

**College of Health
Department of Health Sciences
HS 690: Public Health Ethics
Summer 2018 (Second 5 Week Session)**

CREDIT HOURS: 3 semester hours

FACULTY: Rhonda M. Johnson, DrPH, MPH, FNP, Professor of Public Health

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OFFICE HOURS: Available by appointment

COURSE PREREQUISITES: Consent of instructor

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Provides an overview of the broad field of public health ethics, and opportunity to apply ethical principles and standards in an individual project and to explore these issues within an Alaskan context will be provided in assignments.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: After successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1 Identify important beliefs and values underlying public health practice and research.
- 2 Describe the principles of decision-making in public health practice and research
- 3 Identify ethical issues, problems, and tensions in epidemiology and public health, and provide a decision-making process for approaching these ethical issues, problems and tensions.
- 4 Describe how public health ethics differs from medical ethics, and bioethics
- 5 Examine the ways in which ethical issues in public health are either similar or unlike ethical issues in other health related professions
- 6 Comprehend relevant ethical issues involved in infectious disease control, epidemiology, environmental and occupational health, public health research and practice in cross-cultural and international settings, public health research and health promotion and disease prevention
- 7 Make a connection between good science and research and ethically and socially responsible science, research and practice.

COURSE APPROACH: This is a graduate level course requiring independent thought and effort. Active participation in discussion is expected and encouraged. The electronic resources, suggested texts and supplemental readings will be the basis of interactive on-line discussions and some course assignments. Students are encouraged to share relevant, current materials and experiences regarding course topics with the class. Opportunity to pursue individual interests within this subject area is provided and encouraged in class assignments.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Will use both paperback and on-line resources, including

- Barrett, D, Ortmann, L, Dawson, A, Saenz, C, Reis, A and Bolan G, (Eds), 2014. *Public Health Ethics: Cases Spanning the Globe (Vol 3)*. Springer Open. ISBN 978-3-319-23846-3, DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-23847-0, ISBN 978-3-319-23847-0 (eBook), ISSN 2211-6699 (electronic) **(BODSRB)**
- Bayer, R, Gostin, L, Jennings, B and Steinbock, B. (Eds), 2007. *Public Health Ethics: Theory, Policy and Practice*. Oxford University Press. 432 pages. ISBN-10 0195180852 ISBN-13: 978-0195180855. **(BGJS)**

RECOMMENDED TEXT:

- Coughlin, S (2009) *Case Studies in Public Health Ethics*, Second Edition. Washington DC: American Public Health Association. ISBN 978-0-87553-194-6

OTHER RESOURCES:

- Jennings, B, Kahn, J, Mastroianni A, Parker, LS (Eds), *Ethics & Public Health: Model Curriculum*. Available at <http://www.asph.org/document.cfm?page=777>

Additional supplementary readings and resources may be suggested as the course progresses. It is expected that you will engage in supplementary readings to increase your knowledge of specific areas you wish to gain expertise in, particularly related to aspects of your course project.

Major content areas for HS A690:

Public Health Perspectives
Autonomy and Paternalism
Chronic Disease Prevention and Global Health
Justice and Health
Resource Allocation and Vulnerability
Infectious Disease: Coercion and Protection of Society
Regulation and Environmental and Occupational Health
Genetics and Public Health
Public Health Research

COURSE OUTLINE:

WEEK	TOPICS	ASSIGNMENTS/ READINGS
# 1 June 29- July 7	Introduction Public Health Perspectives	<i>INTROS and REF #1 DUE</i> BGJS Part 1 BODSRB Chps 1-2
#2 July 8- July 14	Autonomy and Paternalism Chronic Disease and Global Health	<i>CASE #1 DUE</i> BGJS Part 2 BODSRB Chps 5, 8
#3 July 15-July 21	Justice and Health Resource Allocation and Vulnerability	<i>REF #2 DUE</i> BGJS Part 3 BODSRB Chps 3,7
#4 July 22-July 28	Infectious Disease Environmental and Occupational Health	<i>CASE #2 DUE</i> BGJS Parts 4 and 5 BODSRB Chps 4, 6
#5 July 29-Aug 4	Genetics and Public Health Public Health Research	<i>TERM PAPERS DUE</i> BGJS Part 6 BODSRB Chp 9

COURSE EVALUATION: Your grade will be determined by the accumulation of points received for completion of course requirements.

