

**College of Public Health and Health Professions**  
**PHC 6530 Public Health Issues of Mothers and Children**  
**Fall, 2013**  
**Tuesday, 1:55-4:55 PM**  
**Location: G301A**

**Syllabus**

**Faculty**

Julie Moderie, MPH  
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**Purpose and overview**

*Public Health Issues of Mothers and Children* has two fundamental purposes: The first purpose is to develop a working knowledge of key public health issues affecting mothers, children, and families, primarily in the United States. Following an introduction to key organizational and financing issues in the field, the course focuses in greater depth on major public health problems, and specific local, state, and federal programs and policies that have been implemented to address them. The second purpose is to provide opportunities to integrate this population-specific content with public health skills as they are applied in practice situations. The role of data in understanding and addressing public health problems, and the importance of evidenced-based public health practice are emphasized throughout the course.

The health issues of young families and children cover a wide range of conditions that are influenced by biological, behavioral, family, social and environmental factors. To prevent or minimize health problems in this population, multifaceted interventions are needed. It is critical to understand and address problems like obesity or adolescent pregnancy directly with the individuals who are experiencing them. It is equally critical to address these issues at the population level with an understanding of the risks in the community, number of people affected, the skills and distribution of providers, effectiveness and acceptability of interventions, and resources available to make a difference. In this course we include all of these elements in our readings, lectures, and assignments. Course content is delivered by experts in each area – epidemiology, nutrition, psychology, management - and the interface among disciplines is strongly emphasized.

**Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe historical roots and contemporary structure of maternal and child public health services in the United States.
2. Identify and discuss major public health problems of mothers and children and their key determinants
3. Describe the programmatic and policy interventions developed to address major public health problems of mothers and children
4. Analyze one specific MCH problem in-depth and propose valid and specific recommendations for addressing this problem in the future.

## Students

This course was developed primarily for second year MPH students who have completed the five MPH core courses and are exploring the option of a career in MCH. Other students may join the class with permission of the instructors.

## Format

The course is offered in a three hour block on Tuesdays, 1:55-4:55. Content is covered through readings, presentations, discussions, and projects. The course instructors, guest instructors, and students will lead the classes.

## Requirements

- 1. An analytic paper on one public health problem of mothers, children, and/or families.** This paper will address one MCH problem from a public health perspective, including significance and determinants; key interventions, effectiveness, and impediments to effectiveness; and recommendations derived from the preceding analysis. The paper is developed in three parts. Part 1, analysis of the problem, is due October 8. The second part, addressing interventions, is due **October 29, and part 3, recommendations, is due the last day of class, December 3.** Specific guidelines for the paper will be distributed early in the semester. Topics must be approved by the course instructors.
- 2. Class leadership.** Each student has responsibility for leading a class session on the topic chosen for his/her paper.
- 3. Homework.** Homework assignments will be distributed the week before they are due.
- 4. Perinatal Health Workshop.** Each student will have a specific assignment for the workshop on **September 25.**

## Attendance and class participation

Consistent with the spirit of graduate education and the interactive nature of public health practice, students are expected to attend and participate fully in every class session. Participation will constitute 10% of the grade. If you are unable to attend a class for any reason, please notify the instructors before the session.

## Readings

The textbook for the course is:

- Kotch, Jonathan B., ed. *Maternal and Child Health: Programs, Problems, and Policy in Public Health, Second Edition.* Boston: Jones and Bartlett Publishers. 2012.

The text is available in the UF Health Science Center Bookstore on the ground floor of the Communicore. Additional readings are assigned from current refereed literature, books, and reports in the MCH field.

## Grading

Grades for the course will be derived as follows:

Written paper	55%
Class leadership	15%
Homework	10%
Perinatal Health Workshop	10%
Participation	10%
Total	100%

Letter grades are assigned according to the following scale:

Percentage earned in class	100%-95%	94%-90%	89%-85%	84%-80%	79%-75%	74%-70%	69%-65%	Below 65%
Letter Grade equivalent	A	A-	B+	B	C+	C	D	E

Letter grades translate to the following grade points at UF:

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E	WF	I	NG	S-U
Grade Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

For greater detail on the meaning of letter grades and university policies related to them, see the Registrar's Grade Policy regulations at <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>.

