PUBH 716/MCH816/HPM716
Gillings Global Implementation Lab (3 credits)
Spring 2015

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          Rohit Ramaswamy, PhD, MPH, Grad. Dip. Bios. (PHLP/MCH)

Room: Online

Office Hours: By appointment

Course URL: https://sakai.unc.edu/portal/site/f567e3d2-dca4-4e1f-9847-21f4d65280cb

Course Overview:
This is a three-credit hour, online graduate-level, interdisciplinary course in which teams
of students apply knowledge and experience to design and implement systematic
solutions to improve the delivery of public health services.

In addition to acquiring evidence-based applied experience, students will develop
generalizable insights and learn effective implementation practices. Students will
document their problem-solving approaches, results obtained and implementation lessons
learned.

Students will work in teams during spring semester using an online case (three-credit
course) and on projects selected collaboratively with partner organizations (two-credit
field experience.) Some examples of field projects include assessments of program
quality, facilitation of rapid process improvement events and training of local staff on
management and leadership. In online class sessions prior to intensive site contacts,
students will become familiar with project environments, collect and analyze
performance data and develop solutions to address one specific performance issue. For
students enrolled in the optional field module, these solutions will be implemented and
tested during the field experiences.

Course Objectives:

Through this course(s), students will:

1. Become familiar with Quality Improvement (QI) methods, especially the Model
   for Improvement;
2. Develop skills in using the tools of QI to solve a real-life improvement problem
3. Develop generalizable insights about use of QI to facilitate local and global
   improvements in health care and public health;
4. Work effectively in an interdisciplinary team of peers to develop solutions to improve complex systems.

**Competencies:**

The course is designed to support student attainment of the following Global Health Core Competencies (ASPH 2011):

1. Assist host entity in assessing existing capacity;
2. Conduct a situation analysis across a range of cultural, economic, and health contexts;
3. Develop monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess programs;
4. Exhibit interpersonal communication skills that demonstrate respect for other perspectives and cultures;
5. Develop strategies that strengthen community capabilities for overcoming barriers to health and well-being;
6. Design context-specific health interventions based upon situation analysis;
7. Design program work plans based on logic models;
8. Develop context-specific implementation strategies for scaling up best-practice intervention;
9. Apply scientific evidence throughout program planning, implementation, and evaluation;
10. Implement a community health needs assessment.

**Course Requirements:**

Four requirements will be the basis for assigning grades for this course:

1. Successful completion of online quizzes associated with each module.
2. Participation in the online group case study which builds progressively through each module.
3. A group report describing the problem, analysis, solution, implementation, results and recommendations based on the case study.
4. A final exam.

As a member of a team, you are expected to participate in the case study. Participation does not only mean passively providing input – it also means reacting to what your peers have said and contributing to discussion online. Your participation grade will be based on faculty evaluation and on peer assessments. At the end of the course, you will have the opportunity to evaluate your group members based on your perception of their level of participation and contribution to the group. We will use this feedback both for improving participation and for evaluation at the end of the course.

**Grading:**
The distribution of points for each course requirement is shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
<th>Points possible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Case Study report and presentation</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Final exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Case Study participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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The final report and presentation will be graded on the following dimensions:

- Logical, appropriate, evidence-based conclusions, analyses, and recommendations in both the presentation and paper (30 percent)
- Effectiveness of presentations (30 percent)
- Clearly written report with topics arranged logically. Well-designed tables and figures that convey relevant, important information (20 percent)
- Effective, appropriate application of course materials and other resources in the presentation and paper (20 percent)

You will receive numerical grades for your assignments, but or for your final grade in the course. Grading will be according to the following scheme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>Clear Excellence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Entirely Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Low Passing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Typically, H grades are given to those scoring 90% or above, P to scores of 70% and above and L to scores of 55% and above. These are guidelines, and are not meant to be absolute numbers.

A grade of H will indicate that you have gone beyond the expectations of the assignment and have produced an exceptional output. A P is completely acceptable and indicates that you met the expectations of the assignment. An L indicates that you have turned in passing performance, but that the effort is minimally acceptable.

**Course Evaluation**
Course participation includes completion of the UNC-CH’s online course evaluation. Your responses will be anonymous, with feedback provided to the instructors in the aggregate. Open-ended comments will be shared with instructors, but individual students are not identified. Providing constructive course evaluative feedback is a professional responsibility. Feedback is critical for improving the quality of our courses.

