Study Center in Gaborone, Botswana

Course name: Public and Environmental Health Issues in Botswana
Course number: PUBH 3001 GCPH
Programs offering course: Community Public Health
Language of instruction: English
U.S. Semester Credits: 03
Contact Hours: 45
Term: Fall 2016

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to public and environmental health practice in Botswana. The course will cover local issues with focus on the Primary Health Care (PHC) approach. The PHC aspects will include among other functions: infectious diseases, health promotion, safe drinking water supply, food safety, and basic environmental sanitation. The topics covered will allow students to appreciate the different health challenges facing Botswana its population as well as the root causes (social and biological) of these challenges. Additionally, historical examples of important health challenges will be used to illustrate the nature, role, and organization of public and environmental health. The course will also cover the aspect of sustainable development regarding health issues/concerns in Botswana.

Learning Objectives

- Analyze basic public health and environmental health concepts. Understand public and environmental principles and the connection between health and development;
- Understand social, cultural and environmental determinants of health and disease;
- Explore and analyze current legislations and regulations regarding public and environmental health issues in Botswana;
- Recognize the role of different stakeholders such as government, non-governmental and international partners on Botswana’s health policies.

Methods of Instruction

This course is taught through a combination of approaches: i.e. direct instruction, field trips and students will also actively engage course material through in-class discussions and review of public health related current events. The set of assigned readings and written assignments will broaden the student’s understanding of topics covered in class and reinforce the concept of multidisciplinary integration in public health. Regular class attendance and active participation in class discussions are essential for achieving a meaningful learning experience.
Assessment and Final Grade

1. Two Report/research briefs (40%).
2. Review of Public health Policy (10%).
3. Presentation of the Public Health policy paper (15%).
4. Class Attendance: (5%)
5. Final Examination: (25%).
6. Class Participation: (5%).

Course Requirements

Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments are due during class on the date indicated.

Report/Research Briefs
Students will write two (2) typed 2-3 page report/research brief covering an area of public health concern/practice in Botswana as seen from the perspective of social determinants of health. Areas can include, water-borne and food-borne diseases, Malaria, communicable and non-communicable diseases, waste management.

Briefs are expected to be written in a professional, scientific and analytical manner. They should not be reflections or emotional responses. These should not be based on your personal experience. The assignments are equivalent to writing you might do in a short research paper; they should have a thesis, a well-developed argument and a conclusion. Your opinion should be backed up with facts and citations but write your opinion as a thesis (“Health is a fundamental critical right because…..”) rather than, “I feel this” or “I think that”. Research briefs should have a minimum of two professional references (journal articles, reports from national or international agencies NOT blogs, NGOs or Wikis).

Review of Public health policies in Botswana
Students will write one (1) 3-5 page report reviewing/critiquing public health policy in Botswana in terms of how it facilitates and/or impedes local health. (Group assignment).

Presentation of the Public Health policy paper
5 -10 minutes briefs of submitted papers (Power point) and discussions by group members.

Final Examination
A two hour written examination by individual students.
Class Attendance and Participation
All students are required to attend all classes on time, and valid reasons should be given for absenteeism. If you miss more than 3 classes, you will lose half a letter grade.

All students are expected to participate in class. Failure to do so will result in loss of participation marks. Late submission of assignment will result in loss of marks (5% after the first day & 1% everyday afterwards)

Group Assignments: Failure for a group member to actively participate will result in the loss of marks. All group members are expected to present their paper in class.

Academic Dishonesty
Cheating and plagiarism in any course assignment or exam will not be tolerated and may result in a student failing the course or being expelled from the class and/or university.

Please read the following university documents that facilitate learning:
✓ Revised Academic Honesty Policy for students (2006)
✓ Learning and Teaching policy (2008)
Weekly Schedule

Week 1  Introduction
An introduction to basic public health and environmental health concepts. Background of the historical practice of public and environmental health in Botswana with an emphasis on the Primary Health Care (PHC) concepts:
- Historical developments
- Causes of health problems
- Ministry of Health role, background/structure
- Health profile Botswana
- Primary health care concept
Readings:
- “30 years after Alma-Ata: has primary health care worked in countries?” www.thelancet.com Vol 372 September 13, 2008
- Commonwealth online: Health in Botswana: http://www.commonwealthhealth.org/africa/botswana

Week 2  Public and Environmental Health Laws
An introduction to Public and Environmental Health laws, legislations and protocols in Botswana.
Readings:
- Botswana Public Health Act 1981
- Botswana Public Health Bill 2012
- Accelerated Child Survival & Development Strategy- Botswana
- Botswana National Roadmap for Reduction of Maternal and Newborn Mortality
- Botswana Malaria Elimination Strategic Plan

Week 3  Public and Environmental Health Laws Continued
Group work on proposals with the course instructor.
Continue week 2 readings
Research Brief 1 due

Week 4  Kanye Village Homestay
Week 5  
**Overview of Food Safety Issues in Botswana**  
Quality issues and food outbreaks in Botswana  
Readings:  

Week 6  
**Water Quality in Botswana**  
Treatment and water quality in Botswana  
Readings:  

Week 7  
**Overview of Water-related Diseases in Botswana**  
Readings:  
- Botswana Accelerated Child Survival & Development Strategy  
- Botswana National Roadmap for Reduction of Maternal and Newborn Mortality Strategy  

Research Brief 2 Due

Week 8  
**Mid-Semester Break – No Classes**
Week 9  Water and HIV and AIDS in Botswana
Readings:
• Arvelo W1, Kim A, Creek T, Legwaila K, Puhr N, Johnston S, Masunge J, Davis M, Mintz E, Bowen A. “Case-control study to determine risk factors for diarrhea among children during a large outbreak in a country with a high prevalence of HIV infection” Int J Infect Dis. 2010 Nov; 14(11)
• Case-control study to determine risk factors for diarrhea among children during a large outbreak in a country with a high prevalence of HIV infection

Botswana Independence Day (holiday)
Public Holiday

Week 10  Solid and Hazardous Waste Management in Botswana
Readings:
• **Site Visit to Gamadubu:** To establish the waste management hierarchy.

Week 11  Waste Management Continued
Evaluation of waste management hierarchy concepts in Botswana; waste management strategy of Reuse, Recycle and Reduce
Readings:
• Botswana Strategy for Waste Management
Week 12  
**Housing and Health in Botswana**
The effects of housing conditions on health, housing inspection, and sick building syndrome.
Readings:

Week 13  
**Climate Change and Its Impact in Botswana**
Readings:

Week 14  
**Students’ Presentations:** Presentation of group submissions & discussions

Week 15  
**Reading Week**

Week 16  
**Final Examination Period begins**

Week 17  
Continuation of examination Period

Week 18  
**Final Examination Period ends and Semester ends**
Readings


Accelerated Child Survival & Development Strategy- Botswana


Botswana: Diarrhea epidemic kills 470 children


Botswana Malaria Elimination Strategic Plan

Botswana National Roadmap for Reduction of Maternal and Newborn Mortality

Botswana Public Health Act 1981

Botswana Public Health Bill 2012

Botswana Strategy for Waste Management

Case-control study to determine risk factors for diarrhea among children during a large outbreak in a country with a high prevalence of HIV infection

Commonwealthonline: Health in Botswana:
http://www.commonwealthhealth.org/africa/botswana


