OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE

COURSE NAME: PUBLIC HEALTH: COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT

COURSE CREDIT: 4 UNITS

FACULTY: Nicole D. Vick, MPH, CHES
(323) 459-2695
ndvick@sbcglobal.net

Meeting Time: 5:40PM-7:05PM
Office Hours: immediately after class and by appointment
Meeting Location: Johnson Hall 303

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course provides a focused approach to the fundamentals of public health. Core topics covered in this course include: history and core disciplines within public health, the role of government, health inequities and disparities, environmental health, infectious and chronic diseases, tobacco and substance abuse, and the future of public health

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Upon completion of the course, you will be able to:

• Discuss the history and core principles of public health
• Describe the role of community and public health in the well-being of populations
• Analyze the determinants of health and their impact on health outcomes (e.g. life expectancy)
• Describe the public health organizational structure
• Analyze a self-selected public or community health problem

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:
EVALUATION METHODS:
Final grade will be based on the student’s performance (and points) on the following assignments and examinations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Number of points possible</th>
<th>My Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam (take home)</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Project: Public Health Program/Intervention</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Movie Review</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation/Attendance</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extra Credit - Current Event (2 maximum)</td>
<td>20 (10 points each)*</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>550</td>
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GRADING SCALE (in percentage):

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A     = 93 – 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-    = 90 – 92.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+    = 87 – 89.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B     = 83 – 86.9</td>
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<td>B-    = 80 – 82.9</td>
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<td>C+    = 77 – 79.9</td>
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<td>C     = 71 – 76.9</td>
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<td>C-    = 70 – 70.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+    = 68 – 69.9</td>
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<td>D     = 63 – 67.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-    = 60 – 62.9</td>
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<td>F     = 59.9 - Below</td>
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DATE OF FINAL EXAM: May 9, 2014 1-4 PM

Other
- Assignments are due on the due date. Late submissions will result in a loss of points (see below for details)
- Students having difficulty attending class due to medical or other excusable issues must inform the instructor immediately by email or by phone.
- Students are expected to treat each other and the instructor with courtesy and respect.
- Any personal information disclosed by students in the class is considered confidential

Late Assignments
Late assignments will be accepted with a deduction in points -10% reduction in points per day. Assignments more than 3 days late will not be accepted. Exceptions can be made in certain situations. Please reach out to me sooner rather than later if you know your assignment will be late.
SPRING SEMESTER SCHEDULE:

