

NEW GRADUATE STUDENT SEMINAR (HCPH- E33.2000.003)**Course Syllabus: Spring, 2008****Department of Nutrition, Food Studies, and Public Health****Steinhardt, 10th Floor, Classroom 1080, 3:30-6:35pm****Friday, January 25, 2008****Course Description:**

Introduction to academic and professional resources at New York University and to career opportunities in food studies (section .01), nutrition and dietetics (section .02), or public health (section .03). Class meets once during the first semester of study.

Objectives:

1. Describe academic and professional requirements of the program.
2. Identify academic, professional, and personal resources available to support students in the department, school, university and city.
3. Identify issues related to academic success in the program of study.
4. Identify career opportunities in the program area.
5. Meet faculty and students associated with the program of study.
6. Introduce students to the field of public health.

In addition, you will become familiar with local, national, and international public health organizations, commonly used websites, and basic research strategies available to you at Bobst and other NYU libraries which may then be applied to your graduate classes here. We will also expose you, through class assignments, to the field and the profession of public health, to program resources, and to professional development resources.

Requirements:

This class is **0 credits** but must be completed with a **PASS** prior to receiving your Masters in Public Health. To receive a PASS, you must:

1. Attend the class.
2. Have an activated NYU e-mail account so you can access the Blackboard site and receive emails from our public health list serve.
3. Complete the web-based, written, involvement and professional development assignments. Assignment instructions are provided within the syllabus.

If you do not attend class or do not complete the assignment, you will receive an **INCOMPLETE PASS** and need to attend this seminar again in the Spring, 2008 semester.

Agenda for January 25, 2008

- 3:30 Welcome
- ❖ Chair, Faculty and Staff introductions
 - Dr. Judith Gilbride, Nutrition, Food Studies & Public Health Department Chair
 - Dr. Sally Guttmacher, Community Public Health Program Director
 - Public Health Faculty (Drs. Beth Dixon, Dr. Macinko [on leave], Marion Nestle, Yumary Ruiz, and Diana Silver)
 - Lisa Kroin, Administrative Aide
 - ❖ New Student introductions/Icebreaker (Eilleen Sabino, PHSG President)
- 4:00 Library Services information (Kara Whatley)
- 4:30 Community Public Health Program Information (Yumary Ruiz)
- ❖ Public Health Competencies
 - ❖ Program Requirements
 - Public Health Internship
 - ❖ Plagiarism
 - ❖ Language Requirement
 - ❖ New Student Seminar Assignment
- Program Logistics (Lisa Kroin)
- ❖ Faculty Advising
 - ❖ Registration
 - ❖ Student List-serve
 - ❖ Student Files
- 5:00 Study Abroad
- ❖ South Africa (Sally Guttmacher & Students)
 - ❖ Puebla, Mexico (Yumary Ruiz & Students)
- 5:30 Getting Involved
- ❖ Public Health Student Group at Steinhardt (Eilleen Sabino)
 - Mentorship Committee
 - Communication Committee
 - ❖ Other opportunities
 - NYU Public Health Alliance (a joint effort with Wagner)
 - APHA
 - SOPHE
- 5:50 Wrap up & final questions
- 6:00 Student Panel
- ❖ Group Work, Time Management, Tips, Lessons Learned and Q&A

Required Assignments:

You are responsible for a **web assignment**, a **writing assignment**, an **involvement assignment**, and a **professional development assignment**. The first two assignments are **Due by 3pm Friday, February 22nd**. You will have till **Friday, April 18th** to complete the last two assignments.

Assignments are Advocacy related.

Advocacy is a process by which individuals or organizations champion a cause to ensure that political and social ends are met (WHO, 1998). According to the American Public Health Association's Code of Ethics, advocating for the public's health and for the profession is both the responsibility and the ethical duty of public health professionals (Thomas, J.C., Sage, M., Dillenberg, J. & Guillory, V.J., 2002). Increasingly, health advocates are turning to the internet to bolster their campaigns, motivate civic participation, expand their policy work, and promote their profession. With this in mind, the following assignments will ask you to: 1) familiarize yourself with NYU's electronic resources, 2) explore how health advocates are using the internet, 3) advocate for your profession, and 4) participate in events designed to promote professional development.

Web Assignment: Learning about plagiarism & Using NYU's electronic services to locate scholarly articles

1. Learning about plagiarism:
 - a. Go to <http://education.indiana.edu/~frick/plagiarism/item1.html> and complete the tutorial, upon successfully completing the tutorial **you will be awarded a certificate**, print the certificate and **attach the certificate as an appendix item in your written assignment**
2. Using NYU's electronic services to locate scholarly articles that discuss and/or demonstrate how health advocates are using the internet to influence public health issues.
 - a. Identify a health topic (e.g. breast cancer, tobacco use, universal health care coverage, etc.)
 - b. Conduct a literature search by browsing through NYU's electronic journals (go to: library.nyu.edu and click on the e-journals, e-books, etc. tab) or by conducting a key word search through library databases (go to: library.nyu.edu and click on the Articles via Databases tab).
 - c. Identify and print **at least three** current articles from peer-reviewed scholarly journals (e.g. American Journal of Public Health, Journal of Medical Internet Research, Health Affairs, etc.) that discuss and/or demonstrate how public health advocates are using the internet to influence change within your selected health topic (remember to print the articles – you will be expected to attach them to your assignment as appendices).

