Public Health

Please note: The Public Health Minor will be discontinued for students enrolling in the fall of 2012 and beyond. Students interested in Public Health should explore the Global Health and Environment major/minor track in Anthropology.

The Minor in Public Health permits students to focus the undergraduate course of study on health-related issues at the population and community level. Students in public health develop a greater understanding of the various factors affecting population health in local, regional and global perspective. Three foundational core courses provide a common language and methodology for understanding the key issues and controversies in public health, while elective courses permit exposure to a variety of disciplinary perspectives that contribute to public health practice and problem solving. Studying public health is important because it provides students with a population-level perspective on health and wellness, and provides an opportunity to address key societal concerns such as health equity and social justice. A multidisciplinary approach insures that the student who completes the Minor in Public Health will be well-prepared to proceed to the graduate level in public health or any number of related fields. All students are eligible to participate in the Minor in Public Health, regardless of their major discipline.

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(Anthropology)

There is no major in Public Health. Interested students should explore the Global Health and Environment track of the Anthropology major.

Please note: The Public Health Minor will be discontinued for students enrolling in the fall of 2012 and beyond. Students interested in Public Health should explore the Global Health and Environment major or minor track in Anthropology.

The Minor in Public Health

Units required: 15

Required courses: 9 units

PHealth 3283 Introduction to Global Health 3
PHealth 3284 Public Health Research and Practice 3
PHealth 4882 Anthropology and Public Health 3

Total units 9

Elective courses: 6 units

Select 6 units from the following:

PHealth 224 Infectious Diseases: Past, Present and Future 2
PHealth 233 Biomedical Ethics 3
PHealth 260 Topics in Health and Community 1
Additional Requirements

For non-Anthropology majors, at least one elective course must be home-based outside the Anthropology Department. For Anthropology majors, both electives must be home-based outside Anthropology. Additional courses may be added as they become available in the curriculum. Students should register for elective courses under L58 (Public Health) in order for the courses to count toward the Public Health Minor. Courses taken for the Minor in Public Health may not be counted toward the requirements for any other major or minor in the College of Arts & Sciences. Study-abroad credits will be considered on a case-by-case basis, not to exceed 3 elective units toward the minor.

L58 PHealth 224 Infectious Diseases: Past, Present and Future
A variety of important infectious diseases are discussed. Attention is paid to the causative agent, natural source, disease symptoms, mode of transmission, treatment, prevention, evolution, eradication and historical impact of each. Lectures and assigned reading include discussions of small pox, yellow fever, Ebola and Marburg fevers, AIDS, influenza, rabies, SARS, bubonic plague, typhus, cholera, syphilis and malaria. The mechanisms underlying the emergence of “new” diseases are emphasized. Two one-hour lectures per week; three in-class exams and a final constitute the basis for grades. Not available to students who have credit for Biol 2960.
Same as Biol 224
Credit 2 units. A&S: NS A&S: IQ, NSM FA: NSM

L58 PHealth 233 Biomedical Ethics
A critical examination, in the light of contemporary moral disagreements and traditional ethical theories, of some of the moral issues arising out of medical practice and experimentation in our society. Issues that might be discussed include euthanasia, genetic engineering, organ transplants, medical malpractice, the allocation of medical resources, and the rights of the patient.
Same as Phil 233F
L58 PHealth 303 Human Biology
How did Elvis, Socrates, and Babe Ruth die? How did David Letterman and Dick Cheney survive? In this course we work toward understanding the biology behind human health and disease. We examine cases from the news, literature and history. We work like detectives to understand how and why the characters were affected, and healed or died. This course is designed for students who do not plan to major in science and no prior science background is expected. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing or permission of instructor. A student may not receive credit for both Bio 303A and Bio 100A, 2960, 2970, or UCollege B320, B3201, B321, B3211.
Same as Biol 303A
Credit 3 units. A&S: NS A&S: IQ, NSM BU: SCI FA: NSM

L58 PHealth 307 Human Variation
A survey of human biological diversity, considering its adaptive and taxonomic significance from the perspective of origins and distribution of traits and adaptation. Prerequisite: Anthro 150A or introductory biology.
Same as Anthro 307A
Credit 3 units. A&S: NS, SD, QA A&S: IQ, NSM, AN, SD BU: SCI FA: NSM

L58 PHealth 310 History of Women's Health Care in America
Same as WGSS 310
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS, WI A&S: IQ, SSC, WI BU: BA FA: SSP

L58 PHealth 315 Introduction to Social Psychology
Introduction to the scientific study of individual behavior in a social context. Topics: person perception, stereotyping and prejudice, attitudes, memory, and political psychology, among other issues. Prerequisite: Psych 100B.
Same as Psych 315
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS A&S: IQ, SSC BU: BA FA: SSP