Text Book:

The Improvement Guide, 2nd edition (2009) [referred to as TIG]

Course Outline:

Module 1: Introduction to Principles of Improvement
January 7-January 18

- **Learning Objectives:** To develop the scope of an improvement project
- **Readings:**
  - TIG Chapter 1: Changes that result in Improvement (pg. 15-25)
  - TIG (pg. 54-60)
  - Deming, W.E. Out of the Crisis, Chapter 1: Chain Reaction: Quality, Productivity, Lower Costs, Capture the Market (pg. 1-17)

- **Assignments:**
  - Quiz#1 Due Jan 18th
  - Case Study Part 1: Developing the Scope. Due Jan 18 Sorry! Try Again!

Module 2: Beginning an Improvement Project
January 19-February 1

- **Learning objectives:** To develop the charter for an improvement project
- **Readings:**
  - TIG Chapter 2: Skills to support improvement (pg. 27-47)
  - TIG Chapter 4: The science of improvement(pg. 75-88)
Module 3: Viewing Work as a Process
February 2-February 15

Learning objectives: Creating a process map and a preliminary diagram for an improvement project.

Readings:


Tools

- TIG Pg. 430-431: Figure B14-B16

Assignments:

- Quiz#3 Due Feb 1st
- Case Study Part 3: Developing Process Maps and Driver Diagrams Due Feb 1st

Module 4: Collecting Data for Improvement
February 16-March 1

Learning Objective: To develop a data collection plan to measure process performance

Readings:

Module 5: Analyzing Baseline Data for Patterns and Trends
March 2-March 22 (Including Spring Break)

- **Learning Objective:** To analyze baseline process performance
- **Readings:**
  - TIG Chapter 5: Using the Model (pg. 89-108)
  - Deming, W.E. Out of the Crisis, Chapter 11: Common Causes and Special Causes of Improvement: Stable Systems (pg. 300-324;336-337)
  - Deming, W.E. Out of the Crisis, Chapter 12: More Examples of Improvement Downstream (pg. 371-387)
- **Tools:**
  - TIG Pg. 433-442: Figures B19- B25
  - TIG Pg. 426-431 Figure B9-B16
  - Ishikawa K. 7 quality tools for process improvement. Hong Kong Hospital Authority. Available at [www3.ha.org.hk/qeh/wiser/doc/7bqt.pdf](http://www3.ha.org.hk/qeh/wiser/doc/7bqt.pdf)
- **Assignments:**
  - Quiz#5 Due March 22
  - Case Study Part 5: Identifying Root Causes
    - March 22

Module 6: Generating and Evaluating Improvement Solutions
March 23 –April 5
• **Learning Objectives:** Learn how to identify and develop changes that will result in improvement

• **Readings:**
  - TIG Chapter 6: Developing a Change (pg. 109-137)

• **Tools:**
  - TIG Appendix A (pg. 357-408)

• **Assignments:**
  - Quiz#6 Due April 5
  - Case Study Part 6: Developing and Evaluation Solutions
    - April 5

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**Module 7: Testing and Implementing Solutions**

April 6 – April 19

• **Learning Objectives:** To test selected solutions and to develop an implementation plan

• **Reading:**
  - TIG Chapter 7 : Testing a Change(pgs. 139-171)
  - Zimmerman – factorial design for influenza vaccination

• **Additional tools:**
Module 8: Adapting and Sustaining Solutions

April 20 – May 1

- **Learning Objectives:** To ensure that the change is sustainable
- **Reading:**
  - TIG Chapter 8: Implementing a Change(pg. 173-194)
- **Tools:**
  - Pg. 443-444 Figure B26- Table B5
- **Assignments:**
  - Quiz#8 Due May 1
  - Case Study Part 7: FMEA analysis
    - May 1

**Final exam date: May 4, 5 (Online Take Home)**

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**UNC Honor Code**
The principles of academic honesty, integrity, and responsible citizenship govern the performance of all academic work and student conduct at the University. Your acceptance of enrollment in the University presupposes a commitment to the principles embodied in the Code of Student Conduct and a respect for this most significant Carolina tradition. Your reward is in the practice of these principles.

Your participation in this course comes with the expectation that your work will comply fully with the Honor Code. Academic dishonesty in any form is unacceptable, because any breach in academic integrity, however small, strikes destructively at the University's life and work.

If you have any questions about your responsibility or the responsibility of faculty members under the Honor Code, please consult with someone in either the Office of the Student Attorney General (966-4084) or the Office of the Dean of Students (966-4042).

Read “The Instrument of Student Judicial Governance” (http://instrument.unc.edu).