



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Mel & Enid Zuckerman  
College of Public Health

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

**HPS 577 Sociocultural and Behavioral Aspects of Public Health**

**Catalog Description:** This course is an overview of significant social, cultural and behavioral issues related to public health. Major public health problems and the influences of sociocultural issues are analyzed in relation to health behavior. Readings, discussions, films, and class experiences/assignments focus on understanding the social and cultural issues that influence health-related behavior among specific populations in the southwestern U.S., North America and internationally. (3 units)

**Course Topics:**

- Social and Behavioral Sciences and Prevention
- Social Determinants Theory
- Interpersonal and Organizational Factors
- Community and Societal Factors
- Program Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation
- Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis
- Health Disparities and Health Equity
- Interpersonal and Community Violence
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- Child and Adolescent Health
- Reproductive Health
- Elder Health

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

- Obtain a general background of significant social, cultural, and behavioral issues related to public health.
- Develop a foundation of skills and knowledge that will enhance their ability to work in the field of public health and assist in the development of culturally appropriate health promotion interventions for diverse populations.

**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. Analyze quantitative and qualitative data using biostatistics, informatics, computer-based programming and software, as appropriate
3. Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy, or practice
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. Apply awareness of cultural values and practices to the design or implementation of public health policies or programs
6. Select methods to evaluate public health programs
7. Propose strategies to identify stakeholders and build coalitions and partnerships for influencing public health outcomes
8. Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation

9. Describe the importance of cultural competence in communicating public health content
10. Apply systems thinking tools to a public health issue