



Bachelor of Science in Public Health

Public Health-Related Courses Updated Spring 2023

Below is a list of public health-related courses at UNC that may be open and of interest to undergraduate students who are not completing a BSPH degree in the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health.

Introductory Public Health Courses

SPHG 101: Exploring Public Health (1). Knowledge of the field of public health is an essential tool in our contemporary world. The Gillings School of Global Public Health would like to provide the opportunity for UNC students to learn about the broad field of public health.

SPHG 190: Special Topics in Public Health (1). Public health topics will vary with the instructor and semester.

Gillings Public Health Courses Open to Non-BSPH Students

Note: Some courses may require instructor permission to register

ENVR 230: Environmental Health Issues (3). Examines key events that have shaped our understanding of the impacts of environmental agents on human health and uses them to introduce basic concepts in environmental health.

ENVR 475: Global Climate Change (1). Interdisciplinary Perspectives. Global climate change is among the most critical issues humanity will face over our lifetimes. Understanding and addressing global climate change requires perspectives from many disciplines. This class is designed for students of any background to learn about climate change and the challenges it poses, and to see how it is approached from a variety of disciplines.

HBEH 510 Foundations of Equity, Ethics, and Engagement in Public Health (3). Students will explore how health inequities appear in different populations, examine historical and relevant events to unpack how these inequities came to be, and gain an overview of self-reflective and community engagement strategies used by health behavior practitioners and researchers to ethically partner with others to identify and address health inequities.

HBEH 520 Introduction to Global Health (3). This course introduces fundamental terminology, frameworks, problems, and solutions in global health. It explores the historical and modern-day influences that have shaped the systems, issues, actors, and priorities of global health today.

HBEH 531 Community Engagement and Assessment to Advance Health Equity and Social Justice (3). Engaging communities to identify their strengths, needs, and priorities and determine action steps to address them is at the core of public health practice. This class will examine

approaches to the assessment process, compare qualitative and quantitative data collection methods, and examine strategies for ensuring effective and equitable community engagement throughout the assessment process.

HBEH 532 Development and Evaluation of Interventions (4). This course will provide exposure to interventions designed to address determinants of health issues across all levels of the Social Ecological Framework. Throughout the course, students will learn the relevant terminology, frameworks, and processes to design, adapt, implement, and evaluate interventions in health behavior.

HBEH 611: Philanthropy as a Tool for Social Change (3). Spring. A wonderful course and taught by professor Dr. Blanchard, who directs the Carolina Center for Public Service.

HPM 420: Community and Public Health Security: Disasters, Terrorism, and Emergency Management (3). This course examines systems for emergency management at federal, state, and local levels. The roles of emergency management, health services, and public health in disaster management are also reviewed. Every other week, evening online sessions are required with instructors.

HPM 422: Emergency Management I: Analytic Methods (3). Introduction of analytical tools to assess, evaluate, map, and investigate disasters (including biological outbreaks). These tools will be used to improve planning and evaluation of disaster management programs. Every other week, evening online sessions are required with instructors.

HPM 423: Emergency Management II: Disaster Management (3). Explores issues of preparedness, response, recovery, mitigation, and research in disaster management. Students will participate in evacuation decision making, volunteer management, and the development of a disaster exercise. Every other week, evening online sessions are required with instructors.

HPM 571 (PLCY 570): Health and Human Rights (3). Course focuses on rights-based approaches to health, applying a human rights perspective to selected public health policies, programs, and interventions. Students will apply a formalistic human rights framework to critical public health issues, exploring human rights as both a safeguard against harm and a catalyst for health promotion.

HPM 660: International and Comparative Health Systems (3). Methods of comparing health systems, examinations of related national health systems, and analysis of related high prevalence health issues.

HPM 664 (MHCH 664): Globalization and Health (3). Globalization--its economic, environmental, political, technological, institutional, and sociocultural dimensions--historically and currently contributes to beneficial and adverse effects on population, community, and family and individual health.

