

Introduction to Public Health Seminar
PHS 781 Section 001
Fall 2011
Monday, 1:00- 2:30PM
HSLC (Health Sciences Learning Center) Room 2207

Course professor: Anne Bradford Harris, PhD, MPH, RD
Contact information: Waisman Center, 1500 Highland Ave, Room S101C
Phone: 263-5796
E-mail: harris@waisman.wisc.edu

I. Learning Objectives:

1. Identify key issues and problems in public health
2. Gain skills in leading/facilitating group discussions
3. Gain perspective of the day to day realities of public health practice
4. Gain knowledge about public health resources on the UW campus

This required 1 credit seminar provides students with an opportunity to explore current public health issues and become familiar with MPH Program faculty members' research and experience in public health practice. The content of the seminar will advance MPH students' analytic assessment, communication, leadership and systems-thinking skills. Enrolled students will prepare and lead discussions about current public health practice or policy-related research, a national, state, or local program or issue, or a case study.

II. Expectations:

Much of what you learn or fail to learn in this course is dependent on the nature of the classroom community we are able to construct together. Therefore, as a valued participant in this course, you are expected to attend each class, to read the assigned readings, and to be ready to participate in class discussions. Participants are expected to be respectful of all class members, speakers, and the course professor, demonstrating good attendance and good citizenship (active listening, informed, respectful participation).

III. Class Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. At the beginning of each class a sign-in sheet will be circulated. Be sure that you sign your name or you will be charged for an absence mistakenly. You will not be permitted to amend the record after a class has ended (e.g. at the next class). Please notify the course professor by email or in person if you must be absent for a class session. One absence can be made up with a two-page make-up assignment. It is your responsibility to contact the course instructor within one week of the class you missed to learn of the nature of your make-up assignment.

IV. Nondiscrimination Policy:

The UW Madison is committed to creating a dynamic, diverse and welcoming learning environment for all students and has a non-discrimination policy that reflects this philosophy. Disrespectful behaviors or comments addressed towards any group or individual, regardless of race/ethnicity, sexuality, gender, religion, ability, or any other difference is deemed unacceptable in this class, and will be addressed by the professor.

V. **Student Disability:**

Any students who need accommodations because of a disability should contact the instructor to address those needs. Also, please provide the instructor with any appropriate emergency medical or contact information, and please inform the instructor if you require special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated.

VI. **Required reading:**

Students will be expected to read the following book by October 24, 2011:
“Enrique’s Journey” by Sonia Nazario

Note: This book is being made available free of charge to you through the *Go Big Read Program*. Copies will be distributed during the MPH student orientation.

The author will be on campus, speaking at Varsity Hall, Union South at 7 PM on October 27th. It is a free event and students are strongly encouraged to attend her presentation. Students signing up to facilitate class on October 24 will lead a discussion of the book.

VII. **Learn @ UW**

Learn@UW, a course management system, will be used for posting course news items, Web-based readings, and other electronic resources. In addition, it may be utilized for outside class communication via the discussion board.

Students can use computers at the Health Sciences Learning Center or other UW computer labs to access Learn@UW. Students that plan to connect from home will need a dependable Internet connection and a computer with sufficient electronic storage space.

Please take a look at the student technology resource Web guide at: <http://www.doit.wisc.edu/students/index.asp> and security policies at <http://www.cio.wisc.edu/security/>

VIII. **Seminar activities:**

Student-led facilitated discussions:

Students will be assigned (sometimes in pairs) to facilitate/co-facilitate a discussion or debate about a public health problem or policy issue. The purpose of these discussions is to gain a better understanding of current public health issues and practice. Students will be responsible for planning the seminar activities for that session as well as preparing the readings and materials. These discussions are NOT presentations, and computer visual aids like Powerpoint will not be used. Students will select a current public health issue or topic area that interests them. Students may wish to present the issue in the form of a case study, debate, or discussion. Students may invite a public health expert from the Public Health program faculty to share his/her perspective. You might also consider using a topic area from a taped faculty seminar from the IME/Population Health Series <http://videos.med.wisc.edu/event.php?eventid=5>) or other online resource as a way for classmates to prepare for the discussion.

