

**Graduate School of Public Health
Educational Policies and Curriculum Committee**

November 4, 2021 | 1:30-3:30pm

Zoom Link: <https://pitt.zoom.us/j/93949705481>

Andriy Bandos, Kevin Broom, Mike Dolinger, Thistle Elias, David Finegold, Tiffany Gary-Webb, Muhammad Sohaib Khan, Josh Mattila, Ryan Minster, Aparna Ramani, Giovanna Rappocciolo, Kimberly Rehak, Samantha Runa, Elsa Strotmeyer

The meeting was called to order at 1:30pm by Dr. Jim Fabisiak, chair.

New Course: HPM 3506: *Dissertation Grantwriting Capstone*, Eric Roberts [vote required]

Dr. Eric Roberts presented an application for a new course intended for HPM doctoral students. The course is meant to bridge gaps in knowledge and/or experience between the degree's didactic content and dissertation writing. Dr. Roberts explained that this course was offered as a special studies course in fall 2022. It will focus on NIH grant writing using structured writing with milestones to facilitate the writing process and will evaluate written work using the agency's scoring criteria. In particular, the course will feature a mock study session with faculty evaluating submission with the NIH rubric.

Committee members questioned if the cap should stay at 5 students. Dr. Roberts explained that the program is small and the cap would not be a problem. Dr. Ryan Minster suggested some other coding for accessibility in addition to or instead of the yellow and green highlights used in the syllabus.

ACTION: The committee voted to approve the course provided that Dr. Roberts submit a syllabus checklist, update the dates in the submitted syllabus, and add an assessment column to the competency table in the syllabus.

UPDATE: Updated documents received January 5, 2022.

New Course: PUBHLT XXXX: *Health Consequences of Atmospheric Pollution and Climate Change*, Linda Pearce and Nesta Bortey-Sam [vote required]

Dr. Linda Pearce and Dr. Bortey-Sam presented an application for a new 3-credit undergraduate course focusing on pollution and climate change in public health. This course is part of the tier 3 courses for the environmental and occupational health sciences track.

Committee members expressed concern about the lack of a make-up assignment policy and one about the rounding up of final grades.

ACTION: The committee voted to approve the course provided that the following changes are made to the syllabus: 1) add office hours, 2) fix the typo in Learning Objective 2 so that it reads "Explain how altitude informs our opinion of ozone", 3) consider adding a late policy and a grading policy regarding the "rounding up" of grades, 4) include more details related to the attendance rules, 5) remove template directions.

UPDATE: Updated documents received January 5, 2022.

New Course: PUBHLT XXXX: *Social Media and Health*, Jamie Sidani and Kar-Hai Chu [vote required]

Dr Jamie Sidani and Dr. Kar Hai Chu presented an application for a new 3-credit undergraduate course that will provide an overview of social media and health. This course is part of the tier 3 courses for the behavioral and community health sciences department. The course will provide a bird's eye view of health campaigns and how they use social media and how misinformation spreads on social media. Students will have a choice of 2 final projects – either a presentation or an evaluation of a social media campaign.

Committee members asked about specific course content, namely if the course would touch upon malinformation, the weaponization of social media, and how social media is different in different communities. There was also a discussion on the meaning of course director versus course instructors, which might be a further conversation topic for the EPCC committee members.

ACTION: The committee voted to approve the course provided that the following changes and updates are made to the syllabus: 1) add the phrase “Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:” before listing the learning objectives, 2) consider adding a grievance policy for group projects, and 3) include more details regarding how participation will be graded, including the number of missed classes allowed.

UPDATE: Updated syllabus received November 23, 2021.

New Course: PUBHLT XXXX: *Understanding and Interpreting Health Research*, Tom Songer [vote required]

Dr. Tom Songer presented an application for a new 3-credit undergraduate course meant to introduce students on how research is carried out – from an idea to the design to recruitment, variables, analysis and the interpretation of study results.

ACTION: The committee voted to approve the course provided that the following changes and updates are made to the syllabus: 1) ensure that the textbook is consistently referenced, 2) change references to CourseWeb to Canvas, 3) include points for exams as was done for assignment points, 4) consider adding a grievance policy for group projects, and 5) create a numbering system for the lectures on the schedule at the end of the syllabus. Additionally, Dr. Songer was asked to change the word “weaknesses” to “limitations” in the Course Description and to replace the second “as” with the word “form” in the phrase “as research findings as the basis for health policies and healthcare treatment” under the Relevance question on page 4 of the EPCC application.

UPDATE: Updated syllabus received November 9, 2021. The changes to the EPCC application were made by Kimberly Rehak.

New Course: PUBHLT XXXX: *Statistical Packages for Public Health Data Analysis*, Andriy Bandos [vote required]

Dr. Andriy Bandos presented an application for a new 3-credit undergraduate course prepared by Dr. Ada Youk. This course is meant to be tier 3 course for the biostatistics department and will provide an overview of three statistical packages, R, SAS, and STATA.

ACTION: The committee voted to approve the course provided that the following changes and updates are made to the syllabus: 1) update the diversity statement and 2) expand upon the sentence “W We will complete some things during class.” under the Weekly Notes and Labs section of the syllabus.

UPDATE: Nothing received yet.

New Course: PUBHLT XXXX: *Vector-Borne Diseases*, Josh Mattila [vote required]

Dr. Josh Mattila presented an application for a new 3-credit undergraduate course intended to familiarize students with vector-borne diseases that represent important public health problems around the world.

