SPH–F 698
MPH Culminating Experience

Family Health

Family Health Concentration Faculty:
Jonathon Beckmeyer, PhD
School of Public Health Building, Room 144
(812)856-4220
jbeckmey@indiana.edu

Fall 2014
Spring 2015
Monthly in fall, as scheduled in spring

Full 698 Cohort meetings will convene on
specified Fridays in Ballantine Hall, Room 347,
11:45 am – 1:30 p.m.

FH Concentration Cohort Meetings will
convene SPH Building Room 144

Office Hours: Mondays 1:00-2:00 pm
Tuesdays 11:00 am-12:00 pm

698 Faculty

Biostatistics – Dr. Zhongxue Chen
Behavioral, Social and Community Health – Dr. Susan Middlestadt
Environmental Health – Dr. Barbara Hocevar
Epidemiology – Dr. M. Aaron Sayegh (Culminating Experience Coordinator)
Family Health – Dr. Jonathon Beckmeyer
Physical Activity – Dr. Jeanne Johnston
Professional Health Education – Dr. Nancy Ellis
Public Health Administration – Dr. Michael Hendryx

Prerequisite Courses

Students must be in their final year of the MPH program to enroll in the Fall F698 course. Enrollment in the
Spring F698 course requires successful completion (passing grade) of the Fall F698 course. Students must
enroll in F698 for 1 credit fall semester and 1 credit spring semester in their final year of the MPH program. C:
SPH-F 696 and permission of academic advisor.

Course Description

This course provides students with an opportunity to demonstrate the extent to which they have met the MPH
Program Competencies in Family Health. P: Students must be in their final year of the MPH program to enroll
in this course. Graded on S/F basis only.

Bibliography or Resources
Current literature readings as appropriate
Methods of Instruction, Teaching and Learning

A variety of instructional methods will be used including lectures, discussions, small-group work, peer-feedback and self-reflection. Student coaching and teaching will be provided by all F698 faculty. Students are encouraged to consult with any and all F698 faculty as they participate in this course. Readings and review materials will be posted on the Oncourse website by the Coordinator and/or Concentration Faculty.

Learning Objectives

The culminating experience requires a student to synthesize and integrate knowledge acquired in coursework and other learning experiences and to apply theory and principles in a situation that approximates some aspect of professional practice. Through this, the student will demonstrate her/his mastery of the body of knowledge and will demonstrate proficiency in the required competencies. Assignments in this course will contribute to evolving competency demonstration.

By the end of the course, students will be able to demonstrate the attainment of the core public health and family health concentration competencies through the development of a concentration specific competency synthesis project and a core competency portfolio.

Learning Assessment

Student competency will be evaluated by a review of the following:

- Synthesis Project - for concentration specific competencies
- Poster Presentation of Synthesis Project – for concentration specific competencies
- MPH Competency Portfolio – for MPH Core competencies

Required Course Meetings

Students will meet with the full F698 cohort and with their concentration cohort during the fall and spring semesters of this course. The following are dates of the full F698 Cohort meetings. They will convene in Ballantine Hall, Room 347, 11:45 am – 1:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

Fall 2014 Full Cohort Meetings
August 29th – Introduction/overview, Synthesis assignments, cohort planning
September 19th – MPH Competency Portfolio components and preparation
November 14th – Portfolio Revisions and Resubmits

During the SP15 semester, students meet 1 time as the full MPH cohort: the appropriate faculty member determines the number of concentration-specific cohort meetings.

Spring 2015
April 24th, 2015: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm - Synthesis Project Poster Session (Location TBD)

Below are the dates for the FH concentration meetings. They will convene in SPH Building Room 144, from 11:45 to 1:30.
September 5th
September 26th
October 17th
November 7th
**Required Course Assignments**

**Late assignments will NOT be accepted**

**Fall Semester 2014:**
- Synthesis Project plan (September 26th)
- MPH Competency Portfolio (October 31st)
- MPH Competency Portfolio: Revisions and Resubmits (November 21st)
- Synthesis Project introduction and initial sections (December 5th)

**Spring Semester 2014:**
- Synthesis Project (April 3rd)
- Synthesis Poster Presentation session (April 24th)

**Description of Assignments/Learning Assessments**

**Synthesis Project**

Students will select a project to serve as a focal point for the synthesis of their concentration competencies. The project choice will be determined in consultation with and must be approved by Dr. Beckmeyer. Portions of the synthesis will be due throughout the year in order to help students plan for and remain focused on the final synthesis project.