HPM 743: Health Care Reimbursement (1). This online course in health care reimbursement is designed to provide students with relevant and current information about health care reimbursement methods and the complexities around it. After completion of the course, students should have an operational knowledge of health care reimbursement theory and practice.

MHCH 665: Introduction to Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities (1). Eliminating health disparities is a national goal for improving the health of Americans. Little to no progress has been made on eliminating disparities among racial/ethnic subpopulations compared to the population of the United States. This course treats basic concepts about the origins of and contributing factors for health disparities.

MHCH 680: Global Sexual and Reproductive Health (1). Featuring international experts from UNC-Chapel Hill and Triangle-based nongovernmental organizations, this course will offer a series of lectures, panel discussions, and debates to inform students' critical thinking on key public health issues in global sexual and reproductive health.

MHCH 685: Human Sexuality (1). Through lectures and panel discussions this course will use a life span framework to examine selected aspects of sexual development, including perspectives on sexuality; the physical self; sexual attraction, behavior, and relationships; and the implications of these factors for physical and mental health.

NUTR 175: Introduction to Food Studies: From Science to Society (3). Introduction to food studies covering a variety of topics including how food was consumed over history, land use and aquaculture, food in the arts, food and culture in the American South, food politics, and nutrition science

NUTR 240: Introduction to Human Nutrition (3). Relationships of human nutrition to health and disease. Integration of biology, chemistry, and social sciences as related to human function. Nutrient composition of foods and safety of the food supply.

NUTR 245: Sustainable Local Food Systems: Intersection of Local Foods and Public Health (3). Examines the intersection of local foods and public health with respect to nutrition and environmental, economic, and community issues. Students explore impacts and potential solutions of the increasingly industrialized and centralized food system, while assisting community partners to increase opportunities for farmers, local food marketers, distributors, and entrepreneurs.

PUBH 420: The HIV/AIDS Course (1). Elective course jointly given by the Schools of Dentistry, Public Health, Nursing, Pharmacy and Medicine designed to provide a multifaceted understanding of social, clinical and biological aspects of the AIDS epidemic.

PUBH 610: Introductory Spanish for Health Professionals (3). This course is intended for students who know no Spanish or so little that they feel the need to start over. Students with more than two semesters of college Spanish are not eligible. The course covers the curriculum of first-semester Spanish taught within a health context, with a focus on speaking.

SPHG 428H: Public Health Entrepreneurship (3). Introduction to basic concepts underlying commercial and social entrepreneurship applied to public health, including guest lectures by individuals with proven success in these areas.

SPHG 690: Special Topics in Public Health (1-3). Topic will vary with the instructor and semester.

Public Health-Related Courses Outside Gillings

African, African American, and Diaspora Studies

AAAD 287: Health Equity in the African Diaspora (3). Examines historical and contemporary processes shaping health and well-being in Africa Diaspora communities. Emphasis will be placed on health and health equity within African-descendant communities in the United States, Haiti, and Brazil.

AAAD 300: Cultures of Health and Healing in Africa (3). This course explores contemporary economic, political, and social factors influencing the health and welfare of African peoples. Emphasis is placed on understanding the cultural perspectives that shape non-Western experiences of health, disease, and notions of spiritual and physical well-being. Readings draw from the fields of anthropology, history, and public health.

AAAD 333: Race and Public Policy in the U.S. (POLI 333) (3). Exploration of the relationship between race and public policy in the U.S. Primary focus on African Americans, but other racial groups also studied. Key areas include reproductive justice, health care, employment, labor, welfare, education, housing, environmental justice, policing, criminalization, foreign policy, immigration, and war.

AAAD 387: HIV/AIDS in Africa and the Diaspora (3). This course explores the history and contemporary politics of HIV/AIDS in African communities and across the Diaspora. The differing trajectories of the epidemic on the continent, in the West, and in the Caribbean and Latin America will be explored.

