

**University of Pennsylvania
Graduate Program in Public Health
MPH Degree Program
Course Syllabus – Fall 2010**

Title: PUBH 507 – Public Health Policy, Ethics and Law

Course Units: 1.0 c.u., Contact Hours: 42 hours

Course Description: What is best - or, at least, seems best -- for the public's health is not always consistent with society's view of what is legal, ethical, or good policy. This course introduces key concepts of legal, ethical, and policy analysis and attempts to demonstrate with current examples how these forces empower, guide, and constrain public health decision-making and actions. The course will combine lecture, Socratic dialogue, and group discussion in an informal setting. The course will feature guest lectures by several distinguished experts from Penn and from other universities.

Placement / Room Assignment:

Monday, 5:00-6:30 PM Lecture

Huntsman Hall, **Room G86**

Monday, 6:45-8:15 PM Required Recitation

Huntsman Hall, **Room G86**

Course Directors: Arnold J. Rosoff, J.D.
Professor of Legal Studies & Health Care Systems
673 JMHH
Phone: 215-898-7610
Fax: 215-573-2006

rosoffa@wharton.upenn.edu

Office Hours: Monday, 2-3 PM

Thursday, 11-12 PM

Other times by appointment.

Barrett Bridenhagen, J.D.
Penn Public Health Fellow, Center for Public Health Initiatives
Room 147, Anatomy Chemistry Building, 3620 Hamilton Walk
Phone: 215-573-8841
Fax: 215-573-9025 (attn: Barrett Bridenhagen)

bbride@mail.med.upenn.edu

Office Hours: By Appointment.

E-mail: E-mail will be used for course announcements, distribution of some materials, etc. You should check your e-mail daily; the instructor will do likewise. When responding to an email related to the course, be sure you're replying only to the instructor and not to the entire class!! Blackboard is utilized for communication and posting additional materials; students are responsible for checking it regularly as well.

Course Overview: Taking the right actions to protect and improve the public's health must be done in a societal context that defines what is legal, ethical, and good policy. This course introduces key concepts of legal, ethical, and policy analysis as applied to public health activities and initiatives. It demonstrates using current examples how these factors empower, guide, and constrain public health decision-making and actions.

Teaching Methods: The course combines lecture, Socratic dialogue, and group discussion in an informal setting. Active class participation is expected [see Grading below].

Evaluation Methods:	30%	Class Participation
	30%	Discussion Papers
	15%	Intra-term Exam
	25%	Final Exam

The course counts as 1.0 C.U., with grading as follows:

- **Class Participation - 30%**
Counts attendance, preparation, and contribution to discussions
- **2 Discussion papers - 30%**
The first is weighted 10%, the second at 20% (target length for each is 3-5 double-spaced pages)
- **Intra-term exam - 15%**
- **Final exam - 25%**

Assigned Readings: The text is *PUBLIC HEALTH LAW: POWER, DUTY, RESTRAINT*, 2ND ED. by Larry O. Gostin (U. Calif. Press, 2008, ISBN-13: 978-0-520-25376-6, referred to herein as “PDR”). Students may wish to purchase the companion book edited by Professor Gostin, *PUBLIC HEALTH LAW AND ETHICS: A READER* (U. Calif. Press, 2002, ISBN: 0-520-23175-9), referred to herein as “Reader”. Optional, supplementary readings, some of which will be taken from the Reader, will be distributed in class and/or posted on the course's “BlackBoard”:

https://courseweb.library.upenn.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab_group_id=2_1&url=%2Fwebapps%2Fblackboard%2Fexecute%2Flauncher%3Ftype%3DCourse%26id%3D44849_1%26url%3D

Contact the instructors promptly if you can't access online materials.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to adhere to the University's Code of Academic Integrity. Care should be taken to avoid academic integrity violations, including: plagiarism, fabrication of information, and multiple submissions. Students who engage in any of these actions will be referred to the Office of Academic Integrity, which investigates and decides on sanctions in cases of academic dishonesty.

See link for more information: <http://www.upenn.edu/academicintegrity/index.html>

MPH Academic Standing Policy/Academic Probation: According to University policy, a graduate student must maintain a 'B' average or better to be considered in good academic standing. A student who does not meet the University policy of a 'B' /3.0 average will be reviewed by the MPH Program Director, the Associate Director and the Academic Progressions Committee. A student may be put on academic probation for a period of 1 semester to improve his/her overall average may be put on academic probation for a period of 1 semester to improve his/her overall average.

Any course in which the student receives a grade below a B- will not be applied toward the Master of Public Health degree. The record of any student who receives an unsatisfactory grade (less than a 'B-') in a course or who does not meet the University policy of a 'B' /3.0 average will be reviewed by the MPH Program Director, the Associate Director and the Academic Progressions Committee. A student may be put on academic probation for a period of 1 semester to improve his/her overall average

Students may continue to take other courses during the probation period and the student must make arrangements with the course director to remediate any grades lower than a B-. These arrangements must be approved by the MPH Program Director with input from the Academic Progressions Committee as needed. Any student who is on academic probation for a period greater than 1 semester will be referred to the Academic Progressions Committee for review and recommendation. This committee is authorized to dismiss the student or allow the student to remain in the program on a probationary basis. A return to good academic standing is contingent on receiving an acceptable grade (B or higher) in all remaining courses.

