COURSE & CONTACT INFORMATION

Credits: 1
Meeting Day(s): Mondays
Meeting Time: 3:35-5:45
Meeting Place: Mayo 325

Instructor: Donna McAlpine, PhD
Email: mcalp004@umn.edu
Office Phone: 612-625-9919
Office Hours: By appointment (use Google Calendar)
Office Location: Mayo D376

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Population health is the field of practice and research concerned with the health of groups of individuals and the equitable distribution of health within these groups. Populations may be defined by geographic area, by social and economic characteristics such as gender, socio-economic status, and race/ethnicity, by disease states such as persons with mental illness or diabetes, or by enrollment in a health care plan or utilization of a specific health care organization. Population health takes an upstream approach, focusing on the social determinants of health and fundamental issues of health equity. While improving population health requires the involvement of multiple sectors such as public health agencies, health departments, education, housing, faith-based organizations and criminal justice, here we focus on how population health can be addressed from within the health system through partnerships with other sectors. Using case studies, we will explore how population health innovations are applied by health systems.

COURSE PREREQUISITES
Students enrolled in a Master’s-level graduate program at the University of Minnesota

COURSE GOALS & OBJECTIVES
My goal is that upon successful completion of the course, you will be able to:

1. Explain different conceptualizations of population health and health equity
2. Identify and interpret demographic and population health data
3. Conceptualize the link between social factors and health outcomes
4. Describe strategies for engaging stakeholders in population health interventions
5. Analyze the application of population interventions in real world settings

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION AND WORK EXPECTATIONS

Course Workload Expectations
PubH 6525 is a 1 credit course offered over ½ of the full semester. The University expects that for each credit, you will spend a minimum of three hours per week attending class or comparable online activity, reading,
studying, completing assignments, etc. over the course of a 15-week term. Thus, this course requires approximately 45 hours of effort spread over the course of the term in order to earn an average grade.

This is a seminar course. Students should read the material (or review the videos) before coming to class and be prepared to take part in the discussion of the material. Lectures are intended to clarify and supplement required readings.

Slides and other materials will be posted on the course’s Moodle website.

The success of the course will depend upon students’ careful reading in advance of class.

**A note on class participation, in-class and virtually:** Class participation is very important, as is the continuity of discussion and cumulative learning from week to week. Thus, one component of students’ grades (for a total of 10 points, or 10%) is participation in class discussions and online forums. Attendance in each of the 7 classes is expected. If a student must miss class for extenuating circumstances, he or she must notify the instructor in advance with an appropriate excuse (e.g., illness in self or family).

Students will receive a grade and feedback on their assignments in one week. Students can expect responses to emailed questions within 24 hours (except for weekends and holidays).

**Learning Community**
School of Public Health courses ask students to discuss frameworks, theory, policy, and more, often in the context of past and current events and policy debates. Many of our courses also ask students to work in teams or discussion groups. We do not come to our courses with identical backgrounds and experiences and building on what we already know about collaborating, listening, and engaging is critical to successful professional, academic, and scientific engagement with topics.

In this course, students are expected to engage with each other in respectful and thoughtful ways.

In group work, this can mean:
- Setting expectations with your groups about communication and response time during the first week of the semester (or as soon as groups are assigned) and contacting the TA or instructor if scheduling problems cannot be overcome.
- Setting clear deadlines and holding yourself and each other accountable.
- Determining the roles group members need to fulfill to successfully complete the project on time.
- Developing a rapport prior to beginning the project (what prior experience are you bringing to the project, what are your strengths as they apply to the project, what do you like to work on?)

In group discussion, this can mean:
- Respecting the identities and experiences of your classmates.
- Avoid broad statements and generalizations. Group discussions are another form of academic communication and responses to instructor questions in a group discussion are evaluated. Apply the same rigor to crafting discussion posts as you would for a paper.
- Consider your tone and language, especially when communicating in text format, as the lack of other cues can lead to misinterpretation.

Like other work in the course, all student to student communication is covered by the Student Conduct Code ([https://z.umn.edu/studentconduct](https://z.umn.edu/studentconduct)).

