

Department of Health Promotion
& Community Health
Faculty of Health Sciences
American University of Beirut

HPCH 205

Introduction to Public Health

Fall Semester, Academic Year 2019-2020

[3 credits]

Course instructor and contact details

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Class time and venue

Monday and Wednesday, 9.00 to 10.15 | Van Dyck Building, room 201.

Course description

This course is intended to introduce undergraduate students in the Health Communication Programme to the basic concepts, disciplines, and principles of Public Health. Students learn how biological, environmental, social, economic and political factors are intimately related to health, health care and illness, and how these can be addressed at the individual, community, and population levels. The course incorporates a critical perspective on contemporary health challenges, and most sessions include a common lecture and case studies from the world, particularly the Arab region.

Course Learning Objectives (LOs)

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Differentiate between individual and population perspectives on health, health care and disease
2. Describe the multidisciplinary field of public health, public health ethics, and its core values
3. Apply basic demographic and epidemiological metrics and terminology
4. Discuss the historical contributions of public health to the well-being of the world's population
5. Describe contemporary global health issues as an outcome of global environmental challenges
6. Draw the pathways of interaction of a selection of physical, environmental and structural health determinants on community health outcomes/disparities

Required readings

- Al Jazeera (2016). *Rachel's HIV revolution* [film documentary]. Doha: Al Jazeera Media Network.
- Anwar, W. (2002). Environmental health in Egypt. *International Journal of Hygiene and Environmental Health*, 206: 339-350.
- Asbu, E., Masri, M., & Kaissi, A. (2017). Health status and health systems financing in the MENA region: roadmap to universal health coverage. *Global Health Research & Policy*, 2(25).
- Aylward, B., & Alwan, A. (2014). Polio in Syria. *The Lancet*, 383: 481-491.
- Barker, C. (2013). Class struggle and social movements. In C. Barker, L. Cox, Krinsky, J., & Nilsen, A. (Eds.), *Marxism and social movements*. Leiden: Brill.
- Bellisari, A. (1994). Public health and the water crisis in the occupied Palestinian territories. *Journal of Palestine Studies*, 23(2): 52-63.
- Blanchet, K., Fouad, F., & Pherali, T. (2016). Syrian refugees in Lebanon: the search for universal health coverage. *Conflict and Health*, 10(12).
- Bonita, R., Beaglehole, R., Kjellström, T. (2006). *Basic epidemiology*. Geneva: World Health Organization.
- Brown, P., Zavestoski, S., McCormick, S., Mayer, B., Morello-Frosch, R., & Altman, R. (2004). Embodied health movements: new approaches to social movements in health. *Sociology of Health & Illness*, 26(1): 50-80.
- Commission on Social Determinants of Health (2008). *Closing the gap in a generation. Health equity through action on the social determinants of health*. Geneva: World Health Organization.
- Dewachi, O., Skelton, M., Nguyen, V., Fouad, F., Sitta, G., Maasri, Z., & Giacaman, R. (2014). Changing therapeutic geographies of the Iraqi and Syrian wars. *The Lancet*, 383: 449-457.
- Foucault, M. (1974). The politics of health in the eighteenth century. In C. Gordon (Ed.), *Power/knowledge. Selected interviews & other writings, 1972-1977*. New York: Pantheon Books.
- Husseini, A., Rmeileh, N., Mikki, N., Ramahi, T., Gosh, H., Barghuthi, N., Khalili, M., Bjertness, E., Holmboe-Ottesen, G., & Jervell, J. (2009). Cardiovascular diseases, diabetes mellitus, and cancer in the occupied Palestinian territory. *The Lancet*, 373: 1041-1049.
- International Agency for Research on Cancer (2013). The carcinogenicity of outdoor air pollution. *The Lancet*, 14: 1262-1263.
- Kass, N. (2001). An ethics framework for public health. *American Journal of Public Health*, 91(11): 1776-1782.
- Kobrossi, R., Nuwayhid, I., Sibai, A., El-Fadel, M., & Khogali, M. (2002). Respiratory health effects of industrial air pollution on children in North Lebanon. *International Journal of Environmental Health Research*, 12(3): 205-220.
- Kojola, E. (2015). (Re)constructing the pipeline: workers, environmentalists and ideology in media coverage of the Keystone XL Pipeline. *Critical Sociology*, 43(6): 893-917.
- Krieger, N. (2001). Theories for social epidemiology in the 21st century: an ecosocial perspective. *International Journal of Epidemiology*, 30: 668-677.
- Makhoul, J., Ghanem, D., & Ghanem, M. (2003). An ethnographic study of the consequences of social and structural forces on children: the case of two low-income Beirut suburbs. *Environment & Urbanization*, 15(2): 249-259.

