

**Introduction to Public Health and Policy**  
**CMH 705**  
**4.0 Credit Hours**

**I. Course Description**

Students taking this course will develop a broad knowledge base in the dynamic and multidisciplinary field of public health. They will be introduced to the core components of the field including environmental science, epidemiology, biostatistics, health policy, health services management, economics, and socio-behavioral science. Some class sessions are delivered through distance learning and technology enhanced educational methods.

**II. Course Objectives**

By the end of this course, students will be expected to:

1. Understand the primary functions of public health including assessment, policy development, and assurance
2. Demonstrate understanding of multiple determinants of health including environmental determinants, health behaviors, and access to care
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the politics and policy associated with the public health in the United States
4. Think critically about community health problem solving, emerging issues in public health, and quality concerns in the American health care system
5. Understand the principles of population-based health care
6. Demonstrate understanding of multiple determinants of health including environmental determinants, health behaviors, health disparities/multi-cultural issues in public health, and access to care

**III. Prerequisites**

Enrollment in this course requires: 1) Admission to the MPH Program; or 2) permission of the instructor.

**IV. Required Text**

Lee, PR & Estes, CL: *The Nation's Health, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition*.  
Jones & Bartlett Publishers Inc., 2003 (608 pp).

Weissert CS & Weissert WG: *Governing Health: The Politics of Health Policy* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002 (369 pp.)

**V. Course Schedule and Topics**

Week 1	The Health of the Public, Determinants of Health, and Health Disparities
Week 2	Politics and Policy
Week 3	Population-based Public Health
Week 4	Community-based Interventions for a Healthy Public
Week 5	Access to Health-related Services
Week 6	Cost Constraints, Financing, and Health Care Organizations
Week 7	Medicare, Medicaid, & SCHIP
Week 8	Contemporary Issues in Public Health (Bioterrorism, Women's Health, Long-term Care, and Tobacco)
Week 9	Quality Concerns
Week 10	Course Wrap-up

## VI. Grading System

Students are expected to attend each class meeting session. If a student has a schedule conflict she/he should communicate this to the instructor prior to that class session. Class participation is a key component of this learning experience.

The Wright State University Grading Scale will be used to assign final course grades. Grades of incomplete are granted only if three conditions are met: 1) sixty percent of the work is already finished; 2) the request is made one week before the last class; and 3) the reason for the request is circumstances beyond the control of the student. Final grade assignments will be broken down as follows:

Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
Presentation	20%
* Class Participation	20%

*\* 10% of the class participation is peer evaluation, 10% instructor evaluation*

Grading Scale:A	90 -100
B	80 - 89
C	70 - 79
D	60 - 69
F	0-59

**Note:** Late work will only be considered if a written request is made to the instructor one week prior to the due date of the assignment. Late assignments are generally NOT accepted.