ACTION: The committee voted to approve the course provided that the following changes and updates are made to the syllabus: 1) remove the BSPH competencies, 2) consider using a higher-level verb to replace “examine” in the last Learning Objective, 3) add “literature” after “published” in the Required Textbooks/Articles/Readings section, and 4) add system requirements and links to download R and RStudio.

UPDATE: Updated syllabus received December 2, 2021.

New Course: PUBHLT XXXX: *Molecules of Life, Sickness, and Death*, Aaron Barchowsky and Nesta Bortey-Sam [vote required]

Dr. Aaron Barchowsky and Dr. Nesta Bortey-Sam presented an application for a new 3-credit undergraduate course that will be taught by Dr. Barchowsky and Dr. Alison Sanders. This course is part of the tier 3 courses for the environmental and occupational health sciences track. It will provide a basis for understanding of the role of environmental health sciences, specifically the science and impact of toxicology, in reducing disease and promoting public health.

ACTION: The committee members voted to approve the course provided that the discrepancy between the first and second halves of the course description are addressed, typos in the syllabus and the EPCC application are fixed, the box on the syllabus checklist marking this as a core course is unchecked. Additionally, Drs. Barchowsky and Sanders were asked to consider and/or add information about how income impacts exposures in the diversity question on the EPCC application.

UPDATE: Updated documents received January 3, 2022.

New Course: EPIDEM XXXX: *Infectious Diseases and Global Health*, Jean Nachega [vote required]

Dr. Jean Nachega presented an application for a new 2-credit course intended for primarily for graduate students in the epidemiology department.

In the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic, global climate change and its impact on infectious diseases, this course will deal with the epidemiology, pathogenesis, and control aspects of infectious diseases of global health impact including malaria, HIV, tuberculosis, COVID-19, and anti-microbial drug resistance.

ACTION: The committee members voted to conditionally approve the course after Dr. Nachega comes to present changes at a future EPCC meeting. In addition to filling out the updated EPCC application form, the committee asked Dr. Nachega to ensure that the class hours are sufficient for the 3 credits (2,250 minutes per term), include a description of how the course content will address public health issues involving diversity

on the course application, add a measurable verb, such as “demonstrate,” to Learning Objective #3 for the course syllabus, replace “learn” and “understand” with measurable verbs Learning Objectives for individual classes, provide more details for the second Learning Objective for Class 8 as currently it only states “Program”, add points information about the assessments listed for the course.

UPDATE: Dr. Nachegea will present his updated application in the February 2022 EPCC meeting.

New Course: HUGEN 2056: *Genetic Conditions and Public Health Programs*, Andrea Durst [vote required]

Dr. Andrea Durst presented an application for a new 2-credit graduate-level course will focus on teaching genetic conditions being addressed by public health genetics programs. The goal of this course is to educate students on the natural history, available screening and/or genetic testing, and prevention strategies of these genetic conditions as well as the influencers of access to genetic services by at-risk individuals in the population.

ACTION: The committee voted to approve the course provided that Dr. Durst explain the grading summary and weights in the syllabus.

UPDATE: Nothing received yet.

New Course: PUBHLT XXXX: *Human Genetics: Health and Disease*, John Shaffer and Jodie Vento [vote required]

Dr. John Shaffer and Ms. Jodie Vento presented an application for a new 3-credit undergraduate course for the tier 3 human genetics track. This survey course will explore the role of genetics in health and disease in individuals, families, and communities.

ACTION: The committee voted to approve the course provided that Drs. Shaffer and Vento reconsider the verbs in the Learning Objectives to see if all to need to be such low-level verbs and to ensure that all boxes are ticked on the syllabus checklist document.

UPDATE: Updated documents received November 17, 2021.

New Course: PUBHLT XXXX: *Human Genetics: Society, Healthcare, Equity, Law*, John Shaffer and Jodie Vento [vote required]

Dr. John Shaffer and Ms. Jodie Vento presented an application for a new 3-credit undergraduate course for the tier 3 human genetics track. This survey course will cover contemporary issues spawned by genetic and genomic data. The course will cover the relevance of human genetics in contemporary society and the healthcare setting.

ACTION: The committee voted to approve the course provided that Drs. Shaffer and Vento delete the last sentence of the Course Description and consider adding “ethics” into the Course Description and, perhaps, the title of the course.

UPDATE: Updated documents received November 17, 2021.

New Course: PUBHLT XXXX: *Introduction to Genetic Counseling*, John Shaffer and Jodie Vento [vote required]

Dr. John Shaffer and Ms. Jodie Vento presented an application for a new 3-credit undergraduate course for the tier 3 human genetics track. This introductory course will provide a foundational overview of the field of genetic counseling, including the roots of the discipline, and contemporary processes of helping people understand and adapt to the medical, psychological and familial implications of genetic contributions to disease.

ACTION: The committee voted to approve the course.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05pm.

Upcoming EPCC Meeting(s)
- DEC 2 1:30-3:30pm

Modifications

Fall courses- To the Registrar's Office (RO) February of that year, EPCC January of that year

Summer- To the RO November of the previous year, EPCC October of the previous year

Spring- To the RO September of the previous year, EPCC August of the previous year

New Courses

Fall courses- To the RO December of the previous year, EPCC November of the previous year

Spring- To the RO June of the previous year, EPCC May of the previous year

Summer- To the RO September of the previous year, EPCC August of the previous year