**COURSE TEXT & READINGS**

The readings are listed in the next section and are available either through hyperlink or as a link to an article via the U of MN library or the Moodle website. There is no course textbook.
## COURSE OUTLINE/WEEKLY SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Activities/Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 9/10</td>
<td>Introduction to Population Health</td>
<td>Christianson, 2016; Kindig and Stoddard, 2003; Stoto, 2014; Sharfstein, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2 9/17</td>
<td>Describing a Population</td>
<td>Regions Hospital Community Needs Assessment; Goldman, 2014; American FactFinder</td>
<td>Bring Laptop to Class; Using Demographic Data exercise</td>
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<td>Assignment # 1 DUE September 19 (short reaction paper) Due 5.00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3 9/24</td>
<td>Measuring Population Health</td>
<td>Braveman et al., 2017; Stoto, 2014; Regions Implementation Plans; CDC Wonder; Country Health Rankings</td>
<td>Bring Laptop to Class; Using Health Data</td>
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<td>Assignment # 2 (Describe your population) Due September 26 5.00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4 10/1</td>
<td>Social Determinants of Health</td>
<td>Phelan et al. 2010; Galae et al. 2011; Center for Outcomes Research and Education</td>
<td>Assignment #3 Due Oct 3 5:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5 10/8</td>
<td>Social Determinants of Health</td>
<td>Ted Talk; Kreiger 2005; Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6 10/15</td>
<td>Engaging Stakeholders</td>
<td>AHA, 2013; Allina Backyard</td>
<td>Assignment # 4 Due October 15 5:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7 10/22</td>
<td>Leading Innovations in Population Health</td>
<td>Kindig, 2018; Begun, 2017</td>
<td>Final Integrated Paper Due 10/23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Week 1 (9/10): Introduction to Population Health

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Explain evolution of population health and variations in definitions
2. Explain the functions of public health
3. Differentiate between public health and population health
4. Review the application of population health under health reform

**Required:**


**Optional:**


Week 2 (9/17): Describing A Population

**Learning Objectives:**
- Compare variation in how populations may be defined
- Identify appropriate denominators to describe populations
- Identify and interpret data to describe social and economic characteristics of populations


**Case Study:**


**Prior to Class Become Familiar With:**

**Optional:**

Week 3 (9/24): Measuring Population Health and Health Inequity

**Learning Objectives:**
- Identify leading indicators of population health
- Identify leading determinants of population health
- Define health equity
- Use data to describe population health outcomes and inequities in outcomes


**Case Study:**


Prior to Class Become Familiar With:

CDC Wide-ranging ONline Data for Epidemiologic Research (CDC WONDER) is a web-based data base of public health statistics. Available at [https://wonder.cdc.gov](https://wonder.cdc.gov).


Optional:


Week 4 (10/1): Social Determinants of Health

**Learning Objectives:**
- Describe the theory of social conditions as fundamental causes of health
- Identify major social determinants of health
- Develop logic models linking social determinants to outcomes
- Explain strategies for addressing social determinants


Case Study:


**Week 5 (10/8): Social Determinants of Health (continued)**

**Learning Objectives:**
- Understand structural versus individual conceptualizations of social determinants
- Identify major social determinants of health
- Develop logic models linking social determinants to outcomes
- Understand strategies for addressing social determinants

Watch TED talk by Dr. Richi Manchanda “UpStream Doctors” prior to class Available at: https://www.ted.com/talks/rishi_manchanda_what_makes_us_get_sick_look_upstream


Case Study:


**Week 6 (10/15): Engaging Stakeholders**

**Learning Objectives:**
- Identify Strategies for Identifying Key Stakeholders
- Evaluate Challenges to Achieving Engagement


Case Study:

Week7 (10/22): Leading Interventions to Improve Population Health

Learning Objectives:
- Specify barriers to implementing population health interventions
- Identify leadership characteristics to reduce barriers
- Design population health intervention


Optional:


The School of Public Health maintains up-to-date information about resources available to students, as well as formal course policies, on our website at www.sph.umn.edu/student-policies/. Students are expected to read and understand all policy information available at this link and are encouraged to make use of the resources available.

The University of Minnesota has official policies, including but not limited to the following:

- Grade definitions
- Scholastic dishonesty
- Makeup work for legitimate absences
- Student conduct code
- Sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking and relationship violence
- Equity, diversity, equal employment opportunity, and affirmative action
- Disability services
- Academic freedom and responsibility

Resources available for students include:

- Confidential mental health services
- Disability accommodations
- Housing and financial instability resources
- Technology help
- Academic support

EVALUATION & GRADING

Assignment 1: Defining Population Health: Write a short reaction paper discussing how you define population health from the perspective of the health care system based on the readings, lecture and class discussion from Week 1. What are the strengths and limitations of your definition?

