Syllabus

PUB HLTH 442  
Ethical Issues in Public Health – 0.5 Units  
Winter 2014

Day and Time: Monday, 6:00-7:30 pm  
January 6-March 17, 2014
Location: McGaw 2-403

Course Directors:  
Maureen Moran, MPH  
Assistant Professor of Preventive Medicine  
633 N Saint Clair Street, Room 18-049  
m-moran@northwestern.edu  
(312) 503-0500

Office Hours: Thursday, 1:15-3:45 and by appointment

I. Course Description

Debate and discussion of ethical issues surrounding public health issues including conflicts of interest, social accountability, risk benefit analyses, and vulnerable populations.

II. Learning Objectives:

Through the course sessions and homework assignments, students will:
1) actively participate in class discussion,
2) show respect for different points of view within the context of class discussion,
3) identify ethical issues in public health and offer alternative approaches to those that are deemed unethical
4) demonstrate the ability to write and to edit critically,
5) describe the characteristics of vulnerable groups, identify public health issues involving vulnerable groups and determine the means by which their rights can to be protected.

III. Texts and readings

Required Texts

Blackboard™
The syllabus and other materials will be posted on the course’s Blackboard™ site, available at https://courses.northwestern.edu/webapps/login if you are registered for the course.
IV. Class assignments, homework and exam

Weekly class attendance and participation in case discussion, weekly reading assignments, leading of at least 1 class discussion including a written commentary on the case being discussed, written homework assignment, take home examination.

V. Student Evaluation

Students will be evaluated based on

• **Written homework assignment: 20%**
  A case will be assigned each student for written analysis. The assignment will be assessed by the strength of the reasoning used to analyze the case and supporting material brought to bear on the case.

• **Class participation: 20%**
  Students are expected to fully prepare for each class session by reading all assigned materials. Students will be graded on class participation in case discussions including critical thinking, posing thoughtful questions, responses to questions, communication skills, and respect for other points of view.

• **Class discussion assignment 20%**
  Each student will take responsibility for serving as leader of at least one discussion and for serving as reader of at least one case. The leader will also submit a 1-2 page summary relating the case to the week’s assigned readings or other scholarly material **not less than 24 hours before the class session.**

• **Final Exam (take home): 40%**
  Four short essays requiring synthesis of material covered in class and assigned readings.

The take-home final exam will be distributed in class on---, will be available on Blackboard™, and is due not later than---. Do NOT discuss the exam with other students; you are expected to work alone on the take-home exam. The final exam should be sent by electronic mail to m-moran@northwestern.edu.

Course Evaluation

The MPH Program administers web-based course evaluations to students for each course near the end of the quarter. Your completion of both the unit (course) and faculty evaluations is required; failure to complete the evaluations will result in an incomplete grade until the evaluations are submitted. You will be sent the web link and instructions via e-mail later in the quarter. You will have several weeks to complete the evaluations before grades are submitted. Your evaluation of the course and faculty is anonymous; your identity cannot be linked with your responses.

Academic Integrity

Every Northwestern faculty member and student belongs to a community of scholars where academic integrity is a fundamental commitment. The Program in Public Health abides by the standards of academic conduct, procedures, and sanctions as set forth by The Graduate School at Northwestern University. Students and faculty are responsible for knowledge of the information provided by The Graduate School on their Web page at
Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to
1. Receiving or giving unauthorized aid on examinations or homework
2. Plagiarism
3. Fabrication
4. Falsification or manipulation of academic records
5. Aiding or abetting any of the above

The PPH follows The Graduate School’s procedure for evaluating alleged academic misconduct, as outlined on the TGS website. http://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/academics/academic-services/integrity/dishonesty/index.html

Faculty reserve the right to use the “Safe Assignment: Plagiarism Detection Tool” that is part of the Course Management System to evaluate student assignments. Information about this tool can be found at http://www.it.northwestern.edu/education/course-management/support/assessments/safeassignment.html
Week 1
Chapter 1 Case Analysis and Moral Reasoning

Week 2
Chapter 8 Intellectual Property and Data Sharing

Week 3
Chapter 9 Publication and Interpretation of Research Findings

Week 4
Chapter 10 Communication Responsibilities of Public Health Professionals

Week 5
Chapter 11 Public Health Practice

Week 6
Chapter 12 Studies of Vulnerable Populations

Week 7
Chapter 13 Cross Cultural Research

Week 8
Chapter 14 International Health Research

Week 9
Chapter 2 Privacy and Confidentiality Protection

Week 10
Chapter 6 Scientific Misconduct in Public Health Research