

20:834:507
Law & Public Health
Course Syllabus Spring 2013

Class Meetings: Monday 5:30- 8:10p

Instructor: Osato F. Chitou, Esq., MPH

Contact Info: ochitou@barnabashealth.org; 973-926-2688

OVERVIEW

Public health law can be described as the legal component of what we do as a society to create the conditions in which people can be healthy. This course will provide an overview of laws and policies intended to prevent health problems and promote health across populations. The course will be divided into seven (7) topic areas:

1. Public Health Policy
2. Health Care Reform
3. Health Information Data Sharing
4. US Immigration, Legislation, Reforms, and Health
5. Public Health Statutes and Regulatory Information
6. Structure and Organization of Local Health Agencies
7. Career Paths in Law and Public Health

ASSIGNMENTS

You are expected to attend all classes, contribute to class discussion based on your assessment of assigned readings, and personal/professional experiences. You are expected to actively participate in other classroom learning exercises related to better understanding the topic(s) under discussion. You are expected to come prepared for each class session having read the assigned materials. Reading materials will be posted on Blackboard.

Exam (50%): There will be one (1) ESSAY exam. The exam is designed to assess your synthesis of course concepts and how you tie together the various strands of the materials covered in the course. To help you prepare, a list of potential questions will be handed out a week or so before the exam.

Public Health Advocacy Presentation (25%): Students will select an identified public health issue that pertains to the City of Newark and illustrate how to effectively advocate the issue in order to systematically alter public health policy and infrastructure. Instructions and materials related to this assignment will be posted on Blackboard.

Policy Analysis Paper (15%): The policy analysis paper will focus on a current health policy, policy proposal, or policy issue. The purpose of the paper is to expose you to a common method of policy analysis. Instructions related to this assignment will be posted on Blackboard.

Class Participation (10%)

TOPICAL OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE

We will adjust the schedule and topics based on the pace of our learning in the course. Any changes will be announced in class and on Blackboard as soon as I am aware of them.

WEEK 1 (January 28th): Introduction and Course Overview

1. Course objectives, content and requirements; General Introductions
2. What is Public Health Law?

WEEK 2 (February 4th): Public Health Policy

1. Structures within the US that formulate health policy
2. Role of policy in addressing public health problems

WEEK 3 (February 11th): Public Health Policy

1. Educational, behavioral, and organizational strategies as instruments of policy

WEEK 4 (February 18th): Health Care Reform

1. PPACA – What got us here?
2. Goals of Health Reform

WEEK 5 (February 25th): Health Care Reform (Advocacy Presentation assignment disseminated)

1. Deciphering the SCOTUS ruling
2. Post-election: What's next?

WEEK 6 (March 4th): Health Information Data Sharing

1. HIPAA/HITECH
2. Breach Notification & Securing PHI
3. Red Flags Rule

WEEK 7 (March 11th): US Immigration Legislation, Reforms, and Health

1. Impact of recent legislation and policy on immigrant health
2. Policies that effect US/Mexican Border Health

WEEK 8 (March 25th): US Immigration Legislation, Reforms, and Health (Exam questions disseminated)

1. HIV/AIDS and the Immigration Challenge: Socio-cultural, health and legal implications.

WEEK 9 (April 1st): EXAM; Policy Analysis Paper Assignment Disseminated

WEEK 10 (April 8th): Public Health Statutes and Regulatory Information

1. Conducting Regulatory Research
2. The Social Security Act

Week 11 (April 15th): Public Health Statutes and Regulatory Information (Policy Analysis Paper Due)

1. State Rulemaking
2. Role of the State's Attorneys General in Public Health

Week 12 (April 22nd): Structure and Organization of Local Health Agencies

Week 13 (April 29th): Careers in Public Health Law

WEEK 14 (May 6th): Public Health Advocacy Presentations