The following schedule may be changed at the instructor’s discretion. Guest speakers may be added to the schedule and may require some changes in dates and topics. Readings should be finished before the class to allow for meaningful discussion and participation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic and Assignments Due</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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| Week 1:    | **1/22/14**  
Introductions  
Ice Breaker  
Review of Course  
Review of Expectations (Student and Instructor)  
**LECTURE**: Defining Public Health  
**LECTURE**: Public Health 101 (LA County) | Chapter 1 |
| Week 2:    | **1/27/14**  
**LECTURE**: Public Health Core Functions/Essential Services  
**ACTIVITY**: Ten Essential Services of Public Health  
**LECTURE**: Health from an Ecological Perspective | Chapter 2 |
|            | **1/29/14**  
**Class Discussion Question**: Poverty and Health – Is poverty a cause of poor health in a community, or is poor health a cause of poverty? How would different views of this question influence public health policy?  
**MOVIE**: Unnatural Causes  
Segment 1: In Sickness and in Wealth | |
| Week 3:    | **2/3/14**  
**LECTURE**: Determinants of Health/Health Equity  
**VIDEO**: “A Tale of Two Women” (LAANE) | Chapter 2 |
|            | **2/5/14**  
**MOVIE**: Unnatural Causes  
Segment 5: Place Matters  
**ACTIVITY**: “The Last Straw” Board Game | |
| Week 4:    | **2/10/14**  
**LECTURE**: Public Health Disease Control and Epidemiology  
**VIDEO**: “Outbreak” | Chapter 10 |
|            | **2/12/14**  
**CASE STUDY**: STD Prevention – South Los Angeles  
**Guest Speaker**: Staff, Division of HIV/STD Programs | |
| Week 5:    | **2/17/14**  
**PRESIDENT’S DAY - NO CLASS** | |
|            | **2/19/14**  
**LECTURE**: Public Health Disease Control and Epidemiology (Part II)  
**ACTIVITY**: “Outbreak at Watersedge”/ Epidemic! | Chapter 10 |
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| **Week 6:**| 2/24/14  
LECTURE: Public Health and the Law  
ACTIVITY: Public Health and the Law  
Reading: Chapter 4 |
|            | 2/26/14  
Guest Speaker: Public Health Attorney                                                    |         |
| **Week 7:**| 3/3/14  
CASE STUDY: Motor Vehicle Laws and Tobacco Control  
*Take home Midterm Exam distributed.*  
Reading: Chapter 4 |
|            | 3/5/14  
**NO CLASS**                                                                                |         |
| **Week 8:**| 3/10/14  
SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS                                                                     |         |
| **Week 9:**| 3/17/14  
LECTURE: Public Health and the Affordable Care Act  
MIDTERM EXAM DUE  
Reading: Chapter 3 |
|            | 3/19/14  
LECTURE: Public Health Education and Information  
Reading: Chapter 11 |
| **Week 10:**| 3/24/14  
LECTURE: Public Health and Emergency Preparedness  
Guest Lecture: Sinan Khan, Emergency Preparedness and Response Program  
Reading: Chapter 5 |
|            | 3/26/14  
Guest Lecture: DPH Emergency Preparedness Program  
John Jones/Sharon Sylvers/Shamika Ossey – Teen Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) |
| **Week 11:**| 3/31/14  
LECTURE: Public Health and Chronic Disease Prevention  
MOVIE: Unnatural Causes  
Segment 4: Bad Sugar |
|            | 4/2/14  
CASE STUDY: Childhood obesity in the United States: analysis of the problem, government policy, corporate influence, and intervention design and evaluation  
* Possible National Public Health Week Field trip on 4/5 or 4/12 |
| **Week 12:**| 4/7/14  
LECTURE: Occupational and Environmental Health  
Reading: Chapter 8 |
|            | 4/9/14  
MOVIE: Unnatural Causes  
Segment 6: Collateral Damage  
CASE STUDY: Environmental Justice in South Los Angeles- Oil drilling near USC/Loyola Marymount University. |
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 13:</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/14/14</td>
<td>The Public Health Workforce</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
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<td>4/16/14</td>
<td><strong>LECTURE:</strong> Careers in Public Health</td>
<td>Chapter 12-13</td>
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<td><strong>Guest Speakers:</strong> Public Health Nurse, Public Health Investigator, Health Educator, MD.</td>
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<td><strong>MOVIE REVIEW DUE</strong></td>
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<td>Week 14:</td>
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<td>4/21/14</td>
<td><strong>LECTURE:</strong> The Future of Public Health</td>
<td>Chapter 12-13</td>
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<td><strong>PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS DUE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>4/23/14</td>
<td>Group presentations</td>
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<td>Week 15:</td>
<td>Group presentations</td>
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<td>4/28/14</td>
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<td>4/30/14</td>
<td>Final Exam Prep</td>
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<td>Week 16:</td>
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<td>5/9/14</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM 1-4 PM</strong></td>
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**GROUP PROJECT - PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTION/PROGRAM – DUE APRIL 21, 2014**

Complete an analysis of a public health program that is formatted in a 6-8 page paper with an accompanying 10-12 slide PowerPoint presentation or poster that will be presented in class.