American Studies

AMST 259: Tobacco and America (3). Explores the significance of tobacco from Native American ceremony to the Southern economy by focusing on changing attitudes toward land use, leisure, social style, public health, litigation, and global capitalism.

Anthropology

ANTH 147: Comparative Healing Systems (3). In this course we compare a variety of healing beliefs and practices so that students may gain a better understanding of their own society, culture, and medical system.

ANTH 214: Medicine and Modernity in the Arab World (3). This course introduces students to questions of medicine and modernity in the Arab world from the 19th century to the present. It takes medicine as a lens for understanding the formation of the modern Arab world, connecting medical practices and institutions with wider formations like colonialism, nationalism, violence, or religion.

ANTH 270: Living Medicine (3). This course examines the social and cultural experience of medicine, the interpersonal and personal aspects of healing and being healed. It explores how medicine shapes and is shaped by those who inhabit this vital arena of human interaction: physicians, nurses, other professionals, and administrators; patients; families; friends and advocates.

ANTH 306: Water and Inequality: Anthropological Perspectives (3). This course aims to foster an appreciation of the tremendous role of water in shaping human experience, including the ways water shapes where people live, constrains what they do, and plays a major role in the institutionalization of social, political, and economic inequalities.

ANTH 319: Global Health (3). This class explores some of the historical, biological, economic, medical, and social issues surrounding globalization and health consequences.

ANTH 405: Mental Health, Psychiatry, and Culture (3). This course explores mental illness as subjective experience, social process, key cultural symbol, and object of intervention and expert knowledge. Our questions include: Does mental illness vary across cultural and social settings? How do psychiatric ways of categorizing, diagnosing, and treating mental illness shape people's subjective experience of their affliction? How is psychiatry predicated on cultural ideas about self and society? What does this contingency mean for the movement for global mental health.

ANTH 441 (WMST 441): The Anthropology of Gender, Health, and Illness (3). The course explores cultural beliefs, practices, and social conditions that influence health and sickness of women and men from a cross-cultural perspective.

ANTH 442 (WGST 440): Health and Gender After Socialism (3). This course examines postsocialist experiences of the relationship between political, economic, social, and cultural transitions, and challenges in public health and gender relations.

ANTH 443 (WGST 443): Cultures and Politics of Reproduction (3). This course takes a cross-cultural approach to understanding how reproduction and associated phenomena become arenas where political debates are played out and where global and local social relations are contested.

ANTH 444: Medicine, Politics, and Justice (3). This course brings an anthropological approach to understanding the intersections between medicine, politics, and public health.

ANTH 445 (WGST 445): Migration and Health (3). This course examines the intersections between migration processes and the political, economic, and social dimensions of health and well-being among migrants, their families, and their communities.

ANTH 446: Poverty, Inequality, and Health (3). This course examines poverty, inequalities, and health from a global and historical perspective. We will study the role of sociopolitical context, individual behavior, and human biology, and will pay particular attention to the roles of psychosocial stress, material conditions, and policy in shaping health differences within and between populations.

ANTH 624: Anthropology and Public Health (3). This course compares disciplinary approaches of public health and anthropology. We begin by examining the social determinants of health paradigms and relationships between inequality, poverty, and global health. We will explore epidemiological, biocultural, and symbolic approaches to these problems. Public policy and health development will also be examined.

ANTH 753 (WGST 753): Gender, Sickness, and Society (3). This seminar deals in depth and cross-culturally with the nature of gender and the ways in which social comprehension of gender, gender status, and gender relationships impinge upon differential experience of health and sickness of men and women from a historical and contemporary perspective.

City and Regional Planning

PLAN 574: Political Economy of Poverty and Inequality (3). Introduces students to the political economy of poverty alleviation programs. Uses comparative cases to explore what types of projects, tasks, and environments lead to effective and equitable outcomes, and why.

PLAN 662 (WGST 662): Gender Issues in Planning and Development (3). Permission of the instructor required for undergraduates. Examination of the environmental and health risks, policy institutions, processes, instruments, policy analysis, and major elements of American environmental policy. Lectures and case studies.