For the Family Health synthesis assignment, assume that you have been hired as a program manager for a family serving agency (e.g., a community-based organization or a local coalition). Your task is to identify a specific family health issue in your community and demonstrate your proficiency in the Family Health Concentration competencies by describing the community needs, developing a program in response to the community needs, and planning the evaluation of that program. Additionally, your task is to demonstrate that you can apply the principles underlying the competencies throughout this scenario.

The health issue, the setting, and the characteristics of the agency and community constituents are your choice. Your scenario can be based on a community, school, worksite or other setting in the US or in any other area of the world. You should select and set up a scenario that provides you with the best opportunity to demonstrate your proficiency in the competencies. Your answer will be stronger if you have some real experience with this community or have taken the time to learn about the community. Consult with Dr. Beckmeyer prior to beginning the development of your response to this assignment. Your topic must be approved before you begin. The synthesis project will consist of two parts.

**Synthesis Paper Part One:**

Describe the community context and setting you have selected. Identify and describe your role. Describe the family health issue and its scope and magnitude as well as the priority group or groups you will be addressing. Summarize the evidence that you are using to determine why this population is at need of prevention or intervention. Identify and describe your primary area of intervention. This area must be family focused. Review the theoretical, empirical, and clinical literatures on your area of intervention. Additionally, review what is known about interventions in other populations and settings.

**Synthesis Paper Part Two:**

Provide a thorough description of how you would approach the development, implementation, and evaluation of your agency’s programmatic response to the identified family health issue and behavior(s) outlined in Part One. In addition to describing your prevention or intervention program, include a section that demonstrates how the whole project represents an attainment of the Family Health competencies. That is, in Part Two, write one section on each of the competencies outlined below.
Family Health Competencies:
- Analyze how family theories and conceptual frameworks inform contemporary research and practice in public health.
- Analyze the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development of individuals at various stages of the life course.
- Analyze the effects families have on physical, mental, social, spiritual, and cultural dimensions of health.
- Evaluate how societal attitudes and social policies affect family resources and resilience.
- Identify how family and community demographic trends affect prevention and educational approaches used to improve family health.
- Summarize how social and cultural factors affect the health of individuals and families.
- Illustrate how families interact with external social systems such as educational, governmental, legal, community and religious systems.
- Develop a strengths based prevention program to improve the health of individuals or families that incorporates family, human development, and public health theories.
- Integrate family, human development and public health theories in relation to health concerns across the life course.

Synthesis Project Plan (Due September 26th)
Students will submit a plan for the completion of the synthesis project. The contents of the synthesis project plan will be finalized by concentration faculty for maximum application, but at a minimum will contain the following:
- Part One
  - Proposed community, role of student and family health issue
  - Outline of Part One
  - Reference list
- Outline of Part Two
- Time line for project execution and submission

Synthesis Project Introduction and Initial Sections (Due December 5th)
By the end of fall semester students will submit the initial sections of their synthesis project for evaluation by concentration faculty. This will demonstrate student progress on the synthesis project and their readiness to continue as part of the F698 cohort in the spring. Students must obtain a B to pass the semester. At a minimum, students will turn in:
- Completed version of Part One
- Complete reference list
- Updated outline for Part Two
- Draft of several sections on FH competencies addressed in Part Two

Synthesis Project (Due April 3rd)
Students will be expected to complete the synthesis project during the Spring semester, revising their project based on the feedback provided at the end of the Fall semester. The complete assignment (including both parts one and two) should not exceed 25 typewritten, double-spaced pages, using one-inch margins and Times New Roman size 12 font (the page limit does not include the reference list). Use APA format for your references and citations. You must earn B on the synthesis project to pass the class.

Poster Presentation Session of Synthesis Project (Due April 10th, 2015)
Students will prepare and present a poster summarizing the synthesis project for review by Dr. Beckmeyer on or before Friday, April 10th, 2015. Students should be prepared to be present for the morning of April 24th (from 8:00 am-noon). We will discuss the poster presentations and their evaluation during the spring semester.

