

HSMGMT 600
VALUES AND ETHICS IN PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE
1 Credit (C/NC)

Autumn Quarter 2010

Campus Session One:
Thursday, October 7, 2010

Campus Session Two:
Thursday, December 9, 2010

Web discussion session date and protocols to be scheduled!

Instructor

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Instructor Biographies: <http://depts.washington.edu/mhap/faculty>

Course Location:

PSP 504 @ PCE Downtown

1. Summary of Course

This course provides an introduction to the topics of values and ethics in public health practice. It assumes that one's personal values form the basis for one's personal and professional ethical systems. Those personal values and ethics are then further informed and influenced by the values and ethics manifest in the organizations within which one is employed. It is also true that the individual is both capable and responsible for influencing the values and ethics of that organization. It must be an interactive process if professional and organizational collaboration is a value of both the individual and the organization.

Disability Accommodations

If you would like to request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact Disabled Student Services, 448 Schmitz, 543-8924 (V/TDD). If you have a letter from Disabled Student Services indicating you have a disability that requires academic accommodations, please present the letter to me so we can discuss the accommodations you might need for class.

The course will begin with an inquiry into the student's values through reading and classroom discussion. Following that inquiry the student will be assigned the task of developing his/her list of personal/professional values and ranking those values in order of importance. This assignment forms the basis for the second part of the course, the study of ethical decision-making. Assignment 1 is discussed in detail below.

Part two of the course is the study of the classical approach to ethical decision-making. It will include discussion and examples of the following approaches:

- The Utilitarian Approach
- The Rights Approach
- The Fairness Approach
- The Common Good Approach
- The Virtue Approach

A case study will be used to provide the student an opportunity to experience the use of these approaches to resolving ethical issues.

Part three of the course will require the students to join other students in simulated management teams to develop a statement of ethical guidelines for a public health agency. This will be a distance-learning activity requiring students to conduct web-based discussions with faculty assistance to develop their product. Those team products will then be brought to the final class session and a nominal group process will be used to facilitate the separate teams working together to create a class agreement on a common set of ethical guidelines.

The course uses both on-campus traditional lecture and discussion combined with distance learning technology between campus sessions. It is designed to both increase student knowledge of values and ethics and to develop skills necessary to work with staff in public health agencies in their futures to create a commonly held system of values and ethics to guide their professional endeavors.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. List and describe in rank-order and give examples of core values essential to professional public health practice.
2. Describe the fundamental elements of ethical decision-making and give examples of each as applied to public health practice.
3. Develop a core set of ethical guidelines for public health practice.
4. Describe a fair and appropriate method for reporting violations of a public health organization's ethical guidelines.

Texts

Taylor, Charles, *The Ethics of Authenticity*, Harvard University Press, 1991, Cambridge, Mass. This book was selected as the text for this course because of its broad perspective on values and ethics. Taylor, who is one of the current leading political philosophers, discusses three fundamental issues for the public health professional. Those are:

- The rise of individualism at the expense of community.
- The rising primacy of instrumental reasoning in our decision-making systems.
- The restriction of freedom of choice in decision making by "institutions and structures of industrial-technological society".

It's purpose in this course is to assist students in conducting an in-depth analysis of value and ethical systems, their own and those of our social and political institutions.

1.a. Required Readings

Alinsky, Saul, *Rules for Radicals*, Vintage Books, 1972, "Of Means and Ends"

Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, <http://www.scu.edu/ethics/>

- A Framework For Ethical Decision Making,
- The Unavoidable Ethical Dilemmas of Pandemic Flu

Spacemann, Robert, *Basic Moral Concepts*, Routledge, London and New York, 1982, Chapter 5, Conviction and responsibility: does the end justify the means?

Williams, Bernard, *Ethics and the Limits of Philosophy*, Harvard University Press, 1985, Chapter 1, Socrates Question.

