achievements & Challenges</p>	<p>List the "Top 10 Public Health achievements of the 20th Century" and identify the goals set by Healthy People 2020</p>	<p>Schneider, Chapters 29-30 Review: <input type="checkbox"/> "Leading Indicators for Healthy People 2020" <input type="checkbox"/> Improving Health Literacy *** Additional articles/websites (available in Week 8 Lessons) End of Class</p>	<p>Essay Question # 8 See Forum – Week 8 for more information Post inside Forum and respond to two other postings Final Exam Due</p>
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Policies

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

- [Drop/Withdrawal Policy](#)
- [Plagiarism Policy](#)
- [Extension Process and Policy](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

Writing Expectations

As graduate students, the students will be expected to provide comprehensive, relevant and well supported points in all the written works. The students are advised to proofread for grammar and spelling as well as for flow and organization of all written works. All submitted work should adhere to a font and page set-up that is readable and neat. The students are expected to follow APA formats. Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow APA guidelines. This course will require students to use the citation and reference style established by the American Psychological Association (APA), in which case

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students should follow the guidelines set forth in *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). (2001). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.

Citation and Reference Style

Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow APA guidelines. This course will require students to use the citation and reference style established by the American Psychological Association (APA), in which case students should follow the guidelines set forth in *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.

Late Assignments and Discussions

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments, quizzes, and/or all works by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, graduate students, and working professionals it is understood that students must manage competing demands on their time. The policy for late submissions of weekly exercises and quizzes is 20 percentage points deducted for each day late. After five days late, no credit will be given.

There is no late policy for the final exam. The final exam must be completed by the last day of the course. No assignments will be accepted after the end of the course unless a student has an approved extension (see extension policy). Should a student need additional time to complete an assignment, quizzes, or other works, please contact the instructor before the due date so the situation can be discussed and an acceptable resolution can be determined. Routine late submission of assignments will adversely affect student's final course grade.

Netiquette

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of

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color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.

- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add "emoticons" to help alert your readers: ;-), :), ☺

Disclaimer Statement

Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

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Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

- **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors' publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
- **Tutor.com:** AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. [Tutor.com](http://tutor.com) connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.

Request a Library Guide for your course
(<http://apus.libguides.com/index.php>)

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The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu.

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Turnitin.com

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Selected Bibliography

Please refer to the Sakai classroom for additional references.

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