Public Health 300: What is this course about?

Course description
This course will examine basic dimensions of contemporary public health in Ghana. It will look at major contemporary public health issues being addressed at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels in the last 5-7 years in Ghana. This course will review key efforts with Ebola prevention, HIV and AIDS, Malaria, and maternal and child morbidity. Community entry techniques will be reviewed to assist with needs assessment and community work for the field component. In the field, students will learn and practice how to provide valuable health information on issues such as malaria, hypertension, post-natal care, women’s health and water safety by observing and supporting community workers and community public health workers. Students will also learn the importance of water and sanitation practices in developing nations like Ghana.

Course Objectives:
By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Understand the general health situation in Ghana;
2. Appreciate the role of culture in health;
3. Identify major public health issues in Ghana, such as,
   - HIV and AIDS
   - Ebola Virus Disease
   - Malaria
   - Cardiovascular Diseases
   - Maternal Health;
4. Understand various interventions to addressing these issues;
5. Explain Community entry/exit techniques;
6. Design simple educational interventions for different sectors of the public; and
7. Compare and contrast Global North and Global South public health strategies.

Course Delivery:
These sessions are organized around a series of interactive lectures, group discussions/presentations, and group work/brainstorming.
Plagiarism Policy
Student academic misconduct includes behavior involving plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, falsification of records or official documents, intentional misuse of equipment or materials, and aiding and abetting the perpetration of such acts. The preparation of reports, papers, and activities, assigned on an individual basis, must represent each student's own effort. Reference sources should be indicated clearly. The use of assistance from other students or aids of any kind during written examination, except when the use of books or notes has been approved by an instructor, is a violation of the standard of academic conduct.

Course Structure
DAY 1, Session 1: Overview of Ghana's General Health Situation
1. A Profile of Health in Ghana
2. The role of the Ministry of Health
3. The role of Ghana Health Services
4. The role of NGO's and the private sector
5. The role of Academia
6. Major Health Issues
7. The Impact of International Organizations (WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNAIDS etc.)

DAY 1, Session 2: Culture, Religion and Health
1. The role of Traditional Health Care in Ghana
2. The role of religion in Health Care in Ghana
3. The Key Strategies of Public Health Practitioners in Ghana
4. Discussion: Compare and Contrast USA & Ghanaian Techniques
5. Assignment: Bring a positive public health strategy utilized around the world to share and discuss in class

DAY 2, Session 3: Major Public Health Issues in Ghana (Communicable and Non – Communicable Diseases)
1. The case of HIV and AIDS in Ghana
2. The Ebola Virus Disease and Preparations instituted by the Ghana Health Authorities
3. The case of Malaria in Ghana
4. The case of Cholera in Ghana
5. The case of Cardiovascular Diseases in Ghana
6. Maternal and Child Health issues in Ghana
7. Discussion: Compare and contrast USA and the Ghanaian situation
DAY 2, Session 4: Interventions to addressing these issues

1. The role of Ministry of Health/ Ghana Health Service
2. The role of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS)
3. The role of International Agencies
4. The role of Academia
5. Assignment: Readings of related articles to understand the situation as pertains in Ghana

DAY 3, Session 5: Community Entry/Exit Techniques

1. Sharing of practical experiences in some activities undertaken
2. Discussion: Compare and contrast USA and the Ghanaian situation
3. Assignment: Do a research on any of the Major Public Health Issues in Ghana discussed on Day 2, Session 3. Develop a 10 minutes lesson plan and prepare slides for a public health education to a targeted audience.

DAY 3, Session 6: Preparing for Field Work

1. Equipping students with skills for field work in Ghana.

Session 7: Post-Field Trip – Oral presentations on field assignment and processing of issues observed in the field

Assessment and Grading:

50% Field Hours
40% Field Report
10% Oral Presentation on Field Assignment

Grading Scale:

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**Reading List: Articles and Books**


Twumasi P.T (1975) Medical systems in Ghana, Ghana Publishing Corporation, Tema


The Ghana Demographic and Health Survey, 2014.


**Other Information**

The University of Ghana expects the conduct of a student registered or taking courses in the University to be consistent with that of a professional person. Courtesy, honesty, and respect should be shown by all students toward faculty, guest lecturers, administrative support staff, and fellow students. Similarly, students should expect faculty to treat them fairly, showing respect for their ideas and opinions and striving to help them achieve maximum benefits from their experience in the University