1.b. Supplemental Readings and Inquiries

American Public Health Association -

<http://www.apha.org/programs/education/progeduethicalguidelines.htm>

The Hastings Center, <http://www.thehastingscenter.org/>

Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, <http://www.scu.edu/ethics/>

- Beyond Professional Codes
- Moral Community: Boundaries on Hospitality
- Affirmative Action or Negative Action

Principles of the Ethical Practice of Public Health, Version 2.2 -
www.apha.org/NR/rdonlyres/1CED3CEA.../ethicsbrochure.pdf

The Public Health Code of Ethics - The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
<http://www.sph.unc.edu/ethics/code/code2.htm#code1>

Taylor, Charles, *The Ethics of Authenticity*, Harvard University Press, 1991, Cambridge, Mass.

2. Assignments

Assignment 1. Personal and Professional Values of Public Health Practice - Individual and Consensus Values Identification

The first assignment is a class participation assignment in which all students will participate. Each student will develop a list of his/her personal/professional values that are most important to his/her practice of public health in advance of the first class session. For this assignment the Oxford Dictionary, American Ed. will serve as the definition of "values". It defines values as "one's principles or standards; one's judgment of what is valuable or important in life". The Nominal Group Process will then be used to facilitate the class development of a common set of personal/professional values in rank-order that are most important to the effective practice of public health. A list of 7-10 core values will be developed and that list of values will serve as one basis for the completion of assignments 2 and 3.

Suggested readings:

- Williams, Bernard, *Ethics and the Limits of Philosophy*, Harvard University Press, 1985, Chapter 1, Socrates Question.
- Spacemann, Robert, *Basic Moral Concepts*, Routledge, London and New York, 1982, Chapter 5, Conviction and responsibility: does the end justify the means?
- Alinsky, Saul, *Rules for Radicals*, Vintage Books, 1972, "Of Means and Ends"

Assignment 2. Application of the Principles of Ethical Decision Making

Individual students will select a case study and apply the principles of ethical decision making to address the issue. The student will submit a 3-5 page summary paper that presents their decision and their ethical reasoning. See the list of case studies in class notes from October Class.

This assignment is due on November 26, 2010 and should be submitted electronically to j.sappington@uw.edu.

Required Readings:

Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, <http://www.scu.edu/ethics/>

- A Framework For Ethical Decision Making

Assignment 3. Development of Organizational Code of Ethics

The task will be to review the readings and develop model organizational code of ethics that they would recommend as guidelines for local public health agencies in the United States. This assignment is due on December 10, 2010 and should be submitted electronically to j.sappington@uw.edu.

Suggested Readings:

American Public Health Association -
<http://www.apha.org/programs/education/progeduethicalguidelines.htm>

The Hastings Center, <http://www.thehastingscenter.org/>

Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, <http://www.scu.edu/ethics/>

- Beyond Professional Codes
- Moral Community: Boundaries on Hospitality
- Affirmative Action or Negative Action

Principles of the Ethical Practice of Public Health, Version 2.2 -
www.apha.org/NR/rdonlyres/1CED3CEA.../ethicsbrochure.pdf

The Public Health Code of Ethics -
American Journal of Public Health: "A Code of Ethics for Public Health"
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1447186/>

Columbus: "The Public Health Code of Ethics" developed at Chapel Hill
http://www.publichealth.columbus.gov/Asset/iu_files/Public_Health_Code_of_Ethics.pdf
Taylor, Charles, The Ethics of Authenticity, Harvard University Press, 1991, Cambridge, Mass.

3. Class Participation

Class discussions and presentations in this course are intended to maximize an exchange of ideas concerning individual values and ethics as related to the professional practice of public health. There are no assumptions regarding the "right and/or wrong" of any individual's personal or professional values and/or ethics. However students are expected to apply the currently accepted discipline of ethical decision-making and to demonstrate a thoughtful approach to their conclusions based on the readings suggested for this course.

4. Course Grade

A grade of Credit/No Credit grade for the course based three elements:

- The extent to which the student demonstrates knowledge and thoughtful consideration of the presentations, readings and discussions in the course.
- The quality of the student's summary paper submitted as part of Assignment 2.
- The extent of the student's active participation in class and web discussions.

**COURSE SCHEDULE – Part One
In-Class Session**

Friday, October 8, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Saturday, October 9, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

**COURSE SCHEDULE – Part Two
Web Discussions: November 2010**

Team Leaders with Instructor - Dates and times to be determined

**COURSE SCHEDULE – Part Three
In-Class Session**

Friday, December 10 & 11, Schedule to be determined