



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health

Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health University of Arizona

HPS 531 Contemporary Health Issues and Research

Catalog Description: Designed to explore a broad spectrum of health education and health behavior issues and programs in order to evaluate their impact (or potential impact). Toward that end, we will read, review, and critique numerous research efforts that were designed to change behavior via health education and/or health behavior programs. (3 units)

Course Topics:

- Health Promotion Framework
- Ethics, Social Justice and Policy
- Research Designs
- Participatory Research
- Qualitative Research and Analysis
- Systematic and Scoping Reviews
- Health Disparities
- Sexual Health
- Diet and Nutrition
- Physical Activity
- Interpersonal Violence
- Mental Health and Substance Use

Course Objectives: During this course, students will:

- Describe the role of research within public health and the strengths and weaknesses of different types of evidence.
- Describe contemporary health issues in health promotion.
- Analyze the state of evidence around a specific health topic of your choosing.

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

1. Select quantitative and qualitative data collection methods appropriate for a given public health context
2. 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
3. Apply awareness of cultural values and practices to the design or implementation of public health policies or programs
4. Select methods to evaluate public health programs
5. Propose strategies to identify stakeholders and build coalitions and partnerships for influencing public health outcomes
6. Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation
7. Identify basic theories, concepts and models that are used in health behavior and health promotion practice
8. Evaluate the evidence for the effectiveness of public health promotion programs or practices
9. Identify the ethnic, cultural, social, historical, and political influences and biases that impact health care or health status of US populations
10. Describe ethical principles guiding public health program planning, implementation or evaluation