Session: Date	Topic/Activities
1: 09/12/11	Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Review syllabus and course requirements • Set up schedule for student-led discussions • Questions
2: 09/19/11 Room 3268 HSLC	Guest: Erika Severson, Ebling Library <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library resource orientation for MPH students • Introduction to public health information resources
3: 09/26/11	Model Presentation – Dr. Harris
4: 10/3/11	Writing Center Session for MPH Students Guest leader: Nancy Linh Karls, UW Writing Lab
5: 10/10/11	Student-led Discussion
6: 10/17/11	Student-led Discussion
7: 10/24/11	Go Big Read Book Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of the book “Enrique’s Journey” by Sonia Nazario • Presentation by Sonia Nazario, Thursday, Oct 27 at 7pm, Union South
8: 10/31/11	Student-led Discussion
9: 11/7/11	No Seminar. Students are required to attend 1 block (1.5 hours) of the MPH Symposium on 11/11/11 instead.
10: 11/14/11	Student-led Discussion
11: 11/21/11	Student-led Discussion
12: 11/28/11	Student-led Discussion
13: 12/5/11	Student-led Discussion
14: 12/12/11	Student-led Discussion Semester wrap-up

Following are the mechanics and due dates for preparing for these seminars:

- Seminar schedule assignments will be developed on the first day of class.
- Title/topic of seminar should be provided to the Course Professor in writing **by the third week of class (9/26/11)**. A written paragraph outlining the seminar should be provided to the course instructor **two weeks prior to the date** of the seminar.
- If inviting program faculty to participate in a seminar, students are responsible for making the invitation. (A template for the invitation is provided).
- Provide article(s), project descriptions, case study or other materials needed for the participants to prepare for the seminar to the Course Professor **at least one week before** the scheduled seminar, preferably the Friday 10 days before the Monday seminar. The Course Professor will post the materials on the Learn@UW website.
- Students are responsible for being prepared for each seminar by reading or viewing materials you will need to participate in the discussion. Non-presenting students in any

given week may want to print their own handouts or materials as needed to facilitate participation in the discussion, and bring these to seminar.

- If you need to change your date, find a student(s) willing to trade and notify the Course Professor by e-mail (original date, new date, name of student(s) swapping, and cc other student/s) **NO LATER THAN TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE SEMINAR.**

IX. Potential Faculty Guests

Here are two lists of faculty from which to choose:

The UW MPH Program “Faculty” list accessible from:

<http://www.pophealth.wisc.edu/Prospective-Students/MPH-Degree-Program/Faculty>

The “Affiliated Faculty” to the UW Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society Scholars Program.

The list is accessible from: <http://rwjscholars.pophealth.wisc.edu/faculty.htm>

X. Evaluation and Grading:

Students will receive Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grades for the course. To get a “Satisfactory” grade for the course, attendance at 90% of the sessions, active participation in the class discussions, and completion of all assignments, is required. These components will be evaluated dependent upon the following:

- Attendance and Participation in the seminar discussions
 - There are 9 sessions in the semester where students are expected to attend, and to actively participate in the seminar discussions by being prepared, engaging in leader-led activities, offering opinions and engaging in dialogue. Class members will lead these sessions individually or in pairs. Class members will be given opportunities for self-evaluation and to provide feedback to their peers.
 - There are 5 sessions led by staff and faculty (Sessions #1-4, and #10-the MPH Symposium) in which students are expected to be present, prepared, actively listen and ask questions.
 - You can only miss one class and get a satisfactory grade. If you miss more than one session, you can make up one session per the attendance policy (III).
- Assignments –
 - 1) Seminar preparation and Discussion facilitation – students sign up for specific day
 - 2) Required for this class, and as part of the “Go Big Read” program, read the book “Enrique’s Journey” by Sonia Nazario by Oct. 24, 2011. Here is a link to more information about the book and Go Big Read: <http://www.gobigread.wisc.edu/>
 - 3) Required: attend one block of the MPH Fall Symposium – Friday, Nov. 11, 2011
 - 4) Recommended, but not required: attend Go Big Read Public Author Presentation
An Evening with Sonia Nazario

Date	Thursday, Oct. 27
Time	7:00 PM
Location	Varsity Hall, Union South
 - 5) Recommended, but not required: attend the MPH Preceptor Fair on Wednesday, October 12, 3-6 pm at Union South.