Oakland University

Master of Public Health Program

School of Health Sciences

PH 6996: Public Health Capstone

CRN/SEC:
13283/002

Term/Year:
Winter 2018

Class Day/Time:
Tuesday & Thursday 3:30 p.m. - 5:17 p.m.

Class Building/Room:
South Foundation Hall, Room 271

Credits: 4

Office:
 3097 Human Health Building

Professor:
Caress Dean, PhD, MPH

Office Phone:
248-364-8845

Office Hours:
Monday 3:00-4:00 p.m.; Tuesday 2:00-3:00 p.m.;
or by appointment

Email: caressdean@oakland.edu

Course Description:

The Public Health Capstone course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to apply competencies and skills they have acquired throughout the Master of Public Health (MPH) program. This course also contains content that will facilitate students in their career planning and development process.

Course Objectives:

This course is structured to allow students to accomplish the following objectives:

1. Integrate core and concentration MPH competencies.
2. Demonstrate awareness of local public health issues and related resources.
3. Perform self-reflection of short-and long-term professional goals.
4. Identify resources to facilitate the employment search.
5. Asses and enhance communication skills.

Course Activities:

There are a number of required elements of this course, which are detailed below.

Professional Development:
The goal of the professional development is to inform and empower students to be successful public health professionals. Dates for the professional development seminars can be found on the course calendar.

Capstone Project:
The objective of the capstone project is to utilize an integrative approach to assess students' comprehension of the MPH program's core and concentration competencies. The capstone project is worth 70% of the final grade. Students will work in teams to investigate a local public health issue, develop a public health message, and a policy recommendation. The outcomes of the project will be evaluated through three components: (1) a paper, (2) a presentation, and (3) an oral defense. Complete details on each of these components can be found in the Capstone Project Guidelines available on Moodle.

1. *Paper*: The paper will articulate the data collection and community-based participatory research processes utilized by the teams, and report the communication plan and policy recommendation for their respective health issue. The paper will reflect the formatting of a peer-review journal article with a length of between 3,000-5,000 words. The paper will be submitted via Moodle on April 6 by 9:00 a.m. One person per group will submit the paper.
    a. *Group Project Overview Form*: This form provides a brief overview of your proposed topic, including your public health issue and target population. The submission form will be available on Moodle and must be completed by all members of the group. The form is due January 18 at 11:55 pm.
    b. *Milestone Report:* The goal of this report is to ensure students have a clear understanding of the requirements of the project and to determine whether groups are on schedule. Details on completing the report can be found in the guidelines.

2. *Presentation*: Students will present their project to colleagues, faculty, and invited guests. The presentations will be a maximum of 25 minutes. There will be a 10-minute Q&A session after each of the presentations. The presentations will occur on April 10 from 3:00pm-5:20pm.

3. *Oral Defense*: Each student will complete an oral defense to evaluate their comprehension of the MPH competencies. During the defense, students will answer questions on their capstone project. The defense will occur on April 12 from 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. All re-examinations will occur on Thursday, April 19, 2018 from 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Grade Distribution:

The grade you earn will consist of two (2) components:
1. Professional development seminars (n=3 activities worth 10% each) (30%)
2. Capstone Project: Assessment of MPH competencies (70%)
    a. Paper
    b. Presentation
    c. Oral Defense

Academic Integrity:

The faculty of the School of Health Sciences believes that the conduct of a student registered or taking courses in the School should be consistent with that of a professional person. Courtesy, honesty, and respect should be shown by students toward faculty members, guest lecturers, administrative support staff, and fellow students. Similarly, students should expect faculty to treat them fairly, showing respect for their ideas and opinions and striving to help them achieve maximum benefits from their experience in the School.

Student academic misconduct refers to behavior that may include plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, falsification of records or official documents, intentional misuse of equipment or materials (including Handout materials), and aiding and abetting the perpetration of such acts. The preparation of reports, papers, and examinations, assigned on an individual basis, must represent each student's own effort. Reference sources should be indicated clearly. The use of assistance from other students or aids of any kind during a written examination, except when the use of aids such as electronic devices, books or notes has been approved by an instructor, is a violation of the standard of academic conduct expected in this course. The Oakland University policy on academic conduct will be strictly followed with no exceptions. See catalog under Academic Policies and Procedures.

Grading Scale:

A	100%	4.0	B	89%	3.5	C	79%	2.9	D	69%	1.9
	99%	4.0		88%	3.5		78%	2.8		68%	1.8
	98%	4.0		87%	3.4		77%	2.7		67%	1.7
	97%	3.9		86%	3.4		76%	2.6		66%	1.6
	96%	3.9		85%	3.3		75%	2.5		65%	1.5
	95%	3.8		84%	3.3		74%	2.4		64%	1.4
	94%	3.8		83%	3.2		73%	2.3		63%	1.3
	93%	3.7		82%	3.2		72%	2.2		62%	1.2
	92%	3.7		81%	3.1		71%	2.1		61%	1.1
	91%	3.6		80%	3.0		70%	2.0		60%	1.0
	90%	3.6									
									F	≤59%	0.0

Day	Course Calendar	Due Dates/Times
January 4	Overview of course & Reflection of professional goals	
January 6		Submit jobs interest(s) on 1/6 by 1:00 p.m.
January 9	Job Search: Search engines and terms	
January 18		Group project overview form due 1/18 @ 11:55 p.m.
January 23	RefWorks (Julia Rodriguez)	Submit cover letters & resumes on 1/23 by 11:55 p.m.
January 24		Cover letters & resumes available for review beginning 1/24 @12:00 a.m.
January 31		Review for cover letters and resumes due 1/31 @ 11:55 p.m.
February 8	In class discussion of cover letters & resumes	
February 13	In class discussion of cover letters & resumes	
February 20	*WINTER BREAK*	
February 22	*WINTER BREAK*	
March 1		Project milestone due 3/1 by 11:55 pm
March 20		Project distribution due 3/20 @11: 55 p.m.
March 25		Mock oral defense questions due 3/25 @ 11:55 p.m.
March 27	Mock oral defense	
March 29	Mock oral defense *(tentative)*	
April 6		Capstone paper due 4/6 @ 9:00 a.m.
April 10	Project Presentations from 3:00 pm-5:20pm	Submit presentations on 4/10 by 2:30 p.m.
April 12	Oral Defense from 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.	
April 19	Oral defense re-examination 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.	