### **Academic Integrity**

Each student is bound by the academic honesty guidelines of the University of Florida and the Code of Student Conduct, printed in the *Student Guide* and published on the University web site. The Honor Code states: *We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.* Cheating, plagiarism, other academic dishonesty or conduct violations in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior and can result in dismissal from the College and/or University. ***If you have any questions about appropriate conduct, ask the course instructors.***

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

The College and course instructors are committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students' coursework. To obtain academic accommodations, first register with the Dean of Students' Office. The Dean of Students' Office will provide documentation to be given to the course instructors at the time you request the accommodation.

### **Counseling and Student Health**

Students may occasionally have personal issues that arise in the course of pursuing higher education or that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing problems affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and to seek confidential assistance at the UF Counseling & Wellness Center, 352-392-1575. Visit their web site for more information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/>.

The Student Health Care Center at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services, including primary care, women's health care, immunizations, mental health care, and pharmacy services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 392-0627 or check out the web site at: [www.health.ufl.edu/shcc](http://www.health.ufl.edu/shcc)

Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from:  
Alachua County Crisis Center: (352) 264-6789.

***BUT – Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.***

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Class Schedule, Presenters, and Assignments**

Date	Time	Topics	Speaker	Assignment
8/27	2-2:30	Introduction	J. Moderie	
	2:30-4:00	History, organization, and funding of MCH in the US		
9/3	2-3:15	<u>Discussion</u> : Federal agencies/legislation	Students	<b>HW due 9/3</b> : Description of federal agencies/legislation
	3:30-4:45	Framework for course paper	J. Moderie	
9/10	2-3:15	<u>Discussions</u> : Course paper topic and approach	Students	<b>HW due 9/10</b> : Select topic for course paper
	3:30-4:45	Maternal and child health indicator data	J. Moderie	
9/17	2-3:15	Preconception/interconception health	J. Moderie	<b>HW due 9/17</b> : Readings
	3:30-4:45	Preterm delivery	J. Moderie	
9/24	2-3:15	Smoking - during pregnancy and after pregnancy	S. Vickers	<b>HW due 9/24</b> : Readings
	3:30-4:45	Breastfeeding – importance and benefits	O. Garcia	
10/1	2-3:15	<u>Presentations</u> : Perinatal & infant health data	Students	<b>HW due 10/1</b> : Perinatal and infant health data presentation
	3:30-4:45	<u>Workshop</u> : Perinatal health/measurement issues	J. Moderie	
10/8		<b>Paper Part 1 due</b>		<b>HW due 10/8</b> : Readings
	2-3:15	Postpartum Depression	K. Roussos-Ross	
	3:30-4:45	Infant/child developmental milestones	K. Auguste	
10/15	2-2:30	<b>Paper Part 1 returned and discussed</b>		<b>HW due 10/15</b> : Home visiting programs presentation
	2-2:45	<u>Presentations</u> : Home visiting programs	Students	
	3-4:45	Home visiting programs forum	J. Moderie	
10/22	2-2:45	Child safety and injury prevention	D. Bland	<b>HW due 10/22</b> : Pre-test on Child Safety
	3-4:45		M. Willis	
10/29		<b>Paper Part 2 due</b>		<b>HW due 10/29</b> : Readings
	2-2:45	Childhood obesity	K. Voncastel-Roberts	
	3-4:45	Individual and family-based interventions for childhood obesity	D. Janicke	
11/5		No class. APHA meetings in Boston, MA		
11/12	2-2:30	<b>Paper Part 2 returned and discussed</b>		
	2:30-4:45	Student presentations	Students	
11/19	2-4:45	Student presentations	Students	
11/26	2-4:45	Student presentations	Students	
12/3		<b>Final paper (Parts 1, 2, and 3) due</b>		
	2-3:30	Student presentations	Students	
	3:45-4:45	Summary and feedback	All	