L58 PHealth 316 Contemporary Women's Health
We identify and study a broad range of health issues that are either unique to women or of special importance to women. The roles that women play as both providers and consumers of health care in the United States are examined. The interface of gender, race, and class and their impact on an individual’s access to and experience in the health care system are central concerns. Topics are wide-ranging and include discussions of breast cancer, mental health, cardiovascular disease in women, women and eating (from anorexia to obesity), reproductive issues (from menstruation to fertility to menopause), as well as the politics of women’s health, gender differences in health status, the effect of employment on health, the history of women’s health research.
Same as WGSS 316
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS, SD A&S: IQ, SSC, SD BU: BA EN: S FA: SSP

L58 PHealth 3183 A History of Genetics in the 20th Century
After a brief survey of pre-20th-century theories of heredity, this course examines the work of Gregor Mendel and its rediscovery in 1900, and its expansion as an interfild theory in combination with the chromosome theory, pioneered beginning in 1910 by T.H. Morgan at Columbia and P.A. Emerson at Cornell, and led to the expansion of classical genetics up to World War II. The beginnings of biochemical and molecular genetics in the 1920s and 1930s developed rapidly after the war with the double-helix theory of DNA and the rise of molecular genetics. The course ends with examination of the Human Genome Project (Initiative) and the ramifications of genetic biotechnology. Throughout, emphasis is placed not only on the technical and theoretical developments comprising genetics as an epistemic field, but also on the economic, social, political and philosophical interconnections between genetics and society. Agriculture, medicine and the ideology of social control (including such movements as eugenics and Nazi race hygiene) both influenced, and were influenced by, genetics and played an integral part in the construction of the science itself. Readings are drawn from the primary and secondary literature. There are a mid-term, final and periodic student reports. Prerequisites: Biol 2960 and Biol 2970.
Same as Biol 3183
Credit 3 units. A&S: NS A&S: IQ, NSM FA: NSM

L58 PHealth 3195 Abnormal Child Psychology
This course familiarizes students with current perspectives on the nature, causes, assessment, treatment and prevention of child psychiatric disorders and related family dysfunction. Theoretical perspectives and research findings are discussed pertaining to anxiety, depression, conduct disorder, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, autism, learning impairments, and parent-child conflict. Prerequisite: Psych 100B.
Same as Psych 3195
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS A&S: IQ, SSC BU: BA EN: S

L58 PHealth 322 Biostatistics
A second course in elementary statistics with applications to life sciences and medicine. Review of basic statistics using biological and medical examples. New topics include incidence and prevalence, medical diagnosis, sensitivity and specificity, Bayes’ rule, decision making, maximum likelihood, logistic regression, ROC curves and survival analysis. Prerequisite: Math 3200 or a strong performance in Math 2200 and permission of the instructor.
Same as Math 322
Credit 3 units. A&S: NS A&S: IQ, NSM FA: NSM

L58 PHealth 326 Introduction to the Psychology of Aging
Study of the processes of aging in the individual in terms of their behavioral effects. Age changes in biological functions, sensation, perception, intelligence, learning, memory and creativity studied to understand the capacities and potentials of the mature and older person. Limited to 20 students.
Prerequisite: Psych 100B.
Same as Psych 326
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS A&S: IQ, SSC BU: BA FA: SSP

L58 PHealth 3262 Medicinal Botany
Same as Biol 3262
Credit 3 units. A&S: NS A&S: IQ, NSM FA: NSM

L58 PHealth 3283 Introduction to Global Health
This course provides a general introduction to the field of public health. It examines the philosophy, history, organization, functions, activities, and results of public health research and practice. Case studies include infectious and chronic diseases, mental health, maternal and reproductive health, food safety and nutrition, environmental health, and global public health. Students are encouraged to look at health issues from a systemic and population-level perspective, and to think critically about health systems and problems, especially health disparities and health care delivery to diverse populations. No background in anthropology or public health is required.
Same as Anthro 3283
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS A&S: IQ, SSC BU: SCI EN: S FA: SSP

L58 PHealth 3284 Public Health Research and Practice
In-depth exploration of current theory and methods involved in public health research and practical applications. Emphasis on fundamentals of epidemiology, which forms the scientific rationale for public health assessment, assurance and policy development. Survey of current public health practice and research areas including biological foundations of public health, social and behavioral interventions, maternal-child health, and environmental health. Relationships among public health, medicine, nursing, social work and related disciplines.
Same as Anthro 3284
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS A&S: IQ, SSC BU: SCI EN: S FA: SSP

