

## Essential Issues in Public Health Policy

### Course Syllabus :

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#### I. Course Description

Public health systems are operating within a context of ongoing changes, which exert several pressures on the public health systems. These changes include: shifts in demographic and epidemiological trends in diseases (including the emergence and re-emergence of new diseases) and in the prevalence of risk and protective factors; new technologies for health care, communication and information; existing and emerging environmental hazards, some associated with globalization; and health reform.

This course examines the relationship between research and policymaking. Complex health policy problems facing local, national, and international policymakers today will be discussed. This course is about understanding essential public health issues and related policies in national and international contexts. It is also about understanding public health systems and policy interactions. On this module students develop a critical understanding of the public health, and are encouraged to engage in critical debate using historical and theoretical perspectives to examine major public health issues and policy developments. This course examines public health and healthcare policy from a public health perspective. Students are encouraged to draw on and share their own experience to inform their understanding of contemporary public health.

Emphasis is placed on collaborative working by students in evaluating current policies and practices as well as in generating new ideas

Over the course of the semester, we will discuss local, national, and international health policies in order to improve our understanding of how and why policies were and are developed and how research, politics, and other social factors inform the health policymaking process. Students will relate policies, practices, and the

ideologies which shape them, to the prevailing social and economic conditions. Social inequalities, particularly the widening 'health gap' are a key theme in developing and developed nations. Students have the opportunity to apply generalised knowledge to specific areas of public health policy and practice and to reflect critically on the implications of policy interventions across multiple disciplines and agencies. In preparation for the assessment taught sessions are complemented by student-led group work in which students relate general issues to their own experience and practice as well as that of their peers. Students also focus on the geographic context of public health: local, national and international. Assessment of this module is by Patchwork text. This is a learning and assessment process where students build up a final piece of written work through an iterative process of peer feedback and review. A patchwork assessment is basically a collection of sub tasks that are given to groups or individuals which can then be used within a final synthesis

## II. Learning Objectives

After the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- ✓ Describe public health organization
- ✓ Recognize essential public health issues
- ✓ Explain, debate and evaluate current public health issues and policies.
- ✓ Explore inter-linkages between public health, social determinants, social inequality, health gaps and health policy formulation.
- ✓ Describe evidence-based policy for managing key public health issues
- ✓ Discuss and critique health policy problems and health policy-related research
- ✓ Apply **and utilize analytical methods**, commonly used policy frameworks, and policy theory in the analysis of a **contemporary health policy issue**.
- ✓ Identify how research, politics, and other social factors affect healthcare policy formulation and implementation

### SECONDARY OBJECTIVES

- To gain the ability to work in teams.
- To attain oral and written presentation skills through the analysis and reporting of case situations.
- To acquire the skills of discussion, negotiation, and organize your ideas.
- To enhance your research ability
- To provide an opportunity for developing your teamwork and interpersonal skills

- To express ideas clearly, logically and persuasively in oral and written communication.

Prerequisite(s):	No prerequisites are required for this course. Introduction to the Health care System is recommended
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**TEACHING METHOD:**

The course will combine lectures with case analyses. A typical class includes reviewing key points of each session using power point presentations, discussing some cases, as it relates to our chapter discussions. “Essential Issues in Public Health Policy” are best learned through real examples and cases. In order to achieve maximum benefits from this course, students are expected to be thoroughly prepared before each session of the class. Students are required to offer their insights and observations in each of the cases to be discussed or presented in the class, as I will provide guidelines during discussions.

Assessment Method(s):  
Seminar Participation; Discussion Forums

**III. Evaluation and Requirements:**

**Attendance Policy:**

Since the course contain case studies and discussion, attendance and participation in discussion are significant and count in final marks of the course. students are expected to participate actively in class and in the learning process. At a minimum, active participation requires completion of the assigned readings and attention to emerging research, health policy news, and world events. core courses of management should be taken before admitted to this course.

**Grade Determination:**

Course grades will be determined as follows:

Individual Class Attendance and Participation	10%	
Individual Quizzes (4)	20%	<b>Kommentar [a1]: 10</b>
Team Presentation	10%	
Midterm exam	20%	<b>Kommentar [a2]: 30</b>
final exam	40%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Grading:

A 90-100%	<b>Kommentar [a3]: 100</b>
B 80-89%	

- C 70-79%
- D 60-69%
- E Below 60%

In order to pass this course successfully, a passing grade (>60%) must be achieved.

#### IV. Instructional Materials:

##### 1- Textbooks

- Teitelbaum, J.B. and Wilensky, S.E. 2013. Essentials of Health Policy and Law. Second Edition. Burlington, MA: Jones and Bartlett Learning/American Public Health Association Press.
- Merson, M., Black, R., and Mills, A. eds. "Global Health: Diseases, Programs, Systems, and Policies, Third Edition." Jones and Bartlett, 2011.
- Soskolne, C. ed. "Sustaining Life on Earth: Environmental and Human Health through Global Governance." Lexington Books, 2008.

