

**SYLLABUS: EPH 555a/F&ES 959a, CLINIC IN ENVIRONMENTAL/CLIMATE JUSTICE, SUSTAINABILITY,  
AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

**INSTRUCTORS: ROBERT DUBROW, MARIANNE ENGELMAN-LADO, LAURA BOZZI**

**Fall 2019**

1. Course Description: In this course, interdisciplinary student teams carry out applied public health research or practice projects in the areas of environmental/climate justice, climate change, sustainability, and public health. Each team works with a sponsoring organization (e.g., unit within Yale, local health department, state agency, community organization, other non-governmental organization). The course affords the opportunity to apply concepts and competencies learned in the classroom to these important areas of environmental/climate justice, climate change, sustainability, and public health. This course should be of interest to students across Yale School of Public Health, Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, and the University, including Yale College juniors and seniors. In addition, this course is one of the options available to students to fulfill the practice requirement for the MPH degree.

2. Course Learning Objectives: Successful completion of this course will enable students to:

- Apply knowledge and skills learned in their coursework to an important public health problem.
- Within a defined timeframe, work as part of an interdisciplinary collaborative team to design, implement, and evaluate a concrete public health project that complies with established YSPH criteria for the MPH practicum experience.
- Present an in-depth review of a specific practical problem in environmental/climate justice, climate change, sustainability, and public health.
- Utilize team building, negotiation, and conflict management skills.
- Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills.
- Demonstrate specific competencies selected from the YSPH core curriculum and student's area of concentration that are pertinent to the clinic project.
- Demonstrate attainment of competencies in the areas of leadership, communication, interprofessional practice, diversity and culture, and professionalism.
- Explain and value the intimate connection among climate change, sustainability, public health, and justice.

3. Meeting Place and Time: Monday, 5:00 pm to 6:50 pm, LEPH 115

4. Course Website: The Canvas course website can be accessed through <http://canvas.yale.edu>. Course announcements, readings, and other information are posted on the website.

5. Office Hours (to be announced):

- Robert Dubrow:
- Marianne Engelman Lado:
- Laura Bozzi:

Please sign up for office hours using the Canvas Calendar

6. Contacting the instructors: The best way to contact them is by e-mail ([robert.dubrow@yale.edu](mailto:robert.dubrow@yale.edu); [marianne.engelman-lado@yale.edu](mailto:marianne.engelman-lado@yale.edu); [laura.bozzi@yale.edu](mailto:laura.bozzi@yale.edu)).

7. Course Requirements:

- a. **Project implementation:** The major time commitment for this course is implementation of the team project, **with an expectation of 8-10 hours per week**. Projects are identified in advance by the instructors in consultation with potential sponsoring organizations. Types of projects include, but are not limited to, developing policy recommendations and writing a “white paper” or policy brief; researching and writing a technical report; analyzing and interpreting data (either pre-existing data or data collected during the project, such as key informant interview, focus group, or air pollution monitoring data); conducting a project based on principles of community-based participatory research; conducting strategic planning; developing and conducting a workshop; or developing educational, communications and/or outreach strategies and/or materials. Teams usually consist of 3-4 students.

Students apply for admission to the course, including ranking of their project preferences. The selected students are assigned to a project and make a commitment to enroll in the course. Each team is advised by a preceptor(s) from the sponsoring organization, as well as by the course instructors. The expectation is that preceptors will have an in-person meeting or phone conference with the team at least every other week, as well as email communication as needed.