Written Assignment: Writing a Research Review Report

The purpose of your research review report is to present the results of your research. Drawing from the articles you collected for the above web assignment discuss:

1. What do the authors reveal about the internet? What do they want us to learn?
2. The ways the authors use the Internet to advocate for health? What types of internet approaches did they use and what did these approaches attempt to do? For example, did they

promote and coordinate a large-scale activism effort such as a protest? If yes, explain how they used the internet to facilitate, organize and coordinate this effort. Who was mobilized? How were they mobilized? Another example might be if they launched a large educational effort? If so, how and what did they use to educate health consumers? Please note: these examples are only meant to guide you.

3. How the authors explain (e.g., qualitative/quantitative research, anecdotal information, hypotheses, theories) how the internet helped (or did not help) their advocacy efforts? Were the internet approaches effective (not effective)?
4. The type and quality of evidence provided by the authors to demonstrate the internet's effectiveness. Do they offer data to support their conclusions? What other data could have been collected?
5. Implications for public health practice (if any). What does the author's work tell us about using the Internet to promote, address or impact public health issues/challenges?
6. What aspects of the online approaches can (or cannot) be applied to other settings (e.g., work place, schools, daycares) and issues (e.g., substance abuse, maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS)?

Your research report should include the following sections:

- Title page: The title page should include: the report title; the name of the person, company, or organization for whom the report has been prepared; the name of the author, and the date the report was completed.
- Table of Contents (TOC): should list the report's contents and provide page numbers
- Introduction: briefly prepare the reader for the discussion that follows by introducing the purpose, scope, and background of the research (~one paragraph)
- Body or Discussion: includes a section in which you discuss the internet approaches used by the authors, and a section in which you present and interpret the evidence presented by the authors.
- Conclusion: briefly describe your opinions based on the evidence, in this section you might also raise unanswered questions and discuss ambiguous data and/or include ways to resolve a problem or improve a situation/an approach.
- References: cited according to APA style
- Appendices: place the appendices (e.g. your found articles) in the order in which you referred to them in your report.

The report should be:

- 5 pages in length (not including, title page, table of contents and references), double-spaced, on white paper, 12 font with margins that are 1" on each side, free of spelling and grammatical errors and with your name on all pages

TIP: Does your report adequately communicate your research? Here are some questions you can ask yourself: Is my main point easy to identify early in the report? Have I carefully described the articles used? Have I clearly explained the approaches I discuss? Have I provided a context for the approaches I am discussing or is more background information needed? Have I summarized my findings? Have I written clearly? Have I stayed on topic throughout the report?

Involvement Assignment: Advocating for your profession

Part of advocating for your profession is teaching others who we are and what we do. A practical strategy for doing this is by communicating information and ideas related to public health issues through different media types such as newspapers, magazines, journals, and/or

newsletters. For this exercise, you will contribute, as an author, to the Community Public Health Program Newsletter a project of the Public Health Student Group at Steinhardt. Your contribution to the CPH newsletter might be a letter to the editors, a book review, an article review, an assignment you developed for class, and/or a summary about a specific health issue, policy or legislative proposal. In other words, the “what” you contribute to the CPH Newsletter is up to you. The goal of this exercise is to encourage you to begin (continue) to engage in acts of activism for your profession.

- Due: **By April 18th**
- Email your newsletter submission to **Erin Rampe (ejr291@nyu.edu)** and for my records to **yr24@nyu.edu**.
- For any questions, ideas or suggestions regarding the newsletter and your contribution contact Erin Rampe (ejr291@nyu.edu)

Professional Development Assignment: Because it is never too Early to Start

An easy way to gain new skills or to enhance those you have is to take advantage of professional development resources. This fall, the Public Health Student Group at Steinhardt will be sponsoring and/or co-sponsoring a number of professional development events including the APHA film festival, the Public Health Internship Fair, and the Public Health Career Panel, just to name a few. For this assignment you are to attend at **least one** professional development related event. The goal of this assignment is to expose you to resources that aim to support you as a student and future public health professional. Submit documentation that you attended at least one event **by April 18th, 2008 WITH** your newsletter submission.

WEBSITES OF PUBLIC HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS

*American Public Health Association (www.apha.org)

*Public Health Association of NYC (www.phanyc.org)

*Society for Public Health Education (www.sophe.org)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov)

NY State Department of Health (<http://www.health.state.ny.us/>)

NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (<http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/doh/home.html>)

- **We strongly encourage joining APHA, PHANYC, and/or SOPHE as student members.**

Very helpful for networking and job opportunities.