



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Mel & Enid Zuckerman  
College of Public Health

**Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health  
University of Arizona**

**EPID 606 Changing Health Policy: Cultural Understanding & Epi Analysis**

**Catalog Description:** Students will develop the skills to work in another culture by discovering how culture influences health, finding existing data, analyzing and interpreting it in appropriate cultural contexts to form policy. (3 units)

**Course Topics:**

- Metrics in Global Health
- Cultural Perceptions
- Social Policy
- Poverty and Development

**Course Objectives:** During this course, students will:

- Develop an understanding and respect for how culture and socio-behavioral norms may influence health.
- Gain an understanding of the international agreements on improving the health (Sustainable Development Goals).
- Carry out intensive literature reviews to identify the cultural context of key global health drivers and policies in place to address them.
- Gain a working knowledge of Demographic and Health Survey data.
- Understand the limitation and the utility of international “health” datasets.
- Conduct basic statistical analyses using DHS data to identify patterns in health outcomes.
- Prioritize health issues based upon statistical analyses and what is culturally and politically feasible.
- Learn to identify key gaps between written policies and enacted policies.
- Learn to develop and defend a culturally appropriate policy or implementation plan for health action.

**Learning Outcomes (Competencies Obtained):** Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Analyze quantitative and qualitative data using biostatistics, informatics, computer-based programming and software, as appropriate
2. Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy or practice
3. Compare the organization, structure and function of health care, public health and regulatory systems across national and international settings
4. Discuss the means by which structural bias, social inequities and racism undermine health and create challenges to achieving health equity at organizational, community and societal levels
5. Assess population needs, assets and capacities that affect communities’ health
6. Apply awareness of cultural values and practices to the design or implementation of public health policies or programs
7. Design a population-based policy, program, project or intervention
8. Discuss multiple dimensions of the policy-making process, including the roles of ethics and evidence

9. Advocate for political, social or economic policies and programs that will improve health in diverse populations
10. Evaluate policies for their impact on public health and health equity
11. Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation
12. Describe the importance of cultural competence in communicating public health content
13. Apply systems thinking tools to a public health issue