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 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. 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

Students will relate policies, practice, 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 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 task's 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:

1. Analyze key approaches (such as laws, community involvement and medical services) to tackling public health issues (social inequalities, health determinants, health gaps, etc.)
2. Identify and synthesize important sources of evidence that inform public health policy and interventions
3. Critically analyze the formation of public health policy in relation to theory and practice.
4. Apply public health policy to essential health issues in your community

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 aquire 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.

III.   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.

IV.   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. core coursess of management should be taken before admitted to this course.

Teaching is by lectures; seminars; structured, self-directed learning; and group project work

V.   Instructional Materials

1- Textbooks

1- Teitelbaum, J.B. and Wilensky, S.E. 2017. Essentials of Health Policy and Law. Second Edition. Burlington, MA: Jones and Bartlett Learning/American Public Health Association Press.

2- Merson, M., Black, R., and Mills, A. eds. "Global Health: Diseases, Programs, Systems, and Policies, Third Edition." Jones and Bartlett, 2011.

3- Soskolne, C. ed. "Sustaining Life on Earth: Environmental and Human Health through Global Governance." Lexington Books, 2008.

4- Charles Guest, Walter Ricciardi, Ichiro Kawachi, and Iain Lang. Oxford Handbook of Public Health Practice

5- Richard Wilkinson. the spirit level why greater equality makes societies stronger

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**.**

VI.   Weekly Class Schedule

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

1st Weeek
- Introduction to Public Health and public health policy
- Understanding essential public health issues and relevant policies

2nd Week
- Public health law (historical and current law)
- Social determinants of Health

3rd Week
- Quiz
- Equity and equality in health

4th Week
- Case study
- Health services (organization, insurance, etc.)

5th Week
- Communicable and non-communicable diseases
- Nutritional health

6th Week
- Quiz
- Public health research

7th Week
- Case study
- Life course (children, adolescents, elderly, mental health, addiction, violence, gender preferences, etc.)

8th Week
- Midterm exam

9th Week
- Quiz
- Ethics in health

10th Week

- Environmental health

11th Week

- Case study
- Public health interventions (vaccination, secondary prevention, etc.)

12thWeek

- Quiz
- Health policies in emergency situations (disasters, catastrophies, camping, etc.)

13th Week

- Students presentations

14th Week

- Students presentations

15th Week

- Wrap-up
- Preparing final exam

16th Week

- Final exam

VII. Final Exam

Final Exam: 70% 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.

VIII. Further Readings (Recommended Literature)

- World Health Organization. Programmes and projects. Available online http://www.who.int/entity/en/ (accessed March 31; 2017).
- 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.