

**SYLLABUS: EPH 555b, PRACTICUM IN CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY,
AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

**INSTRUCTOR: DR. ROBERT DUBROW
Spring 2018**

1. Course Description: This course is one of the options available to students to fulfill the practice requirement for the MPH degree. In this course, interdisciplinary student teams carry out applied public health research or practice projects in the area of 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). During the Fall term, students apply for entry into the course. Admitted students join one of the student teams, which implement their projects during the Spring Term course. The course affords the opportunity to apply concepts and competencies learned in the classroom to this important area of climate change, sustainability, and public health. This course should be of interest to students across Yale School of Public Health and the University, including Yale College juniors and seniors.

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 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 area of concentration that are pertinent to the practicum project.
- Demonstrate attainment of general cross cutting competencies in the areas of communication, diversity and culture, leadership, and professionalism.
- Explain and value the intimate connection among climate change, sustainability and public health.

3. Meeting Place and Time: Thursday, 10:00 pm to 11:50 am, LEPH 103

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

5. Office Hours: The instructor' office hours are Wednesday, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm in LEPH 429. Please sign up for his office hours using the Canvas Calendar.

6. Contacting the instructor: The best way to contact him is by e-mail (robert.dubrow@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 instructor 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 limited data collected during the project, such as focus group or air pollution monitoring data); conducting strategic planning; developing and conducting a workshop; or developing educational, communications and/or outreach strategies and/or materials. The course aims for four teams, each consisting of 3-5 students.

Students apply for admission to the course, including ranking of their project preferences, in the Fall Term. The selected students are assigned to a project and, after making a commitment to enroll in the course in the Spring Term, participate in a late Fall Term workshop that helps teams begin to conceptualize and plan their projects and therefore “hit the ground running” when the course begins in the Spring Term. Each team is advised by a preceptor(s) from the sponsoring organization, as well as by the course instructor. 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.

- b. **Team work plan, including Gantt Chart (interim products/tasks, timeline, and persons responsible):** This is an ungraded requirement 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 instructor.
 - c. **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.
 - d. **Team oral and written mid-term progress reports:** These will cover progress to date. The oral report will take place on Thursday, March 8 and the written report will be due on Friday, March 9.
 - e. **Team final oral presentation and written report:** The final oral presentation should present the background and significance, methods, results, discussion and conclusions of the project. The final written report should include an executive summary and sections on background and significance, methods, results, discussion, conclusions, and references, as well as an appendix with supporting documents (e.g., questionnaire, intervention guide). The final oral presentation will take place on Thursday, May 3. The final written report will be due Wednesday, May 9.
 - f. **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 Wednesday, May 9.
 - g. **Peer evaluations:** At the end of the semester each student will anonymously evaluate the performance of his or her team members.
8. **Grades:** The grade for the course will be calculated as follows:
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|---|-----|
| Attendance and participation
(including peer evaluation) | 10% |
| Team oral progress report | 10% |
| Team written progress report | 10% |

Team final oral presentation	10%
Team final written report	50%
Individual self-reflection	10%

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

≥90	Honors
80 – 89.99	High Pass
65 – 79.99	Pass
<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 found guilty of violations of academic integrity 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). 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. Class schedule:

- **Classes 1-7 (January 18, January 25, February 1, February 8, February 15, February 22, March 1):** 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.
- **Class 8 (March 8):** Oral progress reports.
- **Classes 9-13 (March 29, April 5, April 12, April 19, April 26):** 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.
- **Class 14 (May 3):** Final oral presentations.