Instructor: Paul Kelleher, Ph.D  
Email: jkelleher@wisc.edu  
Office: 1430 Medical Sciences Center, 1300 University Ave.  
Office hours: By appointment.  

Course Description  
This seminar course provides students with an opportunity to explore current public health issues and become familiar with Public Health Program faculty members’ research and experience in public health practice. The content of the seminar will advance MPH students’ analytic assessment, communication, leadership, and general critical thinking skills. This one-credit course is required of all students enrolled in the MPH program.

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.

Learning Objectives  
1. Identify key issues and problems in public health  
2. Gain skills in leading/facilitating group discussions  
3. Increase understanding of the day-to-day realities of public health practice  
4. Increase knowledge of the public health resources on the UW-Madison campus

Class Attendance  
Attendance is mandatory, but the class is Pass/Fail. So there’s little I can do to enforce strict attendance—except for appealing to your conscience. So consider your conscience appealed-to.

Contacting the Instructor  
Other than making an appointment to meet, email is the best means of communication with me. During the week, I will typically be able to respond within 6-12 hours.

Academic Honesty and Misconduct  
You can find the UW rules governing academic honesty and plagiarism here: http://students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:  
Any student who feels or knows s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs.

If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities.

Parameters

Students will be assigned either individually or in pairs to facilitate/co-facilitate a discussion or debate about a public health problem or policy issue. Students will select a current public health issue or topic area, which may be presented in the form of a case study, debate, or discussion. Students will invite a public health expert from the “Potential Faculty Guests” lists located near the end of this syllabus or another public health expert to provide background on the chosen issue and share their perspective. Students will be responsible for all aspects of planning the seminar activities for each session, as well as selecting, preparing and posting appropriate readings or other background materials at the course’s Learn@UW website. A template is available for assistance in planning the session (see below). Remember, the purpose of these discussions is to gain a better understanding of public health practice and/or current public health issues.

Students are encouraged to select guests whose expertise is connected to the MPH Core and Interdisciplinary Competencies set out by the Association of Schools of Public Health. These are:

- Five core discipline areas: Biostatistics, Environmental Health Sciences, Epidemiology, Health Policy Management, and Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Interdisciplinary, cross-cutting set of overall competency domains: Communication and Informatics, Diversity and Culture, Leadership, Professionalism, Program Planning, Public Health Biology, and Systems Thinking

For more detail on these Competencies, please visit: http://www.asph.org/document.cfm?page=851

IMPORTANT: No PowerPoints or projectors are to be used - these are to discussions involving students and invited faculty alike.

Here are some more specific parameters for preparing for these seminars:

- Title and topic of seminar should be provided to the instructor by 9/26/2012, if possible.
- Students are responsible for making the invitation to the Public Health Program faculty or other public health experts who will participate. (A template for the invitation is provided – see attached).
- Students are responsible for submitting article(s), project descriptions, case studies or other materials needed for seminar preparation to Paul no later than one week before the seminar. Paul will then post the materials on Learn@UW by the Thursday preceding the class.
- Non-presenting students in any given week are responsible for being prepared for each seminar by printing their own handouts or materials as needed to facilitate participation in the discussion, and bringing these items to the seminar.
• If students need to change assigned seminar dates, they are responsible for finding another student/pair of students willing to trade and notifying the instructor of the change by e-mail (please provide original date, new date, names of students swapping, and cc the other student[s] involved) no later than two weeks before the seminar.

Learn @ UW

Learn@UW, a course management system, will be used for posting course news items, Web-based readings, and other electronic resources. The URL is:

https://learnuw.wisc.edu/

You should all have access to the course’s Learn@UW site. If you do not, please let me know.

Evaluation and Grading

This course is graded Pass/Fail.

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 directly addressed by the professor.

Course schedule

September 5: Introduction.

September 12: Writing Center Session (usual location).

September 19: Ebling Library Session (location TBA).

September 26: "Beginning your Public Health Career and the Role of Professional Public Health Organizations" -- A discussion with two alums (usual location).

October 3: Student Session #1.

October 10: Student Session #2.

October 17: Student Session #3.

October 24: Student Session #4.

October 31: Student Session #5.

November 7: No Seminar (you’ll attend the Friday MPH Symposium instead).

November 14: Student Session #6.
November 21: **No Class.** (Thanksgiving Break).

November 28: Student Session #7.

December 5: Student Session #8.

December 12: Student Session #9.

**Potential Faculty Guests**

Here are two lists of faculty from which to choose:

The UW MPH Program “Faculty” list accessible from:

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](http://rwjscholars.pophealth.wisc.edu/faculty.htm)

Please do feel free to look beyond these lists, especially if you’re interested in inviting someone who is not a faculty member.

**Template for letter of invitation to Public Health Program faculty member or other public health content expert.**

*NOTE: Honestly, the language of this letter is a bit stuffy. It’s meant to give you a general idea of what content to include. You can obviously use your own language and tailor your invitation any way you like.*

**Date**

Dear (Dr./Mr./Ms.) ____________:

As a student in the MPH Program’s *Introduction to Public Health Seminar*, our group would like to invite you to participate in our group discussion on (Wednesday) (month/day/year)__________, from (10-11:15am). We would like to invite you to share your perspectives on your (research/public health practice) related to_________________________ (DESCRIBE THE GENERAL TOPIC OF INTEREST).

In particular we would like to engage you in a discussion about our chosen aspect of public health described above, using one of your publications or perhaps a seminal publication by another person related to your area of interest.

If you are available and willing to participate, please reply to _________________________

Following your confirmation of the date and topic, we will be contacting you to discuss our seminar session in greater depth.

The format of the seminar will be approximately as follows:
Thank you in advance for considering our request. We look forward to hearing from you regarding your availability to participate in the MPH seminar.

Sincerely,

* * *

Before this course went Pass/Fail, the form below was used to evaluate student facilitators. It still gives you a sense of some things to think about as you prepare to facilitate your session.

OLD SEMINAR FACILITATION EVALUATION FORM

Name of Student(s) Facilitators: 
Seminar Title: 
Date: 

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<td>Explanation of how the topic fits within a broader issue of public health importance</td>
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<td>Evidence of having done background research in preparation for the seminar</td>
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<td>Ability to maintain an interesting and productive discussion, with questions available as needed to maintain the flow of the discussion</td>
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<td>Verbal communication skills</td>
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<td>Ability to maintain a connection with the audience</td>
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<td>Professionalism in interactions with the guest faculty member and the audience</td>
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<td>Time management of the seminar and discussions</td>
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<td>Summation that draws together the information presented and discussed</td>
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**Final Grade:** Total Points _______________________ (50 maximum)