PLAN 685 (ENVR 685): Water and Sanitation Planning and Policy in Less Developed Countries (3). Permission of the instructor. Seminar on policy and planning approaches for improved community water and sanitation services in developed countries. Topics include the choice of appropriate technology and level of service; cost recovery; water venting; community participation in the management of water systems; and rent-seeking behavior in providing water supplies.

PLAN 687: International Development and Social Change (3). Permission of the instructor. Course explores the effect of the global economy on national and community development, the effect of environmental degradation processes on development, and strategies to guide social change.

Communication

COMM 375 (ENEC 375): Environmental Advocacy (3). Explores rhetorical means of citizen influence of practices affecting our natural and human environment; also, study of communication processes and dilemmas of redress of environmental grievances in communities and workplace.

Comparative Literature

CMPL 383: Literature and Medicine (3). Examines the presentation of medical practice in literature from the mid-19th century to the present. Readings include some medical history, novels, stories, and recent autobiographies of medical training.

Economics

ECON 450: Health Economics: Problems and Policy (3). Economic analysis applied to problems and public policy in health care. Prerequisites: ECON 400 and ECON 410. Permission of the instructor for students lacking the prerequisite.

ECON 452: Economics of Global Pandemics (3). During this course, students will explore the effects of past pandemics and consider the micro- and macroeconomic impacts of the COVID19 pandemic on individuals, firms, and societies. Some topics include interpreting infection and mortality data, fiscal and monetary policy responses, encouraging research and development of vaccines, effects of pandemics on labor markets, allocation of scarce resources during pandemics, and the implications of the pandemic on racial, gender, and income inequality. Prerequisites: ECON 400 and ECON 410.

English

ENGL 268: Medicine, Literature, and Culture (3). An introduction to key topics that focus on questions of representation at the intersections of medicine, literature, and culture.

ENGL 370: Race, Health, and Narrative (3). This interdisciplinary course explores how issues of health, medicine, and illness are impacted by questions of race in 20th-century American literature and popular culture. Specific areas covered include pain, death, the family and society, reproduction, mental illness, aging, human subject experimentation, the doctor-patient relationship, pesticides, and bioethics.

Environment and Ecology

ENEC 201: Introduction to Environment and Society (4). Human-environment interactions are examined through analytical methods from the social sciences, humanities, and sciences. The focus is on the role of social, political, and economic factors in controlling interactions between society and the environment in historical and cultural contexts. Three lecture hours and one recitation hour a week.

ENEC 266: Contemporary Africa: Issues in Health, Population, and the Environment (3). A seminar that introduces students to non-Western perspectives and comparative study of ecological, social, and economic factors that influence the welfare of contemporary African communities. Examination of famine, population growth, and health issues within the context of African cultural and social systems.

ENEC 325: Water Resource Management and Human Rights (3–4). This course explores logistical, political, social, and economic challenges in supplying every human with adequate access to clean water, the most basic human right.

ENEC 522 (ENVR 522): Environmental Change and Human Health (3). The course will provide students with a multidisciplinary perspective of environmental changes to encompass both human health and ecological health. Prerequisite, ENEC 201 or 202.

Exercise and Sports Science

EXSS 141: Personal Health (3). This course examines basic wellness concepts in the areas of physical fitness, nutrition, disease prevention, mental health, drug abuse, and human sexuality. Emphasis is on the individual's responsibility for their own health.

EXSS 180: Physical Activity in Contemporary Society (3). An examination of the role of physical activity/inactivity on the health and well-being of American society.

Geography

GEOG 121: Geographies of Globalization (3). This course examines places and the connections between places to build critical understandings of the role of human geographies in global economic, political, social, and cultural systems.

GEOG 130: Development and Inequality: Global Perspectives (3). An introduction to historical and contemporary ideas about practices and meanings of development. Students will explore "development" in a global landscape of poverty, power, and struggles over inequality.