L58 PHealth 333 Culture and Health
This course explores culture and health, with a focus on global health. Assigned readings explore cross-cultural perspectives on health, healing and the body, as well as important concepts in medical anthropology. Through class discussions and close examination of ethnographies of health and illness, students develop an understanding of how cultural and political-economic forces articulate with the emerging field of global health.
Same as Anthro 333
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS A&S: IQ, SSC BU: BA FA: SSP

L58 PHealth 343 Understanding the Evidence: Provocative Topics of Contemporary Women’s Health and Reproduction
Contemporary topics of women’s health and reproduction are used as vehicles to introduce the student to the world of evidence-based data acquisition. Selected topics span and cross a multitude of contemporary boundaries. Issues evoke moral, ethical, religious, cultural, political and medical foundations of thought. Students are provided introductory detail to each topic and subsequently embark on an independent critical review of current data and opinion to formulate their own said notions. Examples of targeted topics for the upcoming semester include, but are not limited to: Abortion, Human Cloning, Genetics, Elective Cesarean Section, Fetal Surgery, Hormone Replacement, Refusal of Medical Care, Medical Reimbursement, Liability Crisis and Gender Bias of Medical Care.
Same as WGSS 343
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS A&S: IQ, SSC BU: ETH EN: S

L58 PHealth 347 Environmental Psychology
Explores relations between people and their physical and social environments. Topics include interactions between human behavior and toxins, habitat destruction/species extinction, exhaustion of fossil fuels, and climate change as well as environmental contributors to psychopathology. The course examines the influence of space on human behavior and the design of homes, work areas, educational settings and urban environments. Prerequisite: Psych 100B.
Same as Psych 347
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS A&S: IQ, SSC BU: ETH EN: S

L58 PHealth 348 Emerging Infectious Diseases
Same as Biol 348
Credit 2 units. A&S: NS A&S: IQ, NSM FA: NSM

L58 PHealth 352 Health Economics
Analysis of consumer demand for health care, medical technology and the role of health insurance. Emphasis placed on behavior of the physician (whether he acts as an agent for the consumer or on his own behalf); on the use of paramedics, preventive care, outpatient care and the general market organization of the health industry. The major concern is the rising cost of health care and appropriate public policy responses. Prerequisite: Econ 1011.
Same as Econ 352
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS A&S: IQ, SSC FA: SSP

L58 PHealth 354 Abnormal Psychology: The Major Mental Disorders
This is an introductory course in psychopathology or the scientific study of mental health disorders. Prerequisite: Psych 100B.
Same as Psych 354
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS A&S: IQ, SSC BU: BA FA: SSP

L58 PHealth 3551 The Welfare State and Social Policy in America
How can we understand the recent debate about fundamental health care reform? Should social security be partially or wholly privatized? Was the 1996 welfare reform a success? Contemporary political questions frequently focus on the American welfare state and the social policies that comprise it. The first half of this course describes the American welfare state broadly construed, places it in a comparative context, and elucidates major political science explanations for the size and scope of American social policy. We touch on several areas of social policy while constructing the generalized lenses through which particular political outcomes can be understood. The second part of the course then focuses on three major aspects of the American welfare state: health care, old age pensions and policies related to work, poverty and inequality.
Same as Pol Sci 3551
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS A&S: IQ, SSC EN: S

L58 PHealth 361 Culture and Environment
An introduction to the ecology of human culture, especially how “traditional” cultural ecosystems are organized and how they change with population density. Topics include foragers, extensive and intensive farming, industrial agriculture, the ecology of conflict, and problems in sustainability.
Same as Anthro 361
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS A&S: IQ, SSC BU: ETH FA: SSP

L58 PHealth 3612 Population and Society
Same as Anthro 3612
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS A&S: IQ, SSC BU: IS EN: S FA: SSP

L58 PHealth 3621 Anthropology of Human Birth
This course examines the interaction between human biology and culture in relation to childbirth. Emphasis is placed on understanding the cultural challenges posed by the physiology of human reproduction, the ways various cultures have attempted to meet those challenges, and the resultant consequences that this has had for women’s lives. The course draws on material from human anatomy and embryology, paleoanthropology, clinical obstetrics, public health, social anthropology, the history of medicine and contemporary bioethics.
Same as Anthro 3621
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS A&S: IQ, SSC BU: ETH EN: S FA: SSP

