

Course Title: Foundations of Maternal and Child Health: A Life Course - Health Equity Perspective

Course Number: UGPH 0560

Course Location: Piscataway Room: 334 /Newark Room: 1023

Course Date & Time: Wednesday, 6:00PM-8:00PM

Course Instructor: Ilise Zimmerman, MPH, MS President & Chief Executive Officer of Partnership for Maternal & Child Health of Northern New Jersey, izimmerman@partnershipmch.org

Office Hours: *By Appointment*

Course Assistant: Kimberly Pierre, Urban-Global Department
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Additional/Supplemental Readings/Resources:

Course Description: In this course students will gain an understanding of the determinants of the health of mothers and children, from both a macro perspective including public policy, neighborhoods, schools and health facilities, as well as an individual perspective including health beliefs and behaviors.

Selected Concentration Competencies Addressed: Each Concentration identifies competencies for each degree offered. The competencies addressed in this course for the MPH in Urban/Global Health include:

- Analyze the role of individual, biological, social, economic, political, and environmental factors that influence the health status of urban populations;
- Use relevant sources (including public health literature and qualitative and quantitative data) to identify the health status and disparities in urban populations and communities;
- Examine the characteristics, unique health challenges, and opportunities of urban populations and communities;

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 the social determinants of health outcomes during pregnancy, infancy, childhood, and adolescence
- Utilize a life course perspective to analyze inequalities in MCH health outcomes
- Analyze historical and current mechanisms shaping MCH programs and policy in the US
- Compare and contrast MCH policies and health outcomes in the US and other low-, middle-, and high-income countries
- Understand the strengths and weaknesses of MCH data sources
- Communicate MCH information effectively in written and oral formats
- Utilize a community-based, multicultural approach for MCH programs in vulnerable populations

Course Requirements and Grading:

Course Requirements	Percent
County Maternal and Child Health and Wellness Profile	25
Fatherhood Assignment	15
Exam	30
Poster	20
Class Participation	10
	100%

SEE Welcome Module for more Detail on County MCH Profile

1) County Maternal and Child Health and Wellness Profile (25%)

New Jersey Counties (not all will be included):

Atlantic	Middlesex
Bergen	Monmouth
Burlington	Morris
Camden	Ocean
Cape May	Passaic
Cumberland	Salem
Essex	Somerset
Gloucester	Sussex
Hunterdon	Union
Hudson	Warren
Mercer	

2) Fatherhood Assignment (15%)

Fatherhood and the health of fathers is a key part of family health. This assignment involves reading several articles and conducting an interview (Qs will be provided) with a father or father figure outside your family or immediate circle of friends. Summarize the interview and integrate information drawn from the assigned journal articles. In addition, discuss the way the media portrays fatherhood. Finally offer suggestions for possible interventions that could be provided to assist fathers as they face challenges along the way. A printed hard-copy summary of the interview should be brought to class for discussion and posted on the due date. *This assignment is designed to demonstrate students' ethics and sense of professionalism –in particular their ability to consider the culture and values of communities in the development of policies, programs and practices that may affect them.*

Assigned Reading for Fatherhood Assignment:

- Pudrovska, T., Carr, D. (2009). Age at first birth and father's subsequent health: Evidence from siblings and twin models. *American Journal of Men's Health*, 3(2), 104-115.

- Giallo et. al. (2013). Psychosocial risk factors associated with father's mental health in the postnatal period: results from a population-based study. *Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol.* 48(4), 563-573.
- Buckelew, S., Pierrie, H. and Chabra, A. (2006) What Fathers Need: A Countywide Assessment of the Needs of Fathers of Young Children. *Maternal and Child Health Journal*, Vol. 10, No. 3, May.

3) Exam (30%)

An exam that is a combination of multiple choice and short-answer questions will assess understanding of the MCH knowledge base (foundational concepts) introduced in class. The exam will focus on material presented in class as well as selected assigned textbook and journal readings. *This assignment is designed to assess students' competency in terms of their overall MCH knowledge base—in particular their use of data to identify issues related to MCH health status, health disparities, the use of a systems approach to explain interactions among individuals, groups, organizations and communities and their ability to assess the effectiveness of existing programs.*

4) PRESENTATION (20%)

Please See Canvas Welcome Module for more detail on this assignment.

5) Class participation points are awarded based on attendance and participation in class discussions. A sign-in sheet for attendance will be available for each class. Students are asked to be sure to sign-in. Students are also asked to keep up with what's in the news related to MCH and share in class. Assignments are expected to be turned in on their due dates.

Grading Policy:	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: PLEASE SEE COURSE SCHEDULE POSTED SEPARATELY

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