The MPH grading policy is at the discretion of the individual course instructors.

Please find below the generally used grading scale for the MPH Program.

A+	97-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79		
A	93-96	B	83-86	C	73-76		
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	F	0-69

Please note that an A+ carries the same weight (4.0) as an A.

Incomplete Grade: It is expected that a matriculated Master of Public Health student shall complete the work of a course during the semester in which that course is taken. A student who fails to complete a course within the prescribed period shall receive at the instructor's discretion either a grade of I (incomplete) or F (failure). If the incomplete is given, the instructor may permit an extension of time up to one year for the completion of the course. In such cases, any course which is still incomplete after one calendar year from its official ending must remain as incomplete on the student's record and shall not be credited toward the MPH degree. Students who receive two or more incompletes within a semester may not register for the subsequent semester(s) without the permission of the Department.

For additional information on academic policies, please refer to the corresponding sections in the Student Handbook.

Course Outline / Assignments:

Reading assignments are to L. Gostin, PUBLIC HEALTH LAW, 2ND ED., except where indicated.

Class	Date	Class Topics	Assignments / Readings
1	9/13	SECTION 1 – Introduction: Conceptual Overview Introduction and course overview – Conceptual Foundations of Public Health: What IS public health? The centrality of public health law.	Ch. 1 , pp. 3-42, <i>A Theory and Definition of Public Health Law</i>
2	9/20	Conceptual Foundations of Public Health (cont.) A framework for policy, ethics, and legal analysis in public health.	Ch. 2 , pp. 43-47, <i>Public Health Regulation: a Systematic Evaluation</i>
3	9/27	SECTION II – Foundations: Government’s Reach: Powers and Limitations Powers and Duties of Public Health Authorities	Ch. 3 , pp. 77-110, <i>Public Health Law in the Constitutional Design: Public Health Powers and Duties</i> NOTE Discussion Paper #1 due. Submit by email to both rosoffa@wharton.upenn.edu and bbride@mail.med.upenn.edu
4	10/4	Restraints on Governmental Action	Ch. 4 , pp. 113-144, <i>Constitutional Limits on the Exercise of Public Health Powers: Safeguarding Individual Rights and Freedoms Public Health Regulation: A Systematic Evaluation</i>
5	10/11	No class (University Fall Break)	
6	10/18	Direct Regulation: Administrative Law and the Governmental Infrastructure; also Environmental, Public Health and Regulatory Policy issues raised by the BP Gulf oil spill	Ch. 5 , pp. 147-178, <i>Public Health Governance: Direct Regulation for the Public’s Health and Safety</i> Additional readings specific to the BP oil spill will be announced.
7	10/25	Indirect Regulation: Empowering Non-Governmental Actors	Ch. 6 , pp. 181-226, <i>Tort Law and the Public’s Health</i>
8	11/1	SECTION III – Public Health and Civil	Ch. 8 , pp. 287-330, <i>Surveillance</i>

		<p>Liberties in Conflict</p> <p>Public Health Research: Better Health vs. Civil Rights?</p>	<p>and Public Health Research: <i>Personal Privacy and the Right to Know</i></p> <p>NOTE: THE IN-CLASS INTRA-TERM EXAM WILL BE GIVEN IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS CLASS.</p>
9	11/8	<p>Public Health Education & Health Promotion: Getting the public to do the right thing</p>	<p>Ch. 9, pp. 333-369, <i>Health, Communication, and Behavior: Freedom of Expression</i></p>
10	11/15	<p>Public Health Issues of an Aging Population, Our guest lecturer will be Professor Naoki Ikegami, MD, PhD, MA, Chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management, Keio University Medical School, Tokyo, Japan. – Prof. Ikegami is an internationally renowned expert in comparative healthcare systems analysis. For background, see:</p> <p>http://www.apru.org/awi/workshops/public_health/profiles/IKEGAMI%20Naoki.pdf; and http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/sic_aroundtheworld/interviews/ikegami.html</p>	<p>To be announced.</p>
11	11/22	<p>Controlling Infectious Diseases: individual rights vs. public safety. Issues of international connectedness and cooperation and implications for security against Bioterrorism will also be covered in this class.</p>	<p>Ch. 10, pp. 371-384, 400-418, <i>Medical Countermeasures for Epidemic Disease: Bodily Integrity</i></p> <p>Ch. 11, pp. 421-429, Table 19 (pp. 433-4), 440-445. <i>Public Health Strategies for Epidemic Disease: Association, Travel and Liberty</i></p> <p>READINGS NOTE: Although only the pages listed above are required reading for Nov. 22, the rest of these two chapters is interesting and worthwhile material. You are encouraged to read these omitted pages on your own.</p>

			ASSIGNMENT NOTE: Discussion Paper #2 due (covering material in Sec. II). Submit by email to both <u>rosoffa@wharton.upenn.edu</u> and <u>bbride@mail.med.upenn.edu</u>
12	11/29	Global Health Law	Ch. 7 , pp. 229-283, <i>Health in a Global Community</i>
13	12/6	SECTION IV – Looking to the Future Final Class: The Future of the Public’s Health	Ch. 13 , pp. 491-514, <i>Concluding Reflections on the Field</i>
14	12/13	THE FINAL EXAM WILL BE HELD IN THE REGULAR CLASSROOM AT THE REGULAR TIME.	