Course Title:       Public Health Ethics & Law  
Course Number:     HSAP 0620  
Course Location:   683 Hoes Lane West, Room 1A/B, Piscataway, NJ  
Course Date & Time: Monday 3:00 to 5:00 pm  
Course Instructor: Kevin R.J. Schroth, JD  
                  Associate Professor  
                  Office: 112 Paterson Street, Room 418, New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
                  schrothk@sph.rutgers.edu  
                  (848) 932-8052  
Office Hours:      By Appointment Only  
Course Assistant: None  
Additional/Supplemental Readings/Resources: See assignments and Canvas  
Course Description: This is an introductory course in public health law that addresses relevant ethical issues. Key elements of the U.S. legal system that govern and influence public health, including the U.S. Constitution, federal and state laws, administrative law, and judicial decisions, will be examined throughout the semester. The legal foundations of public health are essential to understanding the tools available to government to address public health threats. This class will examine government power and its legal limits. We will also examine core public health issues, including current events, in the context of this legal framework.  
Selected Concentration Competencies Addressed: The competencies addressed in this course for the MPH (or other degrees) are:  
  • Assess and delineate public health policies and practices recognizing legal and ethical implications for individuals and populations  
  • Assess community health needs, disparities, and the health care delivery system within the context of social, cultural, political, legal, and economic forces  
  • Describe and evaluate the political, social, and institutional contexts in which health policies are developed  
Please visit the Concentration webpages on the School of Public Health’s website at sph.rutgers.edu for additional competencies addressed by this course for other degrees and concentrations.  
Course Objectives: By the completion of this course, students will be able to:  
  • Understand and describe the framework of the U.S. government and legal system, and the intersection of law, ethics and the core principles of public health.  
  • Demonstrate the relevance of ethical principles and the application of those principles in public health practice and administration.
Identify and describe the regulatory environment that governs and influences public health, including the role and limitations of law in public health practice.

Identify legal, economic, social, and ethical considerations associated with various public health issues.

Recognize and evaluate existing and emerging ethical concerns in public health practice and administration.

Interpret and present pertinent legal and ethical considerations in public health issues through written and oral communications.

Engage in legal analysis of public health issues and proficiently navigate laws, regulations and other legal authorities.

Develop an appreciation of conflicts between governmental intervention regarding community health and individual civil rights.

Course Requirements and Grading:

- Course requirements
  - This course relies on classroom discussion as a basis for learning and requires that you do the reading and prepare in advance of each class. Class attendance is essential and will be taken.
  - Written assignments must be submitted to the instructor in both (1) hard copy paper at the beginning of class on the assigned due date and (2) by email at the beginning of class on the assigned due date. Written assignments will not be accepted after the assigned due date and time, or may be accepted with a mark-down determined at the sole discretion of the instructor.
  - Oral presentations must occur as scheduled.
  - Requests for extensions to deadlines must be presented to the instructor in advance by email and/or phone with sufficient time to assess the requests under the circumstances. The instructor has the sole discretion to grant or deny any request.

- Overview of assignments
  - Class assignments and required reading material are set forth in the syllabus and are on Canvas. Assignments are subject to change during the semester. Any changes will be made in advance and with advance notice by email and be accessible on Canvas.
  - Quizzes. In class quizzes will take place at the beginning of most classes regarding the assigned reading. Collectively, quizzes will count towards 5% of the final grade.
  - Midterm exam. The midterm exam will be taken during class in writing, and it will cover the reading and material covered in class through that date. The midterm will count towards 30% of each student’s final grade.
o Group presentations. Details regarding group presentations will be provided during the semester. The presentation will count towards 25% of each student’s final grade.

o Final paper. Details regarding the final paper will be provided during the semester. The final paper will count towards 30% of each student’s final grade.

- **Grading.** Each student’s final grade will be comprised of the following components:

  1. Quizzes 5 pts.
  2. Midterm exam 30 pts.
  4. Final paper 30 pts.
  5. Class Participation 10 pts.

  Total: 100 pts.

- Grading scale

  94 – 100 A
  90 – <94 A-
  87 – <90 B+
  84 – <87 B
  80 – <84 B-
  77 – <80 C+
  70 – <77 C
  <70 F

  *Grades will NOT be rounded.

**Course Schedule:** *This will be updated as the semester progresses.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Class</th>
<th>Class Topic/Activities</th>
<th>Assigned Readings</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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- How structure of US gov’t supports or hinders public health  
- Federal, state, and local authority  
- Preemption |
| Feb. 4        | Constitutional limitations, individual rights and freedoms | Gostin & Wiley, Chapter 4, and pp 348-61 Jacobson v. Massachusetts (1905) Lochner v. New York (1905) | • State and local police power  
• Vaccinations |
| Feb. 11       | First Amendment and required health warnings | Graphic warnings Sodium warnings Sugar sweetened beverage warnings | |
| Feb. 18       | The delegation doctrine and administrative law | Gostin & Wiley, Chapter 5 Boreali Hispanic Chamber of Commerce | |
Learning Management System: Canvas will be used extensively throughout the semester for course syllabus, assignments, announcements, communication and/or other course-related activities. It is the student’s responsibility to familiarize themselves with Canvas and check it regularly. If you have difficulties accessing Canvas, please inform the instructor and Canvas Support (help@canvas.rutgers.edu). Canvas is accessible at canvas.rutgers.edu.

School of Public Health Honor Code: The School of Public Health Honor Code is found in the student bulletin (sph.rutgers.edu/academics/catalog/index.html). Each student bears a fundamental responsibility for maintaining academic integrity and intellectual honesty in his or her graduate work. For example, all students are expected to observe the generally accepted principles of scholarly work, to submit their own rather than another’s work, to refrain from falsifying data, and to refrain from receiving and/or giving aid on examinations or other assigned work requiring independent effort. In submitting written material, the writer takes full responsibility for the work as a whole and implies that, except as properly noted by use of quotation marks, footnotes, etc., both the ideas and the works used are his or her own. In addition to maintaining personal academic integrity, each student is expected to contribute to the academic integrity of the school community by not facilitating inappropriate use of her/his own work by others and by reporting acts of academic dishonesty by others to an appropriate school authority. It should be clearly understood that plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can lead to sanctions up to and including separation from the Rutgers School of Public Health.

Students with Disabilities: Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University’s educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student must Apply for Services by first completing a Registration Form with the Rutgers Office of Disability Services (ODS) at ods.rutgers.edu. The student will also be required to participate in an ODS intake interview and provide documentation. If reasonable accommodations are granted, ODS will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations which should be shared with your instructors as early in your courses as possible.

Graduate Student Computer Policy: Students are required to possess a personal laptop, no older than approximately two years, that must meet minimum requirements which may be found online at: sph.rutgers.edu/student_life/computer_requirements.html

Policy Concerning Use of Recording Devices and Other Electronic Communications Systems: When personally owned communication/recording devices are used by students to record lectures and/or classroom lessons, such use must be authorized by the faculty member or instructor who must give either oral or written permission prior to the start of the semester and identify restrictions, if any, on the use of mobile communications or recording devices.

Withdrawal/Refund Schedule: Students who stop attending their course(s) without processing an Add/Drop Course form will receive a failing grade. Furthermore, students dropping to zero credits for the semester are considered withdrawn and must submit a completed Leave of Absence form from the
School of Public Health’s Office of Student Affairs. The School of Public Health refunds tuition only. Administrative and technology fees are non-refundable. You may find the Withdrawal/Refund Schedule on the School of Public Health website at: sph.rutgers.edu/academics/registration/school_calendars.html