GEOG 222: Health and Medical Geography (3). Health and disease are studied by analyzing the cultural/environmental interactions that lie behind world patterns of disease distribution, diffusion, and treatment, and the ways these are being altered by development.

GEOG 232: Agriculture, Food, and Society (3). A study of environmental parameters, cultural preferences, technological developments, and spatial economic infrastructure that result in world patterns of food consumption, production, and distribution.

GEOG 334: Human Ecology of Health and Disease (3). Examines the role of the interactions of cultures, environments, and human diseases in the quest for sustainable agriculture by examining the cultural ecology of agriculture systems and their human diseases.

GEOG 435: Global Environmental Justice (3). This course brings geographical perspectives on place, space, scale, and environmental change to the study of environmental justice. In lectures, texts, and research projects, students examine environmental concerns as they intersect with racial, economic and political differences. Topics include environmental policy processes, environmental justice movements, environmental health risks, conservation, urban environments, and the role of science in environmental politics and justice.

GEOG 446: Geography of Health Care Delivery (3). This course examines the role that geography plays in shaping how people interact with the health care system. Topics include health care delivery system types, facility and personnel distributions, access to care, health care utilization, as well as GIS, spatial analysis, and decision support systems.

GEOG 451: Population, Development, and the Environment (3). Introduction to contemporary and historical changes in human population, international development, and the global environment and how these processes interact, drawing on population geography as an organizing framework.

GEOG 541: GIS in Public Health (3). Explores theory and application of geographic information systems (GIS) for public health. The course includes an overview of the principles of GIS in public health and practical experience in its use.

GEOG 542: Neighborhoods and Health (3). This course explores how neighborhood context influences the health of the populations living in them. It includes a survey of neighborhoods and health theory and empirical examples.

GEOG 544: Geographic Information Systems for Impact Evaluation and Health Studies (3). Examines the theory and application of geographic information systems (GIS) for impact evaluation for intervention studies. The course will focus especially on health and economic interventions in the developing world. The course includes an overview of the principles of GIS in impact evaluation and practical experience in its use.

Global Studies

GLBL 483: Comparative Health Systems (3). This course provides students with an understanding of the origins and comparative performance of a range of international healthcare systems.

GLBL 560: Human Rights, Ethics, and Global Issues (3). This seminar examines the political, economic, and intellectual developments that led to the emergence of human rights as a global phenomenon historically and in the current phase of globalization. Also engages with debates concerning the role of human rights as an ethical philosophy in thinking through current issues.

History

HIST 329: An Introduction to the History of Medicine (3). This course underscores the ways in which Western medicine has become a global political and cultural phenomenon in history and discusses evidence of how different social actors have parsed the distinction between sickness and health over time.

Information and Library Science

INLS 515: Consumer Health Information (3). Examines concepts of health, health conditions, policy, and information collections and services from social and cultural perspectives. Analysis and design for provision and access to consumer health information services.

Media & Journalism

MEJO 469: Health Communication (3). This course covers theory and research underlying effective health communication campaigns. Students will learn about both the development and evaluation of real-world health campaigns.

MEJO 564: Medical and Science Reporting (3). Focuses on developing strategies to research and write about medical issues, specifically selecting topics, finding and evaluating sources, and information gathering. Students produce a range of stories, from short consumer pieces to in-depth articles. Prerequisite, MEJO 153.

Philosophy

PHIL 165: Bioethics (3). An examination of ethical issues in the life sciences and technologies, medicine, public health and/or human interaction with nonhuman animals or the living environment.

PHIL 465: Justice in Health Care (3). One course in philosophy strongly recommended. Medical students welcome. The course will focus on the question of how scarce health care resources ought to be distributed in order to meet the demands of justice.

PHIL 491: Health Care, Science, and Philosophy (3). Interdisciplinary course to develop critical thinking capacities through philosophical study of the nature of scientific presuppositions and concepts, including events, causality, and determinism, with specific application to health care issues.