These are the Fall 2019 projects:

Title	Organization Name
<a href="#">Connecticut &amp; Climate Change: Leader or Laggard?</a>	Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound
<a href="#">Connecticut Environmental Justice (EJ) Screening Tool Project</a>	Environmental Justice Program, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
<a href="#">Health &amp; Environmental Justice in Alabama: Pollution Impacts in Two Low-Income African American Communities</a>	Ashurst Bar/Smith Community Organization (ABSCO); Tuskegee University, College of Agriculture, Environment & Nutrition Sciences; Applied Environmental Health, School of Public Health, University of Maryland-College Park; Black Belt Citizens Fighting for Health & Justice
<a href="#">Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices Regarding the Use of Toxic Cosmetics by Women of Color in Northern Manhattan</a>	WE ACT for Environmental Justice
<a href="#">Resilient Rhody: Tree Equity for Climate and Health</a>	American Forests
<a href="#">Yale Food Cart “Green Certification” Initiative</a>	Yale Sustainability Implementation Steering Committee

- b. **Work plan, including Gantt Chart (interim products/tasks, timeline, and persons responsible):** This requirement (graded complete/incomplete) is essential for project implementation. The work plan will be a working document that will serve as a guide to project progress throughout the semester. Interim products are essential products (e.g., IRB approval, questionnaire, data abstraction form) needed to enable timely completion of each project and will be determined early in the semester by each team in consultation with preceptors and the instructors. The due date for the work plan (i.e., Gantt Chart) is Friday, September 6.

- c. **Team written interim products:** The specific products and due dates will be determined through consultation between the team and instructors, after the work plan has been finalized. These interim products will be graded complete/incomplete.
- d. **Class attendance and participation:** Weekly class sessions will consist of team meetings as well as meetings of the entire class to review common issues (such as how to conduct a good literature review), assess progress, discuss and propose solutions to problems that arise in project implementation, share experiences and best practices among teams, and provide opportunity for instructor and cross-team feedback.
- e. **Supervision meetings:** Weekly one-hour supervision meetings will be held with the lead instructor for the project. As the term progresses, students may be asked to submit drafts or other work products in advance of these meetings.
- f. **Bi-weekly individual progress reports,** in which students submit their project-related activities and hours.
- g. **Team oral mid-term progress reports:** These will cover progress to date. They will take place on Monday, October 21.
- h. **Mid-term individual check-in** between each student and one of the course instructors (graded complete/incomplete).
- i. **Team first draft of final written report:** The purpose of this first draft (graded complete/incomplete) is to allow time for instructor feedback before the final written report is finalized. The first draft is due on Friday, November 22.
- j. **Team final oral presentation:** The final oral presentation should present the background and significance, methods, results, discussion and conclusions and recommendations of the project.
- k. **Team final written report:** The final written report format will be tailored to the needs of the project, but will include an executive summary and likely sections on background and significance, methods, results, discussion, conclusions and recommendations, and references, as well as appendices with supporting documents (e.g., questionnaire, intervention guide). In addition, based on the needs of the project, two reports may be needed: one technical report and one community report. The final oral presentation will talk place on Monday, December 9. The final written report will be due Monday, December 16.
- l. **Individual self-reflection:** Each student will write a short paper (2-4 pages, double-spaced) consisting of a critical evaluation (strengths and weaknesses) of his or her contributions to the project and how working on the project has addressed selected MPH core competencies. The due date is Friday, December 13.
- m. **Peer evaluations:** At the end of the semester each student will anonymously evaluate the performance of his or her team members. The due date is Wednesday, December 18.

8. Grades: The grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

Attendance and participation	15%
Team oral progress report	10%
Team final oral presentation	10%
Student's contribution to project (includes individual self-reflection, bi-weekly individual progress reports, peer evaluations, and instructors' observations)	30%
Team final written report	35%

Your numerical course grade will translate into your transcript grade as follows:

≥90	Honors (A- to A for Yale College students)
80 – 89.99	High Pass (B- to B+ for Yale College students)
65 – 79.99	Pass (70-79.99: C- to C+; 65-69.99: D for Yale College students)
<65	Fail

**Policy on late submission of assignments:** The assignment will be graded down by 10 points for each day late.

9. Classroom etiquette: During class, please turn off cell phones and pagers and please do not surf the internet, text, or read your email.