<b>Required Course Materials</b>	James A. Morone and Daniel C. Ehlike. 2013. Health Politics and Policy, Fifth Edition. Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning: ISBN: 978-1-111-64415-4.
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##### 2- Key texts /Literature

- Rayner, G., Lang, T., 2012. Ecological Public Health: Reshaping the conditions for good health. Routledge, London.
- Somer, M., Parker., (eds), 2013. Structural Approaches in Public health. Routledge, London.
- Foresight report, The. 2007. Tackling obesities: future choices - project report (2nd edition). HMSO, London.
- Green, J., Tones, K., 2010. Health promotion: Planning an strategies. 2nd edition. Sage, London

These are very good references. They provide a critical understanding of the public health for students. They also could provide help in understanding some definitions and concepts.

##### 3- Additional readings may be distributed in class. When necessary

Various course materials including **powerpoints, lecture notes, case discussion questions and assignments** will also be provided.

## V. Weekly Class Schedule:

This course will consume 3 hours per week divided into to sessions, one and half hour each one.

### 1st Weeek:

#### Session 1

- Course Introduction, syllabus review, and Overview Lecture
- Introduction to Public Health – theoretical and historical perspectives (history)

#### Session 2

- Article Discussion: What is Public Health?
- Introduction to Public Health Policy

### 2nd Weeek:

#### Session 1

- Understanding essential public health issues and relevant policies  
**(Lecture/Discussion)**

#### Session 2

- Determinants of Health
- Primary Health Care

### 3d Weeek:

#### Session 1

- Communicable and non communicable diseases
- Nutrition and Health

#### Session 2

- **Global Mental Health**
- Discussion

**Kommentar [a4]: (Merson Chapter 9)**

### 4th Weeek:

#### Session 1

- Quiz 1
- Case studies

#### Session 2

- Equity and Equality in Public Health

### 5th Weeek:

#### Session 1

- Case studies

#### Session 2

- Health services organization

### 6th Weeek:

#### Session 1

- Case studies

#### Session 2

- Health Policy Research

### 7th Weeek:

#### Session 1

- Case studies

#### Session 2

- Health Systems Organization and Financing

### 8th Weeek:

- Midterm exam.

### 9th Weeek:

#### Session 1

- Case studies

#### Session 2

- Tying Governance to Ecology, Economy and Human Well-Being

**Kommentar [a5]:** (Soskolne et al Part 1)

### 10th Weeek:

#### Session 1

- Environmental Health
- Quiz 2

**Kommentar [a6]:** (Merson Chapter 10)

#### Session 2

- Evidence based public health policy

### 11th Weeek:

#### Session 1

- Case studies

#### Session 2

- Practical skills in policy analysis and development

## 12th Weeek:

### Session 1

- Quiz 3
- Case studies

### Session 2

- Public health policy and health interventions.

## 13th Weeek:

### Session 1

- Quiz 4
- Practices of Evaluation in Health Services
- Globalization and Health Policy

### Session 2

- Student presentations

## 14th Weeek:

- Student presentations

## 15th Weeek:

- Wrap-Up
- Preparing for final exam

## 16th Weeek:

- final exam

**Kommentar [a7]:** -II  
Challenging our Individual and Collective  
Thinking About Sustainability (Soskolne et  
al Conclusions)

## **VI. Final Exam**

Final Exam: 40% of final grade. The final examination will comprise both a short case study and a number of conventional examination type questions. The exam assesses comprehension of, and ability to understand and to describe the essential issues in Public Health Policy.

The final examination specifically requires students to apply past learning in addressing the case and examination questions.

## **VII. Further Readings (Recommended Literature)**

- Jamison DT, Breman JG, Measham AR, et al. Disease Control Priorities in Developing Countries. 2nd edition. Washington (DC): The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / The World Bank; New York: Oxford University Press; 2006.
- Medical Technology Assessment Directory: A Pilot Reference To Organizations, Assessments, and Information Resources. Institute of Medicine (US) Council on Health Care Technology; Goodman C, editor. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US); 1988.
  - Rayner, G., Lang, T., 2012. Ecological Public Health: Reshaping the conditions for good health. Routledge, London.
  - Somer, M., Parker., (eds), 2013. Structural Approaches in Public health. Routledge, London.
  - Foresight report, The. 2007. Tackling obesities: future choices - project report (2nd edition). HMSO, London.
  - Green, J., Tones, K., 2010. Health promotion: Planning an strategies. 2nd edition. Sage, London.
  - The Future of the Public's Health in the 21st Century. Institute of Medicine (US) Committee on Assuring the Health of the Public in the 21st Century. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US); 2002.