Psychology

PSYC 465: Poverty and Development (3). Poverty is one of the most consistent and influential risk factors for problematic development. This course focuses on the scientific study of how poverty affects development across the human life span. Prerequisites, PSYC 101 and 250.

PSYC 474: Digital Mental Health (3). This course will provide an overview of the use of digital technologies to increase opportunities for training in, access to, and use of evidence-based mental health services. Coverage will include the current status of and future directions in research, innovations in service delivery, and policy implications. Special attention will be given to the evolution of the field, the potential costs and benefits, and the promise to address health disparities in particular. Prerequisite, PSYC 101.

PSYC 504: Health Psychology (3). An in-depth coverage of psychological, biological, and social factors that may be involved with health. Prerequisites, PSYC 101 and 245.

PSYC 514: Mania and Depression (3). The social, developmental, and biological contributions to mania and depression are examined, as well as the impact of these moods on the brain, creativity, relationships, quality of life, and health. Prerequisites, PSYC 101 and 245.

PSYC 517: Addiction (3). This course will provide students with a comprehensive overview of the etiology and treatment of addiction, along with exposure to real-life stories of addiction. Prerequisite, PSYC 101. PSYC 245 and 270 recommended but not required.

Public Policy

PLCY 340: Justice in Policy (3). This seminar explores arguments about moral issues in public policy. Students examine both the means used to implement policies and policy ends through discussions of case studies of policy choice.

PLCY 361: Health Policy and Politics (3). An analysis of the evolution of American health policy with special emphasis on current health care finance and delivery challenges.

PLCY 485: Poverty, Health, and Human Development in Low Income Countries (3). This course provides an understanding of how poverty is defined, the consequences of poverty, and policies to reduce poverty. It explores the determinants of human development outcomes from an interdisciplinary perspective (with a heavy economics focus). Prerequisite, ECON 101.

Religious Studies

RELI 220: Religion and Medicine (3). This course will deal with various interactions of religion and health care in the past and present.

Sociology

SOCI 131 (MNGT 131): Social Relations in the Workplace (3). Meaning and content of work in modern industrial society. Preparation for work; autonomy and control; inequality; consequences for health, safety, and family life.

SOCI 172: Introduction to Population Health in the United States (3). This course aims to provide an introduction to the study of population health in the United States. Key goals include understanding the measurement and theoretical frameworks underlying the study of population health, understanding trends and disparities in U.S. population health, and understanding policy options to improve population health.

SOCI 180: Introduction to Global Population Health (3). This course provides students with an introduction to population health, with an emphasis on three perspectives: demographic methods for assembling data and evidence, the social determinants of health framework, and the role of global institutions and movements in population health.

SOCI 422: Sociology of Health and Mental Illness (3). Examines the uniqueness of the sociological perspective in understanding mental health and illness. Draws upon various theoretical perspectives to best understand patterns, trends, and definitions of mental health and illness in social context. Focuses on how social factors influence definitions, perceptions, patterns, and trends of mental health and illness.

SOCI 431: Aging (3). The process of aging from birth to death, with a concentration on the later years of life, examined from a broad perspective. Topics include individual change over the life-course, the social context of aging, and the aging of American society.

SOCI 468: United States Poverty and Public Policy (3). This course examines issues of poverty and social policy, single-mother families, the welfare debate, and homelessness.

SOCI 469: Health and Society (3). The primary objective of the course is to explain how and why particular social arrangements affect the types and distribution of diseases, as well as the types of health promotion and disease prevention practices that societies promote.

Women's and Gender Studies

WMST 388: The International Politics of Sexual and Reproductive Health (3). Permission of the instructor. Takes a feminist political-economy perspective on debates over current health issues of international concern, including abortion, population control, and sexually transmitted infections. Focuses on the United States, Mexico, and Kenya, as well as on international organizations and social movements. Prerequisite, WMST 101.