PUBH 8120, SECTION 001

Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety Research Seminar
SPRING 2019

Grading Option - S/N only

COURSE AND CONTACT INFORMATION
Credits: 1
Meeting Day(s): Fridays
Meeting Time: 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Meeting Place: 1155 Mayo Memorial Building

Instructor: Bruce Alexander, PhD. Susan Goodwin Gerberich, PhD; Andrew D. Ryan, MS
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Office Location: 1260 Mayo (Alexander); 1156 Mayo (Gerberich); C-174 Mayo (Ryan)

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is designed to develop skills for becoming an independent scientist. The course builds on the fundamental competencies gained in basic epidemiology, biostatistics, and occupational and environmental health- and safety-related courses and explores how these skills are integrated across sub-disciplines of environmental health. It enables students from multiple disciplines to synthesize information and to enhance critical thinking and application of methods to specific research efforts. The course is also intended to assist students in navigating the process of developing and implementing a thesis project.

COURSE PREREQUISITES
Registered student in the Division of Environmental Sciences and/or one of the training programs of the Midwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety. Students from other programs in public health will be considered on a space-available basis; completion of / registration in epidemiology and biostatistics courses (exceptions negotiated, as appropriate); engaged in or planning a research effort.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal
To facilitate student research efforts in environmental and occupational health- and safety-related doctoral and other training programs through interdisciplinary involvement of students.

Detailed Learning Objectives
A. Discuss and explore fundamentals of research methods;
B. Develop a broader understanding of the multidisciplinary nature of public health;
C. Critique key papers of methodological interest, pertinent to the field of occupational and environmental health and safety;
D. Practice communication of health and research information;
E. Provide and receive constructive criticism on ongoing research projects;
F. Synthesize fundamentals of research methods and key concepts to the application of specific research efforts;
G. Develop professional skills including communication and networking
METHODS OF INSTRUCTION AND WORK EXPECTATIONS

Course Workload and Expectations PubH 8120 is a 1 credit course. 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 YOUR seminar. It is expected that you will take responsibility for contributing to seminars by scheduling yourself for at least one of the types of activities noted in the learning objectives and leading relevant presentations/discussions. Discussions / critiques of various aspects of research projects (ideas for projects; proposals; development of methods; analyses; interpretation); Informal lectures and presentations by students, faculty and guest lecturers; practice presentations for thesis committees and professional/other meetings; field trips relevant to environmental and occupational health

All students will be expected to regularly attend the seminar and participate in the discussion. This will include critiquing papers, providing constructive feedback to fellow students’ work-in-progress and discussing the particular topic being presented. Over the course of the term and year, each student will present their work-in-progress in one or more sessions.

Learning Community This is a multidisciplinary course that involves individuals from varied backgrounds and experiences. Building on what we already know about collaborating, listening, and engaging is critical to successful professional, academic, and scientific engagement with others in the various topics that will be presented and discussed. Students are expected to engage with each other in respectful and thoughtful ways. Like other work in the course, all student-to-student communication is covered by the Student Conduct Code (https://z.umn.edu/studentconduct).

COURSE TEXT AND READINGS

Suggested Resources, as appropriate:


Michaels KB. Epigenetic Epidemiology, Springer, 2014


Other Resources:


STROBE (Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology) http://www.strobe-statement.org (Check: home; Aims; Available checklists; Publications, Commentaries, Discussion Forum, STROBE group and other contributors, Endorsement).


COURSE OUTLINE/WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Refer to Separate Evolving Schedule File

SPH AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES:

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 AND GRADING

This course is offered on a Pass/Fail (Satisfactory/Not satisfactory) basis. To receive a passing grade students must regularly attend the seminar and participate as appropriate. An S grade is assigned for registered students contributing to presentations, discussions, and activities, as follows: Discussions/critiques of various aspects of research projects (ideas for projects; proposals; development of methods; analyses; interpretation); Informal lectures and presentations by students, faculty and guest lecturers; Practice presentations for thesis committees and professional/other meetings; field trips relevant to occupational health and safety and other research areas.

- 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).