L58 PHealth 3625 The Female Life-Cycle in Cross-Cultural Perspective
This course examines the biology of the female reproductive cycle — menarche, menstruation and the menopause — and its cultural interpretation around the world. Topics covered include the embryology of human sexual differentiation, the biology of the menstrual cycle and how it influences or is influenced by various disease states, contraception, infertility, cultural taboos and beliefs about menstruation and menopause, etc. The course utilizes materials drawn from human biology, clinical gynecology, ethnography, social anthropology and the history of medicine and examines the interplay between female reproductive biology and culture around the world.
Same as Anthro 3625
Credit 3 units. A&S: NS A&S: IQ, NSM BU: SCI FA: NSM

L58 PHealth 3626 Adventures in Nosology: The Nature and Meaning of Disease
What is a “disease” and how do you diagnose one? What are “medicines” and how, when, and for what purpose should they be used? These questions reflect universal human concerns, but the answers given to these questions have varied enormously in different times and places. The course considers the nature of health, illness, disease and its treatment, beginning with a detailed examination of the traditional ethnomedical system of the Hausa people of northern Nigeria. Using this West African medical system as a baseline for comparison, the course then explores the nature of “nosology” (the classification of diseases) and the underlying logic of different therapeutic systems in different times and cultures, including our own. The course draws on ethnography, the history of medicine, bioethics and human biology to understand how these questions are asked and answered in different societies, times and places.
Same as Anthro 3626
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS A&S: IQ, SSC EN: S FA: SSP

L58 PHealth 3672 Medicine, Healing and Experimentation in the Contours of Black History
Same as History 3672
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD, SD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD EN: H

L58 PHealth 372 Behavioral Ecology
This course examines animal behavior from an evolutionary perspective and explores the relationships between animal behavior, ecology and evolution. Topics include foraging behavior, mating systems, sexual selection, predator-prey
relationships, cooperation and altruism, competition and parental care. Prerequisite: Biol 2970 or permission of instructor.
Same as Biol 372
Credit 4 units. A&S: NS A&S: IQ, NSM FA: NSM

L58 PHealth 3782 Before “The Clinic was born”: Medicine among European Jews from the Middle Ages to Modern Period
This course offers a survey of European medical history in general and of the Jewish medical world in particular, from the middle ages to the threshold of modernity.
Same as JINE 3782
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H

L58 PHealth 3874 International Public Health
This course explores current topics in international public health using a case-study-based approach, emphasizing public health issues affecting low- and middle-income countries; introduction to the tools and methods of international public health research and programs; in-depth examination and critique of the roles of local and national governments, international agencies and third-party donors in international public health work; and the contributions of anthropology to the international public health agenda.
Same as Anthro 3874
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS A&S: IQ, SSC EN: S FA: SSP

L58 PHealth 3876 Pharmaceutical Personhood
This course examines sociocultural dimensions of pharmaceutical production and consumption in the contemporary world. Pharmaceuticals have brought remarkable promises. Their consumption also reflects various social inequalities and substantial transformations in human experience that demand critical attention. We examine the history and global reach of the pharmaceutical industry, the content of pharmaceutical advertising, and pharmaceutical use in the treatment of various kinds of illness, including common mental disorders, post-traumatic experience, chronic illness, eating disorders, and lifestyle disorders. Case studies are drawn from diverse societies. We also explore various angles of public criticism about the pharmaceutical industry. No background in anthropology is required.
Same as Anthro 3875
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS A&S: IQ, SSC EN: S FA: SSP

L58 PHealth 4003 Interrogating Health, Race and Inequalities: Public Health, Medical Anthropology and History
Interrogating Health, Race and Inequalities is intended for graduate students in the School of Social Work and in Arts & Sciences as well as advanced undergraduates in Arts & Sciences who have previous course work in medical anthropology, public health or urban policy. The fundamental goal of the course is to demonstrate that health is not merely a medical or biological phenomenon but more importantly the product of social, economic, political and environmental factors. To meet this goal the course is designed to examine the intersection of race/ethnicity and health from multiple analytic approaches and methodologies. Course readings draw from the fields of public health, anthropology, history and policy analysis. Teaching activities include lectures, group projects and presentations, videos, and discussions led by the course instructors. These in-class activities are supplemented with field trips and field-based projects. By the end of the course students have a strong understanding of race as a historically produced social construct as well as how race interacts with other axes of diversity and social determinants to produce particular health outcomes. Students gain an understanding of the health disparity literature and a solid understanding of multiple and intersecting causes of these disparities.
Same as InterD 4001
Credit 3 units.

