

Course Descriptions – DrPH Leadership Courses

NOTE: Some courses may require Instructor Consent.

BCHS 2135: Leadership

- **PREREQUISITES:** None
- **OFFERED:** Every Fall

This course examines theories about leadership and provides students with feedback on their own leadership styles. Leadership skills are defined and applied. Teams, as one context for demonstrating leadership, are explored in depth and methods for recognizing and managing group dynamics are introduced. Concepts regarding organization leadership are introduced. The course combines theory with practical application. It is highly participative and students are expected to join in a wide range of exercises and simulations. The two major assignments require that the students work in teams with other students.

BCHS 2504: Overview of Health Communication

- **PREREQUISITES:** PLAN: Behavioral and Community Health Sciences (MPH, DrPH)
- **OFFERED:** Every Fall & Spring

Health communication is the art and technique of informing, influencing, and motivating individual, institutional and public audiences about important health issues. The scope of health communication includes disease prevention, health promotion, health care policy and the business of health care as well as enhancement of the quality of life and health of individuals in the community. This class will introduce the theories and research that underlie health communication. The course will examine health communication campaigns, planning health communication and developing a health communication campaign.

BCHS 2572: Risk Communication

- **PREREQUISITES:** None
- **OFFERED:** Every Fall

Course focuses on risk communication within the context of terrorism and natural disasters. The didactic and experiential course will include core principles of risk communication, examine special challenges of risk communication with diverse audiences and media, and prepare students to create risk and crisis communication campaigns.

BCHS 3504: Doctor Seminar on Health Communications

- **PREREQUISITES:** None
- **OFFERED:** Every other Spring (Spring 2017, 2019, etc.)

This doctoral seminar provides an opportunity for in depth exploration of health communication topics with a particular emphasis on critical analysis of past and current health communication techniques and the application of current best practices in health communication. This class is required for DRPH students in BCHS and will allow students to explore health communication issues within their individual fields of interest.

HPM 2063: The Politics of Health Policy

- **PREREQUISITES:** None
- **OFFERED:** Every Spring

This 2-credit course is designed to provide an understanding of the key political dimensions of the health policy-making process in the United States. The course is designed for students with an interest in health policy, although no previous formal training in policy or politics is required. We will examine the roles of government institutions and political actors both inside and outside government in developing and implementing health policy. Past and present health care policy debates will be used to illustrate the concepts and theories discussed in class. Students will acquire an understanding of the political processes in which health policies are considered, and gain practical experience executing political strategies in the context of health policy campaigns.

HPM 2081: Public Health Agency Management

- **PREREQUISITES:** None
- **OFFERED:** Every Fall

The course public health agency management focuses on the areas of knowledge and skills necessary to manage public health agencies. The course covers topics such as core functions and public health practice, legal basis for public health, public health interventions, configuring health departments, fundamentals of management theory and application, agency budgeting and public health constituencies. Classes include a lecture and class discussion of a case study or related question. The class ends with a final group report and group presentation of a class project relative to the development of a county health department.

HPM 2133: Law in Public Health Practice

- **PREREQUISITES:** None
- **OFFERED:** Every Spring

Local health departments play increasingly pivotal roles in the provision of community public health services; however, they also are experiencing diminished funding and reduced workforces. This course is the first of its kind offered at the University of Pittsburgh: a practice-based, collaborative learning experience for public health and law students. Together, students will develop interventions to address an issue identified by the Allegheny county health department as requiring the expertise of both cohorts.

PIA 2028: Public Policy Analysis (Previously PIA 2009)

- **PREREQUISITES:** PIA 2001 or PIA 2008 or PIA 2022 or PIA 2024; PROG: Graduate School of Public and International Affairs
- **OFFERED:** Every Fall, Spring & Summer

How can we improve the ability of society to choose between alternative policies? This course provides a framework to assess alternative policies on the dimensions of efficiency, equity, and political feasibility. The comparative institutional framework requires an interdisciplinary perspective which

draws on economics, political science, and political economy. Throughout the course, we will consider how insights from these disciplines provide insight into the choices confronting policymakers seeking to bring society closer to their conception of the good life. The course is organized into three parts: an introduction to policy analysis; a framework for comparative markets and governments; and applications of the framework. One of the main goals of the course, besides mastering the material (as evidenced by an in-class midterm), is a series of papers applying these concepts as well as an original research paper conducting a policy analysis.

PIA 2192: Ethics and Public Life

- **PREREQUISITES:** None
- **OFFERED:** Every Spring

In order to understand the role of ethics in public life, this course will explore the intersection of ethics, management and public policy. The first section of the course will be devoted to a discussion of the nature of ethics and applied ethics. Here a framework useful in the ethical analysis of issues, problems and dilemmas in public life will be constructed. The second section will demonstrate the use of this framework in the analysis of managerial problems in public organizations while, in the third section, an evaluation of policy issues from a normative point of view will be undertaken.

PIA 2509: Project Management

- **PREREQUISITES:** None
- **OFFERED:** Every Fall

Translating classroom theory into innovative field-based practice remains a project manager's most difficult challenge. The purpose of this course is to provide students with practical strategies and tools that can be used in the design and implementation of successful development projects. The course will be a highly interactive exploration of field-based development strategies and real-world projects that suffered lethal and catastrophic setbacks yet ultimately achieved solid and sustainable outcomes as a result of their innovative design. Students will be introduced to the basics of the project cycle, given specific management tools for project design and, working in groups, asked to develop project initiatives addressing a problem in a developing country of their choice.

PUBHLT 2025: Concepts and Methods in Global Health

- **PREREQUISITES:** PLAN: Global Health; SUBPLAN: Peace Corps
- **OFFERED:** Every Fall

This course is designed for students who plan to work in global health and is required for students enrolled in the GSPH global health certificate and peace corps master's international tracks. The course focuses on public health in low- and middle-income countries and also covers issues related to globalization. The course will provide students with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills needed to 1) identify, collect and interpret health and economic data, 2) produce a report on public health priorities at the country level, and 3) propose a course of action (including activities, partners, and measureable indicators) for a priority health issue.