1. Identify a population-based public health problem in a specific geographic area (e.g. city, LA County Service Planning Area, etc.).
2. Provide a description of the health problem
3. Gather data from your local county health department that documents the problem and defines/illustrates the scope of the problem
4. Identify and discuss barriers to solving the selected health problem. Some examples are:
   a. Services needed
   b. Access
   c. Communication challenges
   d. Regulatory/political issues
   e. Economic and budgetary issues
   f. Population/human impact
5. Identify and discuss major stakeholders who would be involved in solving the health problem.
6. Make three recommendations to solve the health problem.
MOVIE REVIEW: UNNATURAL CAUSES – DUE APRIL 16, 2014
During the course of the class, we will watch four segments of the film Unnatural Causes. Choose a segment that interests you and write a 2-4 page paper about how the segment impacted you and how it relates to your life and/or your community. Again, please be sure to use a method of citation (e.g. APA format) when using information from an outside source. There is no right or wrong answer for this assignment. I would like to see adequate discussion about your impressions of the segment you chose as well as some questions that came up for you while watching the movie. Think about how all of this is very different from the “old school” perception of health. In general, health is seen as a personal responsibility. Discuss how the film turns this concept on its head. Also, be sure to address the public health implications of the topics discussed in the film. Below are some questions to consider for each segment:

In Sickness and In Wealth:
- Is it fair that health is directly related to wealth?
- Is health care a right or a privilege? How can our country address this issue?
- Discuss how what we learned about chronic stress in our text plays a part in the differences in health status among those that are well to do and those that are not.
- What role does “everyday” vs. “structural” racism affect health?
- Do conditions in your community promote or hinder healthy choices? Give examples?

Bad Sugar:
- Prior to viewing the film, what media coverage have you read, seen or heard about diabetes or about groups with high rates of a particular disease? How do you think media stories influence policy decisions?
- Talk about what happened to the Pima Indians and the impact loss of water had on their prosperity, culture and way of life? Who benefited from their loss?
- Discuss how poverty, oppression, disempowerment and ‘futurelessness’ are health threats

Place Matters:
- Discuss how built space and the social environment have a direct impact on residents’ health.
- What conditions do affluent neighborhoods take for granted that promote better health?
- Discuss how the following affect health outcomes:
  - Proximity to environmental hazards
  - Quality of schools
  - Quality of affordable housing
  - Frequency of violence and crime
  - Opportunities for social interaction with neighbors
  - Access to affordable, healthy food choices
  - Places to walk or do other kinds of physical activities
- Explain the following quote: “the choices of individuals are often limited by the environments in which they live”

Collateral Damage:
- What role did the imbalance of power between a nation like the U.S. and the Marshall Islands play in the decision to conduct nuclear tests there? How might that decision differed if the islands were closer to U.S. territory or home to people of European heritage or descent?
- What responsibility do you think the U.S. has to improve living conditions on Ebeye?
- How have globalization and the U.S. military presence disrupted the economy, culture and diet of the Marshallese?

Additional information for your paper can be found at:
http://www.unnaturalcauses.org/about_the_series.php
EXTRA CREDIT (maximum of 2, worth 10 points each)- DUE MAY 9, 2014

Current Event Article: Locate a newspaper or magazine article on any of the public health topics covered in class. The article can be collected from a reliable newspaper, magazine, or health agency site on the Internet. Each current event assignment will need to include the following for full credit:

1. A copy of the complete article attached to the assignment (or a link to the article if found online)
2. Source of article, including date and author

Your essay should include:

1. A brief summary of the article
2. Your opinion of the credibility of the article and an explanation as to why.
3. Your opinion of the article (i.e. accurate, sales hype, poorly done research, surprising information)
4. Any new and relevant information that you came across while reading the article

The extra credit assignment must be at least one page in length, double spaced, with one inch margins.

Public Health Meeting, Event, or Conference: Attend a Personal/Public Health meeting, event, or conference (an example would be a seminar on how to manage your diabetes, or a presentation on incorporating fruits and vegetables into your diet). I will make as many of these types of events available to you as possible, but you may seek out meetings on your own. Please check with me before you go to make sure the event is acceptable for this assignment. After you attend the meeting, I will need the following:

1. A copy of the meeting agenda, the flyer advertising the event, or some other form of information that explains the nature of the event (link to a website, etc.)
2. An essay discussing the nature of the event, how it relates to public health, what was discussed or presented, and what you learned by attending.

The extra credit assignment must be at least one page in length, double spaced, with one inch margins.

Potential field trip – April 5 or April 12, 2013 (National Public Health Week)