Assignments 2-4 build on one another to produce a final paper that applies the major components of a population health approach to improving health for a population (a randomly chosen county in Minnesota). You have the choice to do these assignments individually or in pairs.

Assignment 2: Identify a Population: Students will randomly choose a county in Minnesota that will constitute the population they analyze for the remainder of the course. Describe the county that you will focus on for the remainder of the class. What is the denominator? What are the major social and economic characteristics of the population that you believe are important for health? Present data about four socio-demographic characteristics. How does your population compare to the state? What are the major health organizations responsible for health outcomes for your population? Students working in pairs will be required to choose six indicators of health. Maximum 400 words for individual work; 500 words for pairs (not including tables, figures or references)

Assignment 3: Describe the Health Needs of Your Population. Using CDC Wonder, County Health Rankings or other reliable data sources describe the health of your population. Choose three indicators of health and show how your population compares to the state population? Is there evidence of inequities in these outcomes? Students working in pairs will be required to choose six indicators of health. Maximum 400 words for individual work; 500 words for pairs

Assignment 4: Describe a social determinant that should be targeted to improve population health for ONE of the indicators you selected in Assignment 3. Develop a logic model showing how you believe that determinant is linked to the health outcome. Suggest a possible intervention. Students working in pairs will choose 2 possible interventions. Maximum 1000 words for individual work; 1500 words for pairs.

Assignment 5: Integrated Paper. The final paper is a compilation of Assignments 2-5 into a single paper. Revise these sections based on what you learned later in the class, or based on the instructor's feedback. In addition, add a section on the potential stakeholders you need to engage to implement the intervention discussed in Assignment 4 (maximum 300 additional words).
Students working in pairs will be asked to rate their own and their partners' effort on each project. The final grade in the class will be weighted by the average effort.

Class & Discussion Forum Participation:

You are expected to come to class having read the material and being prepared to participate in discussion. To help that process, you are required to submit on the course Moodle site, a discussion question or questions that you would like covered in the next day of class; do this for at least 4 of the 7 weeks of class. You may pose a new question, or add to an existing discussion thread. **Questions must be posted by 8:00 pm the night before class.** We won’t be able to address all your questions in class, but knowing what students are interested in or having difficulty understanding will help me facilitate group discussion. (Class discussion and forum participation make up 10% of your grade – see end of this document for grading rubric).

Grading Scale

The University uses plus and minus grading on a 4.000 cumulative grade point scale in accordance with the following, and you can expect the grade lines to be drawn as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% In Class</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>GPA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93 - 100%</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.000</td>
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<tr>
<td>90 - 92%</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.667</td>
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<tr>
<td>87 - 89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.333</td>
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<tr>
<td>83 - 86%</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 - 82%</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77 - 79%</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73 - 76%</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 - 72%</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67 - 69%</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.333</td>
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<tr>
<td>63 - 66%</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.000</td>
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<tr>
<td>&lt; 62%</td>
<td>F</td>
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</table>

