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## PUBH 535.50: Health Policy

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# Health Policy (PUBH 535)

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**Format:** Online with Moodle. Course procedures and expectations are those normally used in the online MPH program at the University of Montana. If questions arise contact the Program Coordinator at 243-2571. For purposes of assignments and class activities, the week starts on Monday 12:01 a.m. and ends on Sunday at Midnight. Office hours will be established the first week of the semester, during which time Dr. Molgaard will be available for phone calls or immediate email responses. Outside office hours, he will respond to emailed questions within 48 hours unless prior notice has been given to the class.

**Moodle Help:** UMontOnline has made available an interactive tutorial for using Moodle as a student. The tutorial and other resources can be found at the following web site: [http://umonline.umt.edu/Moodle\\_Tip\\_Sheets/tipsheetandvideosstudents.aspx](http://umonline.umt.edu/Moodle_Tip_Sheets/tipsheetandvideosstudents.aspx)

**Required texts:**

James H. Jones. "Bad Blood: The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment." Simon and Schuster, 1993.

Merson, M., Black, R., and Mills, A. eds. "Global Health: Diseases, Programs, Systems, and Policies, Third Edition." Jones and Bartlett, 2011.

Soskolne, C. ed. "Sustaining Life on Earth: Environmental and Human Health through Global Governance." Lexington Books, 2008.

Whiteford, L. and Branch, L. "Primary Health Care in Cuba: The Other Revolution." Rowman and Littlefield, 2008.

Teitelbaum, J. and Wilensky, S. "Essentials of Health Policy and Law." Jones and Bartlett, 2012.

Reid, T.R. "The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care." Penguin Books, 2010.

**Course Description:**

This course introduces concepts of health policy at the national, state and local level, and reviews current and emerging issues in health policy. Special emphasis will be on international health. The international emphasis will be on the public health problems facing low- and middle-income countries today, especially those problems relating to reproductive health, infectious diseases, nutrition, and literacy. We will also examine the interaction of health policy and law, and issues of international cooperation and global governance. Finally, we will examine a case study of primary health care in Cuba.

**Program Public Health Competencies Addressed in Course:\***

1. Prepare Community Data for Public Health Analyses and Assessments
2. Contribute to Public Health Program and Policy Development
3. Communicate in Public Health Settings
4. Practice Public Health with People from Diverse Populations
5. Collaborate with the Community in the Practice of Public Health
6. Base Public Health Practice on Scientific Evidence
7. Participate in Financial Planning and Management of Public Health Units
8. Exercise Public Health Leadership and Systems Thinking
9. Respond to Public Health Issues in Rural Settings
10. Uses Global Insight in Responding to Local Public Health Issues

**For a listing of learning objectives corresponding to each competency**

see <http://publichealth.health.umt.edu/sites/publichealth.health.umt.edu/files/documents/CompetenciesStudentVersion.pdf>

**Online Format:**

This course will be delivered over the Internet with support from UMOOnline. Readings from the textbooks and discussion questions from the texts and the instructor will form the basis of weekly class postings on the online discussion board. Case studies will be emphasized. The class will be divided into two sections (Section 1 and Section 2).

**Discussion Questions:**

During the first five weeks of the class two discussion questions will be provided by the instructor each week. These will be based on the readings. Students will be graded as to the quality of their responses to these questions, and their responses to the answers of other students. Follow-up questions by the instructor must be responded to.

During the remaining weeks of the class one question, based on the readings, will be developed within each of the two sections (Section 1 and Section 2) and these two questions will be posted by the discussion leader for response by the other section. The discussion leader will rotate each week within each Section, alphabetically by last name. Grading will occur based on the quality of the questions provided and the answers of the other students to the questions. Follow-up questions by the instructor must be responded to.

### **Weekly postings to the discussion board:**

All students are required to participate in discussions every week by Sunday, midnight Mountain Standard Time. This format necessitates completion of readings and assignments as well as participation in discussion boards every week during the week. Class participation constitutes a portion of the grade.

### **Exams:**

There will be two exams (open book essay test) approximately one-third and two-thirds of the way through the course.

### **Final Exam:**

There will be a final exam covering all of the material in the course during finals week. This will be an open book exam, also of the essay type. This final will be timed. It will also include a case study report of a meeting of your local health department and/or the Montana Public Health Association Advocacy-Policy Committee that occurred sometime during the semester and that you attended. The case report may be brief (approximately 5 pages double-spaced), but must include an analysis of which of the ten essential services of public health were part of the discussion at the meeting you attended. Examples must be included.

