



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
MEDICAL SCHOOL

## Department of Population Health Sciences

### PHS 375 Spring 2009 Introduction to Public Health

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#### Course Overview

Improving the health status of populations is the ultimate goal of Population Health Sciences (PHS). But Population Health Sciences (PHS) is highly multidisciplinary, so there are many avenues within PHS by which people work toward this goal. People working in PHS come from many disciplines -- biology, sociology, anthropology, psychology, economics, business, mathematics, statistics, engineering, and social work just to name a few.

Because students majoring in many different disciplines might find graduate study in PHS attractive, we have designed this course to provide an overview of the field, to show its relevance to current affairs, and to point out exciting opportunities for further study and research as well as application.

This course is designed for students considering graduate study and looking for new horizons. It will introduce concepts and methods in the major component areas of population health sciences:

- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Health Services Research

Lectures will stress the unique aspects of the population perspective on health. From this perspective health has many determinants: social, economic, and biological. Improving health can mean improving health care, but it also can mean addressing issues outside the health care and public health systems as well.

Along with an overview of Population Health Sciences, students in this course will get the chance to meet faculty actively conducting research in PHS and to hear their interests. You will also get a chance to talk to graduate students and other faculty in PHS during the annual PHS department poster fair.

Follow this link for more information about the Department of Population Health Sciences: <http://www.pophealth.wisc.edu/>

**PHS 375 – Spring 2009**  
**Population Health Sciences: Concepts & Methods**  
**Thursday 1-1:50pm, Room 125 McArdle Laboratory**

Class Session	Topic
Session 1: Thursday, January 22	Looking upstream – determinants of population health <i>F. Javier Nieto, M.D., Ph.D, Chair Pop Health Sciences</i>
Session 2: Thursday, January 29	Goals of population health: from research to applications <i>Terry Young, Ph.D. Pop Health Sciences</i>
Session 3: Thursday, February 5	History of public health <i>Patrick Remington, M.D., M.P.H. The health care system</i> <i>Pop Health Sciences</i>
Session 4: Thursday, February 12	The health care system <i>Gordon Ridley, M.S., Associate Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs</i> <i>UW SMPH</i>
Session 5: Thursday, February 19	Epidemiology of Aging <i>Karen Cruickshanks, PhD Pop Health Sciences</i>
Session 6: Thursday, February 26	Child and Maternal Health <i>Maureen Durkin, PhD, Dr Sc</i> <i>Pop Health Sciences, Weisman Center</i>
Session 7: Thursday, March 5	Epidemiology of Cancer <i>AmyTrentham-Dietz, PhD</i> <i>Pop Health Sciences, UW Comp Cancer Center</i>
Session 8: Thursday March 12	Genetics in Population Health <i>Corinne D. Engelman MS, PhD</i> <i>Pop Health Sciences</i>
Thursday, March 19	<b>SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS</b>
Session 9: Thursday, March 26	<i>Infectious disease epidemiology</i> <i>Ajay Sethi, MPH, PhD</i> <i>Pop Health Sciences</i>
Session 10: April 2	<b>TBA</b>
Session 11: Thursday, April 9	Response to Population Treats:biological and chemical epidemics <i>Charles Brokopp, MD, PhD, Director, WI State Lab of Hygiene</i>
Session 12: Thursday, April 16	Strategies to reduce HIV risk.,.,, <i>Ana P. Martinez-Donate, PhD</i> <i>Pop Health Sciences</i>
Session 13: Thursday April 23	Quality and safety of health care <i>Maureen Smith, MD, PhD</i> <i>Pop Health Sciences</i>
Session 14: Thursday, April 30	Global Health <i>Jonathan Patz, MD, PhD</i> <i>Pop Health Sciences, Environmental Studies</i>
Session 15: Thurday, May 7	Study of the Health of Wisconsin (SHOW): Developing a population health laboratory in Wisconsin <i>SHOW Investigators</i>
Sunday, May 17	<b>Online Final Exam due 5 pm May 17</b>