- A = achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
- B = achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
- C = achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
- D = achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
- F = failure because work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I (Incomplete).
- S = achievement that is satisfactory, which is equivalent to a C- or better
- N = achievement that is not satisfactory and signifies that the work was either 1) completed but at a level that is not worthy of credit, or 2) not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and student that the student would receive an I (Incomplete).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation/Grading Policy</th>
<th>Evaluation/Grading Policy Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scholastic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, Cheating, etc.</td>
<td>You are expected to do your own academic work and cite sources as necessary. Failing to do so is scholastic dishonesty. Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis (As defined in the Student Conduct Code). For additional information, please see <a href="https://z.umn.edu/dishonesty">https://z.umn.edu/dishonesty</a>. The Office for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity has compiled a useful list of Frequently Asked Questions pertaining to scholastic dishonesty: <a href="https://z.umn.edu/integrity">https://z.umn.edu/integrity</a>. If you have additional questions, please clarify with your instructor. Your instructor can respond to your specific questions regarding what would constitute scholastic dishonesty in the context of a particular class-e.g., whether collaboration on assignments is permitted, requirements and methods for citing sources, if electronic aids are permitted or prohibited during an exam. Indiana University offers a clear description of plagiarism and an online quiz to check your understanding (<a href="http://z.umn.edu/iuplagiarism">http://z.umn.edu/iuplagiarism</a>).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late Assignments</td>
<td>Late assignments are penalized 10% per day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance Requirements</td>
<td>Students are expected to attend all classes. Please inform the instructor by email if you expect to miss a class, as professional courtesy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extra Credit</td>
<td>All students are evaluated on the basis of the same assignments – there is no extra credit work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intellectual Property of Instructors' Material</td>
<td>The MHA program prohibits any current student from uploading MHA course content (e.g., lecture notes, assignments, or examinations for any PUBH 65XX or PUBH 75XX courses) created by a University of Minnesota faculty member, lecturer, or instructor to any crowdsourced online learning platform.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge Domain</td>
<td>Course Learning Objectives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Explain public health history, philosophy, and values.</td>
<td>Explain evolution of population health and variations in definitions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Differentiate between public health and population health</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Review the application of population health under health reform</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identify the core functions of public health and 10 Essential Services¹.</td>
<td>Explain evolution of population health and variations in definitions</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Explain the functions of public health</td>
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<td>Differentiate between public health and population health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Explain the role of quantitative and qualitative methods and sciences in</td>
<td>Identify leading indicators of population health</td>
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<tr>
<td>describing and assessing a population's health.</td>
<td>Use data to describe population health outcomes and inequities in outcomes</td>
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<td>Compare variation in how populations may be defined</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Identify appropriate denominators to describe populations</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Identify and interpret data to describe social and economic characteristics of populations</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| List major causes and trends of morbidity and mortality in the US or other community relevant to the school or program. | Identify leading indicators of population health  
Identify leading determinants of population health  
Define health equity  
Use data to describe population health outcomes and inequities in outcomes  
Identify and interpret data to describe social and economic characteristics of populations | Assignment # 3, Integrated Paper |
|---|---|---|
| Explain the critical importance of evidence in advancing public health knowledge. | Use data to describe population health outcomes and inequities in outcomes  
Identify and interpret data to describe social and economic characteristics of populations  
Develop logic models linking social determinants to outcomes | Assignment #2, #3, #4, Integrated Paper |
| Explain biological and genetic factors that affect a population's health. | Describe the theory of social conditions as fundamental causes of health  
Identify major social determinants of health  
Develop logic models linking social determinants to outcomes  
Explain strategies for addressing social determinants | Assignment # 3, Integrated Paper |
|---|---|
| Explain the social, political, and economic determinants of health to population health and health inequities. | Describe the theory of social conditions as fundamental causes of health  
Identify major social determinants of health  
Develop logic models linking social determinants to outcomes  
Explain strategies for addressing social determinants  
Define Health Equity | Assignment #3, #4, Integrated Paper |
NCHL HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP COMPETENCIES FOR CAHME ACCREDITATION PURPOSES
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competency</th>
<th>Course Learning Objectives</th>
<th>Assessment Strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Healthcare delivery, financing and public health knowledge | Explain evolution of population health and variations in definitions  
Differentiate between public health and population health  
Explain the functions of public and population health  
Review the application of population health under health reform | Assignment #1                          |
| Population health measurement and management            | Compare variation in how populations may be defined  
Identify appropriate denominators to describe populations  
Identify and interpret data to describe social and economic characteristics of populations                                                                 | Assignments #2-4; Final Integrated Paper |
| Community Collaboration                                 | Identify Strategies for Identifying Key Stakeholders  
Evaluate Challenges to Achieving Engagement                                                                                                                        | Final Integrated Paper                 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantitative analyses and performance measurement</th>
<th>Compare variation in how populations may be defined Identify appropriate denominators to describe populations Identify and interpret data to describe social and economic characteristics of populations Use data to describe population health outcomes and inequities in outcomes</th>
<th>Assignments #2-3; Final Integrated Paper</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written communication</td>
<td>Communicate clearly and concisely in writing and orally</td>
<td>Assignments #1-4; Final Integrated Paper; class and on-line participation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 See [https://www.cdc.gov/stiltpublichealth/publichealthservices/essentialhealthservices.html](https://www.cdc.gov/stiltpublichealth/publichealthservices/essentialhealthservices.html) for more detail.