

The Evergreen State College (**Evergreen Tacoma Campus**)
Master of Public Administration Program
Public Health Policy (2 credit elective)
Spring Quarter 2019 (Fri 5-9pm; Sat & Sun 9am-5pm)

SYLLABUS

Faculty:

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Course Dates:

April 5: 5pm to 9pm

April 6: 9am to 5pm

April 7: 9am to 5pm

Course Description

In this introductory and interactive course, students will understand the context and landscape of policymaking in public health. They will learn and apply skills in conducting comprehensive public policy analysis ranging from organizational to legislative policy. Finally, students will learn to apply a health equity lens to determine the impact of public health policies on traditionally marginalized communities and the social determinants of health.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the context and landscape of policymaking in public health, including the continuum of public health policy
2. Conduct a comprehensive public policy analysis of select public health issues
3. Describe the formal legislative process for passing a bill and identify political and other factors one must consider and understand when trying to pass legislation
4. Describe health equity and analyze policies for their impact on health equity
5. Describe the intersection of laws and regulations with public health policy

Assignments

Pre-Reading:

Teitelbaum JB, Wilensky SE. Essentials of Health Policy and Law. 3rd ed. Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning; 2017.

- Chapter 1: Understanding the role of and conceptualizing health policy and law

- Chapter 2: Policy and the policymaking process
- Chapter 5: Public health institutions and systems
- Chapter 7: Social determinants of health and the role of law in optimizing health
- Chapter 14: The Art of structuring and writing a health policy analysis

Assignment due at beginning of class:

- Identify a public health policy issue of interest to you. Describe the issue and an important public health policy question related to the issue. If you need ideas, see resources at end of syllabus.
- Write a policy analysis of your public health policy issue, using the material of Chapter 14 above for your framework and any other policy analysis framework you like. You should be writing the analysis for the Washington State Secretary of Health. Page limit: 3 pages, single-spaced, 12pt font.
- Bring 5 printed copies of your analysis to class with you and send an electronic Word version to your instructors by the start of class.

Assignment due May 6th:

- Edit your policy analysis using what you learned in class, the feedback you received from your classmates, and feedback from your instructors. Instructors will have feedback on your initial draft no later than April 15th.

Class Schedule

Friday, April 5: 5 pm to 9 pm

Time	Topic
5:00 – 6:00	Introductions & Class Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share your experience with policy • What comes to mind when you think of the word “policy”?
6:00 – 6:45	Overview of Public Health and Public Health System in WA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does public health mean to you?
6:45 - 7:00	Break
7:00 – 8:15	Health Equity, the Social Determinants of Health, and “Health in all Policies” [LO 4]
8:15 – 8:45	Public Health Theoretical Models and Frameworks: [LO 1] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socioecological • Place matters • Life course • Determinants of health
8:45 – 9:00	Personal Reflection on Learnings & QI on Tonight’s Session

Saturday, April 6: 9 am to 5 pm

Time	Topic
9:00 – 9:15	Carryover from Day Before
9:15 – 10:00	Public Health Policy Across the Continuum: Small P <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational/Institutional Policy (Exec Orders, Directives, Agency Policy & Procedure) Big P <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing statutes • Rulemaking • Initiatives • Legislation (state) • Federal policy
10:00 – 10:45	Guest Speaker —state and federal policy and advocacy
10:45 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – 12:00	Policy Analysis— <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Problem Statement 2. Background 3. Landscape 4. Options 5. Recommendation
Noon – 1:00	Lunch & personal reflections
1:00 – 1:30	Core Issues in PH Policy Making: [LO 5] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preemption • Regulatory vs voluntary • Grandfathering • Unintended consequences • Bias
1:30 – 3:00	Group work: [LO 2] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student’s break into groups of three to briefly present their policy topics and get feedback on their analysis.
3:00 – 3:15	Break
3:15 – 4:15	Case Study: Tobacco/Vape 21 (Statute Change) [LO 3] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy issue & why • Data • Stakeholders • Legislative process
4:15 – 5:00	Personal Reflection on Afternoon Learnings & QI on Today’s Session

Sunday, April 7: 9 am to 5 pm

Time	Topic
9:00 – 9:15	Carryover from day before
9:15 – 10:15	Case Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-binary option on birth certificates (Agency policy and then rule change) • Infants at work (Organizational policy change)
10:15 – 10:45	Student’s policy proposals discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are you considering these policy options?
10:45 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – noon	Public Health Policy and Tribal Government
Noon – 1:00	Lunch & Personal Reflection
1:00 – 2:30	Guest Speaker —Advocacy & Lobbying for Public Health Causes
2:30 – 2:45	Break
2:45 – 4:00	Discussion of Issues that Students Want to Explore Further/Other Intersectional Issues Applying Health Equity Impact Assessment and Health Impact Reviews (featuring Guest Speaker)
4:00 – 4:30	Bicycle Lot Issues; Topics of Interest to the Students
4:30 – 5:00	Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal reflection • QI • Assignments to finish class

Evaluation

- Your initial and final written policy analysis.
- Class participation will be assessed based on your engagement with case study and seminar style discussion. It is expected that your pre-reading will inform your classroom engagement.
- Completion of self-evaluation and a faculty evaluation.

Credit

- Students will receive two credits at the completion of the course if all expectations and requirements have been met. No partial credit will be awarded and incompletes are not an option for this course.
- Plagiarism, missing class, failing to complete assignments, and completing assignments late may be grounds for denial of credit.

Resources – Public Health Topics and Initiatives

[CDC 2020 Topics and Objectives](#)

[American Public Health Association Topics](#)

[National Indian Health Board Current Public Health Projects](#)