- McMichael, A. (2013). Globalization, climate change, and human health. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 368: 1335-1343.
- Qadri, F., Islam, T., & Clemens, J. (2017). Cholera in Yemen – an old foe rearing its ugly head. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 377(21): 2005-2007.
- Svampa, M. (2015). Commodities consensus: neoextractivism and enclosure of the commons in Latin America. *The South Atlantic Quarterly*, 114(1): 65-82.
- Tulchinsky, T., & Varavikova, E. (2009). *The new public health*. London: Elsevier Academic Press.
- World Health Organization (2008). *Primary health care. Now more than ever*. Geneva: World Health Organization.

Course requirements

Students should read the relevant course material prior to class to enable informed discussion and to participate in class learning activities. Students are requested to come to class with at least two questions pertaining to the readings and should be prepared to be called on to share these questions for discussion. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in class activities and in Moodle forums by expressing their views in class informed by the course reading material, and any other material that students consider pertinent. Participation in class work and in Moodle forums are essential components of the learning process and will also help the course instructors in assessing general understanding of course material. Participation is part of the final grade. Moodle is an on-line course management system. To access the course, students login through Moodle [<http://moodle.aub.edu.lb>] and need to check Moodle regularly for updates on class sessions.

Students evaluation

Students will be evaluated on the following:

1. Participation and contribution to class activities and Moodle forums. As previously mentioned, it is expected that students contribute to class activities and Moodle forums through the revision of reading material, the elaboration of questions, and their participation in collective discussions, expressing their opinions about the content and perspectives of the course.
2. Mid-term exam. This in-class individual exam includes a number of multiple choice questions and short-answer and open-ended questions related mainly to basic demographic and epidemiological metrics and terminology, and health inequalities. It is expected to take place during the fifth course week.
3. Case study debate. This evaluation consists of a group revision, discussion, and presentation of one key issue related to health systems and financing in the Arab region. It is expected that students emphasise both the socioeconomic contexts and the demographic characteristics that condition the selected topic.

4. Final essay. It corresponds to an individual reflection paper about a specific public health issue and which aims to critically assess and integrate the contents of the course. It should be around 1,200 words. Soft copies must be uploaded to 'Turn It In' through Moodle for this course. The link will be provided in due time. This program helps instructors assess inappropriate referencing and possible plagiarism. The Academic Computing Center will provide a brief tutorial in class on this system.

Assessment	Percent	Learning Objectives (LOs)
Participation and contribution to class activities	5	LOs 1 to 6
Participation and contribution to Moodle forums	5	LOs 1 to 6
Mid-term exam	30	LO 3
Case study debate	30	LOs 4 and 5
Final essay	30	LO 6

AUB/FHS policies

Attendance

The instructors will take attendance regularly. The Rules and Regulations of the University stipulate that students cannot miss more than 1/5 of the sessions in the first ten weeks of any one course as stipulated in the University Catalogue. Otherwise, he/she can be dropped from the course by the instructor without warning and will receive a grade of W.

Academic integrity

Education is demanding and time management to complete the assigned course requirements is essential. Do not hesitate to use the resources available to students in the University [Libraries, Writing Center, and Academic Computing]. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the Student Code of Conduct [AUB Student Handbook]. Read the definitions and penalties. If you are in doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism, ask your instructor. AUB has a strict anti-cheating and anti-plagiarism policy. Penalties include: a zero on the assignment in question, which may lead to failing the course, suspension or expulsion from University and a record of the disciplinary action in the student's file.

Students with disabilities

AUB strives to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers due to a disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please inform me immediately so that we can privately discuss options. In order to help establish reasonable accommodations and facilitate a smooth accommodations process, you are encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Office: accessibility@aub.edu.lb; +961-1-350000, x3246; West Hall, 314.