### **Evaluation:**

Class participation 40% (half for posted discussion questions, half for weekly postings to questions of others), exams 40% (20% for each exam), final exam 20%.

The following grades can be earned by achieving the minimum percentages listed: A = 90%, B = 80%, C = 70%, D = 60%. Plus/minus grading will be used. The instructor reserves the right to curve the grade.

### **Course Schedule**

Week 1 Measures of Health and Disease in Populations (Merson Chapter 1)  
Preface and Introduction: Global and Local Contexts as Evidence for Concern (Soskolne et al)  
Part 1 Overview of Policy and Law in the United States (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 in Teitelbaum and Wilensky)  
Overview of Issues in U.S. Health System (Reid Prologue and Chapters 1, 2, 3)

- Week 2 Tying Governance to Ecology, Economy and Human Well-Being (Soskolne et al Part 1)  
Culture, Behavior, and Health and the Social Determinants of Health (Merson Chapters 2 and 3)
- Week 3 The Design of Health Systems (Merson Chapter 12)  
France, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, and Canada (Reid Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)  
Globalization, Human Rights, and the Human Condition (Soskolne et al. Part II)  
Description of U.S. Health System and the Affordable Care Act (Reid Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and Afterword)
- Week 4 Management and Planning for Public Health (Merson Chapter 13)  
Governance for Ecological Integrity, Sustainable Ecosystem Function, and Public Health (Soskolne et al. Part III)
- Week 5 UN and WHO covenants on health (available on Moodle)  
Covenants and Respect for All Life, Public-Good, and Traditional Knowledge (Soskolne et al. Part IV)  
Social Forces at Play in Environmental and Human Catastrophes (Soskolne et al. Part V (c))  
Quiz 1 over readings and discussions thru week 5
- Week 6 Infectious Diseases, Reproduction and Nutrition (Merson Chapters 4, 5, and 6)  
The Rights of Children: Health and the Cultural Environment (Soskolne et al. Part V (d))
- Week 7 Chronic Diseases and Risks (Merson Chapter 7)  
Unintentional Injuries and Violence (Merson Chapter 8)  
Governance Amid Ideological Influences in a Globalizing World (Soskolne et al. Part V (a))  
Healy, Melissa and Anna Gorman. "Obesity to be Viewed as Disease: The AMA decision is likely to alter insurers' and doctors' approach to the U.S. epidemic."  
Los Angeles Times. June 19, 2013. (Moodle)
- Week 8 Global Mental Health (Merson Chapter 9)  
Bad Blood: The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment
- Week 9 Environmental Health (Merson Chapter 10)  
Rights to Food and Water (Soskolne et al. Part V (b))  
Quiz II over readings and discussions thru week 9, including the book on the Cuban Health Care System (Whiteford) and Bad Blood: The Tuskegee Syphilis \ Experiment (Jones).
- Week 10 Complex Emergencies (Merson Chapter 11)  
Part II Essential Issues in Health Policy and Law (Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 in Teitelbaum and Wilensky)

Week 11 Part III Basic Skills in Health Policy Analysis (Chapter 13 The Art of Structuring and Writing a Health Policy Analysis in Teitelbaum and Wilensky) (Moodle)  
Evaluations of Large-Scale Health Programs (Merson Chapter 16)

Week 12 Pharmaceuticals (Merson Chapter 14)  
Health and the Economy (Merson Chapter 15)

Week 13

Gostin, Lawrence O. (2010). "Global Health Law: Health in a Global Community." Public Health Law and Ethics: A Reader. 233. (Moodle).

Week 14 Cooperation in Global Health (Merson Chapter 17)  
Globalization and Health-I (Merson Chapter 18)

Week 15 Globalization and Health Policy-II  
Challenging our Individual and Collective Thinking About Sustainability  
(Soskolne et al Conclusions)

Week 16 Final exam

**Plagiarism:** All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321>.

Plagiarism is the representing of another's work as one's own. It is a particularly intolerable offense in the academic community and is strictly forbidden. Students who plagiarize may fail the course and may be remanded to Academic Court for possible suspension or expulsion. (See UM Student Conduct Code).

Students must always be very careful to acknowledge any kind of borrowing that is included in their work. This means not only borrowed wording but also ideas. Acknowledgment of whatever is not one's own original work is the proper and honest use of sources. Failure to acknowledge whatever is not one's own original work is plagiarism. (Source: <http://www2.umt.edu/catalog/acpolpro.htm>)

**Accommodation:** In accordance with University of Montana's mission to provide equal educational opportunities for all students, necessary accommodations for students with disabilities will be made whenever possible. If you require accommodations, please provide written information regarding your disability from the Disability Services as soon as possible so that accommodations can be made.