

**Faculty of Health Sciences
American University of Beirut
PBHL 300: FOUNDATIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH (3 cr.)
Fall 2017-2018**

Course instructors/coordinators:

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Class time and venue:

Mondays 9:00 - 11:30 Room 103

Course Description:

The course introduces the students to the foundations, disciplines, values and ethics of the field of public health. The course also develops students' analytical thinking through the discussion of relevant published articles, particularly highlighting the interdisciplinary nature of the public health issue, and the role of each of its five core disciplines (Environmental Health Sciences, Health Policy and Management/Health Administration, Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Health Promotion). *This course is required for all M.S. students of the Faculty of Health Sciences.*

Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Describe the main approaches, disciplines, and values of public health
2. Describe epidemiologic principles, concepts and methods, and their role in investigating and understanding public health issues.
3. Describe the role of biostatistics in investigating and understanding public health issues.
4. Describe the influence of the natural built and social environment on public health.
5. Describe the basic concepts of health promotion and theories of health behavior
6. Discuss the elements of effective health systems
7. Communicate the interdisciplinary nature of public health
8. Describe public health ethics, and main ethical considerations in public health.

Course Requirements and Student Evaluation:

EPHD300 is a prerequisite or co-requisite for this course.

Course List of Readings:

There is no required text book. Weekly required readings will be assigned, and uploaded on Moodle. Students are expected to check Moodle regularly for assignment readings, weekly lectures, and other announcements. Lecture handouts will be posted on Moodle so that they may print a copy if they wish to do so before the class. If the handouts are not posted on Moodle, the course instructor will be responsible for bringing in hard copies to class.

Course requirements and student evaluations

Assessment method	Due dates/Deadlines	LOs covered	Grade percentage
Take-home assignment	October 2 nd	LO 1 & 8	20%
Students will be asked to work individually on answering straight-forward questions based on two case studies.			
In-class exam	October 23 rd	LO 2-6	25%
You are required to take the exam on the assigned date/time. Make up exams will be given <u>only</u> in case of emergencies or major illness (certified medical report is required).			
Presentation	December 4 th	LO 2-8	15%
Each student will be asked to prepare a short presentation based on the paper (described below) and present in class to their colleagues the main highlights of the paper. The presentation will precede the paper submission.			
Paper	December 11 th	LO 2-8	20%
Each student will be asked to work on exploring and understanding the interdisciplinary nature of a public health issue. The topic will be selected by the student with the approval of course instructors/moderators. The student is expected to synthesize the findings in a short paper (2000 words) to be submitted electronically to course instructors. Rubrics & guidelines further describing the paper structure and content will be shared on Moodle.			
Attendance/Participation	All through the course	LO 7&8	20%
You are required to attend all classes. In case of absence, you will be responsible to the material missed and for any announcements made. "Students who miss more than one-fifth of the sessions of any course in the first ten weeks of the semester (five weeks in the case of the summer term) are dropped from the course if the faculty member has stated in the syllabus that attendance will be taken." <u>Class participation however extends beyond just attendance.</u> You are expected to actively participate in class discussions during all class sessions particularly sessions involving the discussion of assigned readings. Students may be called upon randomly to summarize the main points of the assigned readings. Your responses will be factored into the class participation grade.			

Cell phones

Cell phones must be turned off or put on silence and left in purses or bags during class. Leaving the room to answer a cell phone is not tolerated, even if for professional duties/work purposes. In the unlikely case of an emergency situation which necessitated that you pay attention to a cell phone, please inform the instructor and arrangements can be made.

Academic Integrity

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the Student Code of Conduct [AUB website <http://www.aub.edu.lb> home page]. 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, failing the course, suspension or expulsion from University and a record of the disciplinary action in the student's file.

- The **Writing Center** in West Hall can provide valuable assistance on structuring and editing essays and other written assignments. The center's number is ext 3157 and e-mail is writing@aub.edu.lb.
- The **Academic Computing Center** can provide guidance with respect to the 'Turn It In' software and other software related questions. The ACC is located in College Hall and can be reached at 3519 or acc@aub.edu.lb.
- The **Student Handbook** is a valuable resource on rules and regulations for all students, including graduate students.

Absenteeism The Rules and Regulations of the University stipulate that students cannot miss more than 1/5 of the sessions of any one course (see University Catalogue). Otherwise, s/he can be dropped from the course by the instructor without warning.

Students with Special Needs AUB strives to make learning experiences accessible for all. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers due to a disability (such as ADHD, learning difficulties, mental health conditions, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please do not hesitate to inform the Accessible Education Office. In order to ensure that you receive the support you need and to facilitate a smooth accommodations process, you must register with the Accessible Education Office (AEO) as soon as possible: 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 Trudi Hodges at 01-350000 ext. 2514, or titleix@aub.edu.lb. An anonymous report may be submitted online via EthicsPoint at www.aub.ethicspoint.com.

Detailed course schedule

Date	LOs	Session	Speaker	Remarks
Sept 4	1	Introduction to the course/syllabus	Ghandour	
Sept 11	2-8	Public Health Principles and Public Health Ethics	Ghandour	
Sept 18	1-7	KC in Epidemiology & Bio – 1 (History of Epidemiology)	Adib	Students choose topic
Sept 25	2-3	KC in Epidemiology & Bio – 2 (Principles of Epi and Bio)	Ghandour	
Oct 2	4-5	KC in Social and behavioral determinants of health**	Kabakian	Take-home assignment due
Oct 9	6	KC in Environmental Health	Massoud	
Oct 16	4	KC in Health Management and Policy	Kassak	
Oct 23		In-class examination		
Oct 30	7	Refugee Health	Yassin	
Nov 6	7	Maternal and Newborn Health	Kabakian	
Nov 13	7	Mental Health Care	Chammay	
Nov 20	7	Climate Change	Kabakian	
Nov 27	7	Emerging and re-emerging communicable diseases	Melhem	
Dec 4		Presentations	Students	Presentation due

KC: Key concepts

** In case this Monday is a holiday, then the session would be given on October 23rd instead and the exam would be scheduled to a later date.