1. Introduction and Term Paper Topic 25
2. Reflection Papers (2 @ 20 each) 40
3. Case Studies (2 @ 30 each) 60
4. Term Paper 75
5. Discussion Participation P/F* Active participation expected-see notes

Total Possible Points 200

Grading Scale:

180 - 200	=	A	exceptional coursework and understanding of content
160 - 179	=	B	above average coursework and understanding of content
140 - 159	=	C	average coursework and understanding of content
120 - 139	=	D	below average coursework and understanding of content
Below 120	=	F	inadequate coursework and understanding of content

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

VOICE THREAD INTRODUCTION and initial Discussion Postings (25 POINTS)

During the first week of class, each student should create and post a personal Voice Thread Introduction, letting us all know something substantial about your background, relevant professional experience, career goals, what you hope to gain from the class and anything else you would like to share, including a photo and/or weblink or two. In addition, one's most thoughtful definition of 'public health ethics' should be posted to Discussion, along with your current ideas about the possible focus of your Term Paper. What do YOU think it means and why? This assignment (both INTRO and initial Discussion posting is **due no later July 7**.

REFLECTION PAPERS (2 @ 20 POINTS each)

During the course of the semester, there will be two opportunities to complete 1-2 page Reflection Papers on readings/course content. In these papers, students are expected to briefly summarize key content of reading/assignments, reflect on the material, share relevant personal views and experiences, and consider possible implications for health professional practice. Thoughtful and professional written expressions of ideas are expected in these papers; points will be deducted for typographical and grammatical errors. Reflection paper #1 (REF#1) is due no later than **July 7**; Reflection paper #2 (REF #2) is due no later than **July 21**. NOTE: Be sure to completely cite your sources. **Due dates vary as noted above.**

CASE STUDIES (2 @ 30 POINTS each)

More detail will be provided. Case Study #1 due no later than **July 14**; Case Study #2 is due no later than **July 28**.

TERM PAPER (75 POINTS)

Students will synthesize the results of their research efforts (including but not limited to, literature synthesis), reflect upon course content, and submit a final TERM PAPER (no more than 10 pages) that clearly identifies the ethical issue, summarizes relevant primary and secondary research related to the issue, and presents and justifies at least three recommendations for action to a clearly identified audience. Appropriate references are expected. Guidelines for grading include: Abstract (5), Introduction/Background (10), Ethical Issue(s) (20), Proposed Recommendations (10), Rationale (Evidence-Base)for Recommendations (15), References and Professional Presentation (10), One Page Plain Language Summary (5). This assignment is **due no later than Aug 4**.

DISCUSSION:

In addition to the above assignments, each student *must* participate actively in the Discussion section of this class. There will be weekly opportunities for Discussion during the course, and participation will be considered on a Pass/Fail basis. In order to receive a Pass grade for a particular discussion, you must, at a minimum, post a thoughtful answer to the discussion question and comment substantially on a posting by a fellow classmate. To pass the course, students must complete all assignments listed above and participate in at least half of the discussions. Students working toward an A or B grade should expect to participate actively in ALL discussions.

By midnight each Friday, a discussion topic will be posted to the class discussion board. The discussion and comments on that topic of discussion will end at midnight the following Friday. The topic will officially close at that time and no further postings will be accepted on that topic of discussion. The instructor will monitor the discussions during the week but may or may not comment. Lively discussions are expected and encouraged. Personal attacks and insults will not be tolerated. If such behavior occurs, the offending individual will be given one warning. Any recurrence of the behavior will result in the offending individual being removed from the bulletin board discussion group.

EXTRA CREDIT: Since there are ample opportunities to accumulate the necessary points in a wide variety of ways, NO extra credit opportunities are anticipated.

COURSE POLICIES:

- Students are responsible for all information assigned in the texts or presented in class materials.
- Students are expected to read the assigned material and prepare and submit assignments on time. Students are responsible for turning assignments in on or before the assigned due date to receive credit. **Allow adequate time to correct potential technology problems.**
- Cheating or plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Any violations of this policy will result in a zero (0) for the assignment and be figured into the final grade accordingly. Additionally, you should be aware that cheating/plagiarism may result in University disciplinary action, including suspension/expulsion.
- For information on UAA policies on Safe Working and Learning Environment, Students with Disabilities, Institutional Review Board process, and Academic Integrity and others - please see the Policy Statements section of UAA website.

COURSE COMMUNICATION:

It is **expected** that each student will be an integral part of the learning that occurs in this class. Each of you has unique qualities, skills, abilities, interests, and experiences that will lend value to the class. It is expected that each student will have a working e-mail address and will use it to communicate with class members and the instructor regarding class assignments. **Important Note:** You may submit your assignments from any e-mail address but due to legal concerns, the instructor

can only send email to your UAA email account. If you do not want to have to check your UAA account for mail, then you will need to forward your email from your UAA account to the email account you want to use for this class. **Electronic communication with your classmates and with the instructor will be required in a majority of class assignments.**

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