Non-Discrimination – Title IX – AUB

AUB is committed to facilitating a campus free of all forms of discrimination including sex/gender-based harassment prohibited by Title IX. The University's non-discrimination policy applies to, and protects, all students, faculty, and staff. If you think you have experienced discrimination or harassment, including sexual misconduct, we encourage you to tell someone promptly. If you speak to a faculty or staff member about an issue such as harassment, sexual violence, or discrimination, the information will be kept as private as possible, however, faculty and designated staff are required to bring it to the attention of the University's Title IX Coordinator. Faculty can refer you to fully confidential resources, and you can find information and contacts at www.aub.edu.lb/titleix. To report an incident, contact the University's Title IX Coordinator Ms. Mitra Tauk at 01-350000 ext. 2514, or titleix@aub.edu.lb. An anonymous report may be submitted online via EthicsPoint at www.aub.ethicspoint.com.

Proposed course outline

Date	Topic	Readings	Learning objectives
Sep 02	Presentation and introduction to public health	Tulchinsky, T., & Varavikova, E. (2009). Expanding the concept of public health [chapter 2]. In T. Tulchinsky & Varavikova, <i>The new public health</i> . London: Elsevier Academic Press.	LOs 1 and 2
Sep 04	Public health core values and ethics	Kass, N. (2001). An ethics framework for public health. <i>American Journal of Public Health</i> , 91(11): 1776-1782.	LOs 1 and 2
Sep 09	History of public health, session 1	Foucault, M. (1974). The politics of health in the eighteenth century. In C. Gordon (Ed.), <i>Power/knowledge. Selected interviews & other writings, 1972-1977</i> . New York: Pantheon Books.	LOs 2 and 4
Sep 11	History of public health, session 2	Krieger, N. (2001). Theories for social epidemiology in the 21 st century: an ecosocial perspective. <i>International Journal of Epidemiology</i> , 30: 668-677.	LOs 2 and 4
Sep 16	Social determinants of health, session 1	Commission on Social Determinants of Health (2008). <i>Closing the gap in a generation</i> [executive summary]. Geneva: World Health Organization.	LOs 1, 3 and 6
Sep 18	Social determinants of health, practical session 1	Makhoul, J., Ghanem, D., & Ghanem, M. (2003). An ethnographic study of the consequences of social and structural forces on children: the case of two low-income Beirut suburbs. <i>Environment & Urbanization</i> , 15(2): 249-259.	LOs 1, 3 and 6
Sep 23	Social determinants of health, session 2	Commission on Social Determinants of Health (2008). <i>Closing the gap in a generation</i> [executive summary]. Geneva: World Health Organization.	LOs 1, 3 and 6
Sep 25	Social determinants of health, practical session 2	Makhoul, J., Ghanem, D., & Ghanem, M. (2003). An ethnographic study of the consequences of social and structural forces on children: the case of two low-income Beirut suburbs. <i>Environment & Urbanization</i> , 15(2): 249-259.	LOs 1, 3 and 6
Sep 30	Demography and epidemiology	Bonita, R., Beaglehole, R., & Kjellström, T. (2006). Measuring health and disease [chapter 2]. In R. Bonita, R. Beaglehole, & T. Kjellström, <i>Basic epidemiology</i> . Geneva: World Health Organization.	LOs 3 and 5