10. Academic integrity: Academic integrity is a core institutional value at Yale. It means truth in presentation, diligence and precision in citing works and ideas you have used, and acknowledging collaborations with others. Violations of academic integrity include cheating on exams, problem sets and all other forms of assessment; falsification or fabrication of data; plagiarism, that is, the failure in a dissertation, essay or other written exercise to acknowledge ideas, research, or language taken from others; and multiple submission of the same work without obtaining explicit written permission from both instructors before the material is submitted. Students suspected of violations of academic integrity will be referred to the YSPH Committee on Academic and Professional Integrity. Students found guilty of violations by the Committee are subject to written reprimand, probation (noted on a student's transcript), suspension (noted on a student's transcript) or dismissal (noted on a student's transcript). In addition, violations will result in failure of the course. Students will sign the following statement at the end of each written assignment: ***I certify that this is my own original work and that I have not committed plagiarism.***

11. Environmental and climate justice: Some projects explicitly address environmental and/or climate justice. Issues related to the roles of race, ethnicity, and class in society and in public health are critical and will be discussed explicitly. We welcome and expect active participation in this discussion.

12. Travel reimbursement: Some of the projects involve travel (local or long-distance). The course will reimburse students for necessary travel. **However, we ask that you travel in the most efficient way possible to minimize costs.** For local travel, the course will reimburse for bus fare, train tickets, taxi fare, ridesharing services (Uber, Lyft), carsharing services (Zip Car), personal vehicle mileage costs when it's the most cost-efficient alternative (e.g. when personal vehicle is used for carpooling to transport multiple students, and individual cases where there are no other reasonable options), and parking fees. For travel to Hartford, students are strongly advised to use the high-speed train that runs from New Haven to Hartford. For long-distance travel, the course will reimburse for flights, hotels, car rental, and food and beverage expenses.

The course will **not** provide reimbursement for the following:

- Personal vehicle mileage for individual students when other public transportation is available, with the exception of individual students who are using a personal vehicle to provide carpooling service for 2 or more fellow practicum course students.
- Personal vehicle maintenance/repairs, insurance, premium car/limo service
- Parking tickets
- Expenses without a receipt or proof of payment
- Travel to sites serviced by the Yale Shuttle

To receive reimbursement, you must submit a travel record with date, purpose of travel, and mode of travel, (e.g., October 12, 2019, travel to East Shore District Health Department, carpool with 3 other students [name the students]), along with appropriate receipts. For local travel, please submit the travel record for reimbursement on October 21 (mid-semester) and December 9 (end of semester).

13. Class schedule (subject to revision):

**Class 1 (August 30 [note that this is a Friday])**: Course introduction; team meetings

**Class 2 (September 9)**: Literature searches and reviews using the peer-reviewed and gray literatures (Kate Nyhan, Public Health Librarian); team meetings

**Class 3 (September 16)**: Working with communities struggling for environmental justice (Marianne Engelman-Lado); team meetings

**Class 4 (September 23)**: Community-based participatory research (Marianne Engelman-Lado); team meetings

**Class 5 (September 30)**: Protection of Human Subjects (Cheryl Danton); team meetings

**Class 6 (October 7)**: Sustainability at Yale (Amber Garrard); team meetings

**Class 7 (October 14)**: Meeting of the entire class to assess progress, discuss and propose solutions to problems that arise in project implementation, share experiences and best practices among teams, and provide opportunity for instructor and cross-team feedback; team meetings.

**Class 8 (October 21)**: Oral progress reports

**Classes 9-13 (October 28, November 4, November 11, November 18, December 2 )**: Special topics (Robert Dubrow, Marianne Engelman-Lado, and Laura Bozzi); meetings of the entire class to assess progress, discuss and propose solutions to problems that arise in project implementation, share experiences and best practices among teams, and provide opportunity for instructor and cross-team feedback; team meetings

**Class 14 (December 9)**: Final oral presentations