**MPH Competency Portfolio (Due October 31st, 2014)**
Throughout the MPH program, students will gather and document evidences of attainment of core MPH competencies. During the Culminating Experience, every student will submit an MPH Competency Portfolio that provides evidence of core MPH competency attainment. Details about the MPH Portfolio are the topic of discussion during the full MPH cohort meeting on **Friday, September 19, 2014**, and with subsequent discussion in the concentration-specific cohort meetings. Evaluation of the MPH Portfolio relies on the student’s ability to articulate the meaning of the competency, the selection, provide a “real-world” example, and describe the evidences of attainment. See Canvas for **MPH Core Competencies**.

Required elements include:

1. MPH Core Competencies Summary
   - **Format**: 1 page single spaced text uploads through Canvas *for each MPH Core Competency*

**Competency Portfolio Revisions and Resubmits (Due Friday, November 21, 2014)**
Concentration specific faculty will review and score the sections of the MPH Competency Portfolio specific to their areas.
Faculty score the Portfolio based on Articulation, Attainment & Evidence, and Professional Communication. The concentration-specific faculty member assesses the quality of the competencies for the students across all concentration areas.

2. A score of 7 or less requires revisions and resubmission.
3. Students must revise and resubmit the concentration specific competencies until they achieve a score of 8 or above.
4. Failure to achieve a minimum score of 8 in any competency area will result in an incomplete or “I” for the semester.

**Course Grading**
Evidence of attainment of core and concentration-specific competencies will earn students passing marks for the class. Students who have not sufficiently demonstrated mastery of core and/or concentration-specific competencies will receive incompletes (i.e. “I”). Students receiving incompletes must respond to the concentration-specific faculty member with a negotiated time to assure completion of course requirements. Per university policy, those students who do not complete the requirements within the negotiated time will fail (i.e. receive “F’s”) for the FA14 semester of the 698 course, and therefore will not be able to register/enroll in the SP15 698 course. Failure to complete the SP15 698 course precludes the graduation from the MPH program.

**Academic Integrity**
We are part of an academic community that values both personal and academic integrity. Academic and personal misconduct by students in this class are defined and dealt with according to the procedures in the **Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct** (see [http://www.iu.edu/~code/code/index.shtm](http://www.iu.edu/~code/code/index.shtm)). There will be information about academic integrity posted on the course website for review. All students are expected to review and understand the Indiana University Policy and to strive toward academic integrity throughout their studies. There is no tolerance for violations and no warnings because at this stage of the graduate program, students should have learned how to write with academic integrity. Papers submitted with evidence of plagiarism will receive a failing mark of “0” points, and Dr. Meyerson and related faculty will proceed with the appropriate communications at university level. All written assignments will be submitted via Turnitin for originality confirmation.
Proper Citation and Referencing

ALL assignments are expected to be properly documented with references from the professional literature (e.g., books, journal articles, web-based documents, etc.) using the concentration approved reference style (e.g. AMA or APA). Any papers submitted without proper documentation and referencing will automatically receive an F mark of “0” points. All papers must contain proper citation within the text of the paper as well as a properly formatted reference list at the end of the paper. Students will be required to submit the assignments via the Oncourse drop box.

Course Evaluation

It is the policy of the School of HPER to evaluate all courses taught through the School. Final student course evaluations will be conducted in a manner that maintains the integrity of the process and the anonymity of evaluators.

Students with Special Needs

Any student with a special need (e.g. vision impairment, hearing impairment, dyslexia, etc.) should discuss this privately with Dr. Meyerson and their Concentration Faculty during the first week of the semester in order to ensure that reasonable accommodations can be made. The Office of Disability Student Services is an excellent resource. The following is the contact information for this office: Disability Services for Students, Franklin Hall Room 006, 601 East Kirkwood Ave. (812) 855-7578 www.dsa.indiana.edu

Religious Observation

In accordance with the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs, any student who wishes to receive an excused absence from class must submit an Accommodation Request form available from the Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs for each religious observation. This form must be presented to the course professor by the end of the second week of this semester. The form must be signed by the professor, who will make a copy and return the original to the student. Information about the policy on religious observation and the request form can be found at the following web site: http://www.indiana.edu/~vpfaa/holidays.shtml.

Official Calendar- Bloomington Campus

For information regarding the official Bloomington campus calendar, go to the following URL: http://registrar.indiana.edu/offcalen.shtml.