Oct 02	Demography and epidemiology (mid-term exam)	Bonita, R., Beaglehole, R., & Kjellström, T. (2006). Measuring health and disease [chapter 2]. In R. Bonita, R. Beaglehole, & T. Kjellström, <i>Basic epidemiology</i> . Geneva: World Health Organization.	LOs 3 and 5
Oct 07	Communicable diseases	Bonita, R., Beaglehole, R., Kjellström, T. (2006). Communicable diseases: epidemiology surveillance and response [chapter 7]. In R. Bonita, R. Beaglehole, & T. Kjellström, <i>Basic epidemiology</i> . Geneva: World Health Organization.	LOs 3 and 5
Oct 09	Communicable diseases, practical session	Qadri, F., Islam, T., & Clemens, J. (2017). Cholera in Yemen – an old foe rearing its ugly head. <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i> , 377(21): 2005-2007. Aylward, B., & Alwan, A. (2014). Polio in Syria. <i>The Lancet</i> , 383: 481-491.	LOs 3 and 5
Oct 14	Non-communicable diseases	Bonita, R., Beaglehole, R., Kjellström, T. (2006). Epidemiology and prevention: chronic noncommunicable diseases [chapter 6]. In R. Bonita, R. Beaglehole, & T. Kjellström, <i>Basic epidemiology</i> . Geneva: World Health Organization.	LOs 3 and 5
Oct 16	Non-communicable diseases, practical session	Husseini, A., Rmeileh, N., Mikki, N., Ramahi, T., Gosh, H., Barghuthi, N., Khalili, M., Bjertness, E., Holmboe-Ottesen, G., & Jervell, J. (2009). Cardiovascular diseases, diabetes mellitus, and cancer in the occupied Palestinian territory. <i>The Lancet</i> , 373: 1041-1049.	LOs 3 and 5
Oct 21	Health systems and financing, session 1	Tulchinsky, T., & Varavikova, E. (2009). Organization of public health systems [chapter 10]. In T. Tulchinsky & Varavikova, <i>The new public health</i> . London: Elsevier Academic Press.	LOs 4 and 5
Oct 23	Health systems and financing, practical session 1	Blanchet, K., Fouad, F., & Pherali, T. (2016). Syrian refugees in Lebanon: the search for universal health coverage. <i>Conflict and Health</i> , 10(12).	LOs 4 and 5
Oct 28	Health systems and financing, session 2	World Health Organization (2010). <i>Health systems financing. The path to universal health coverage</i> [executive summary]. Geneva: World Health Organization.	LOs 4 and 5
Oct 30	Case study debate	Asbu, E., Masri, M., & Kaissi, A. (2017). Health status and health systems financing in the MENA region: roadmap to universal health coverage. <i>Global Health Research & Policy</i> , 2(25).	LOs 4 and 5
Nov 04	Primary health care and health promotion	World Health Organization (2008). <i>Primary care. Now more than ever</i> [executive summary]. Geneva: World Health Organization.	LOs 1, 5 and 6
Nov 06	Health promotion, practical session 1	Al Jazeera (2016). Rachel's HIV revolution [film documentary]. Doha: Al Jazeera Media Network.	LOs 1, 5 and 6
Nov 11	Collective participation in health and social movements	Brown, P., Zavestoski, S., McCormick, S., Mayer, B., Morello-Frosch, R., & Altman, R. (2004). Embodied health movements: new approaches to social movements in health. <i>Sociology of Health & Illness</i> , 26(1): 50-80.	LOs 1, 5 and 6
Nov 13	Social movements, practical session	Barker, C. (2013). Class struggle and social movements. In C. Barker, L. Cox, Krinsky, J., & Nilsen, A. (Eds.), <i>Marxism and social movements</i> . Leiden: Brill.	LOs 1, 5 and 6
Nov 18	Environmental health, session 1	International Agency for Research on Cancer (2013). The carcinogenicity of outdoor air pollution. <i>The Lancet</i> , 14: 1262-1263.	LOs 3, 5 and 6

Nov 20	Environmental health, practical session 1	Anwar, W. (2002). Environmental health in Egypt. <i>International Journal of Hygiene and Environmental Health</i> , 206: 339-350. Kobrossi, R., Nuwayhid, I., Sibai, A., El-Fadel, M., & Khogali, M. (2002). Respiratory health effects of industrial air pollution on children in North Lebanon. <i>International Journal of Environmental Health Research</i> , 12(3): 205-220.	LOs 3, 5 and 6
Nov 25	Environmental health, session 2	Svampa, M. (2015). Commodities consensus: neoextractivism and enclosure of the commons in Latin America. <i>The South Atlantic Quarterly</i> , 114(1): 65-82.	LOs 3, 5 and 6
Nov 27	Environmental health, practical session 2	Bellisari, A. (1994). Public health and the water crisis in the occupied Palestinian territories. <i>Journal of Palestine Studies</i> , 23(2): 52-63. Kojola, E. (2015). (Re)constructing the pipeline: workers, environmentalists and ideology in media coverage of the Keystone XL Pipeline. <i>Critical Sociology</i> , 43(6): 893-917.	LOs 3, 5 and 6
Dec 02	Climate change, armed conflicts and human displacement, session 1	McMichael, A. (2013). Globalization, climate change, and human health. <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i> , 368: 1335-1343.	LOs 5 and 6
Dec 04	Climate change, armed conflicts and human displacement, session 2	Dewachi, O., Skelton, M., Nguyen, V., Fouad, F., Sitta, G., Maasri, Z., & Giacaman, R. (2014). Changing therapeutic geographies of the Iraqi and Syrian wars. <i>The Lancet</i> , 383: 449-457.	LOs 5 and 6