L58 PHealth 402 Transnational Reproductive Health Issues: Meanings, Technologies, Practices
This course covers recent scholarship on gender and reproductive health, including such issues as reproduction and the disciplinary power of the state, contested reproductive relations within families and communities, and the implications of global flows of biotechnology, population and information for reproductive strategies at the local level. We also explore how transnational migration and globalization have shaped reproductive health, the diverse meanings associated with reproductive processes, and decisions concerning reproduction. Reproduction serves as a focus to illuminate the cultural politics of gender, power and sexuality.
Same as Anthro 4022
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS, CD, SD A&S: IQ, SSC, LCD, SD BU: BA EN: S FA: SSP

L58 PHealth 4033 Culture, Illness and Healing in Asia
This course examines the place of health, illness and healing in Asian societies. We explore how people experience, narrate and respond to illness and other forms of suffering—including political violence, extreme poverty and health inequalities. In lectures and discussions we discuss major changes that medicine and public health are undergoing and how those changes affect the training of practitioners, health care policy, clinical practice and ethics. The course familiarizes students with key concepts and approaches in medical anthropology by considering case studies from a number of social settings including China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Tibet, Thailand, Vietnam and Asian immigrants in the United States. We also investigate the sociocultural dimensions of illness and...
the medicalization of social problems in Asia, examining how gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, disability and other forms of social difference affect medical knowledge and disease outcomes. This course is intended for anthropology majors, students considering careers in medicine and public health, and others interested in learning how anthropology can help us understand human suffering and formulate more effective interventions.

Same as Anthro 4033
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS, CD A&S: IQ, SSC, LCD EN: S FA: SSP

L58 PHealth 406 Sexual Health and the City: A Community-Based Learning Course
Same as AFAS 406
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS, SD A&S: IQ, SSC, SD AR: SSP EN: S

L58 PHealth 4134 The AIDS Epidemic: Inequalities, Ethnography and Ethics
Same as Anthro 4134
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS, SD A&S: IQ, SSC, SD EN: S FA: SSP

L58 PHealth 4135 Tobacco: History, Culture, Science and Policy
This course examines tobacco’s important role in shaping the modern world over the course of the past five centuries, from indigenous uses of tobacco in the New World to the politics of smoking in the 20th century. Through in-depth historical and anthropological case studies, tobacco provides a window into broad trends in government, law, economy and society, including changing social meanings of gender, race, individualism, risk, responsibility and health in the United States and worldwide. This course also introduces students to public health approaches to noncommunicable disease prevention and healthy lifestyle promotion. No background in anthropology or public health is required.
Same as Anthro 4135
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS A&S: IQ, SSC, EN: S FA: SSP

L58 PHealth 4215 Anthropology of Food
The rising interest in food research crosses various academic disciplines. This seminar focuses on aspects of food of particular interest in anthropology. The first two-thirds of the course is reading-intensive and discussion-intensive. Each student writes short review/response papers for major readings. For the final third, we still are reading and discussing, but the reading load is lighter (and we have a field trip) as students devote more time to their research papers. The research paper is a major effort on a topic discussed with and approved by the professor. In most cases it has to deal with cultural and historical aspects of a food, set of foods, form of consumption or aspect of food production. Papers are critiqued, assigned a provisional grade, revised and resubmitted.
Same as Anthro 4215
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS A&S: IQ, SSC EN: S FA: SSP

L58 PHealth 4253 Researching Fertility, Mortality and Migration
Same as Anthro 4253
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS, WI A&S: IQ, SSC, WI EN: S FA: SSP

L58 PHealth 4254 The Anthropology of Maternal Death
Same as Anthro 4254
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS A&S: IQ, SSC EN: S FA: SSP

L58 PHealth 427 Social Gerontology
Same as Psych 427
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS A&S: IQ, SSC FA: SSP

L58 PHealth 451 Environmental Policy
Course examines the relationship between environmental economics and environmental policy. The course focuses on air pollution, water pollution and hazardous wastes, with some attention given to biodiversity and global climate change. The course examines critically two prescriptions that economics usually endorses: (1) “balancing” of benefits against costs (e.g., benefit-cost analysis) and the use of risk analysis in evaluating policy alternatives; and (2) use of market incentives (e.g., prices, taxes or charges) or "property rights" instead of traditional command-and-control regulations to implement environmental policy. Prerequisite: Econ 1011.
Same as Econ 451
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS A&S: IQ, SSC BU: BA, ETH FA: SSP

L58 PHealth 4557 Biopsychosocial Aspects of Eating Disorders and Obesity
Same as Psych 4557
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS A&S: IQ, SSC

L58 PHealth 4595 Developmental Plasticity and Human Health
A look at how early life — gestation plus infancy and childhood — contributes to the establishment of long-term physiology, variation and individual health from an anthropological perspective. The course includes current disease models of developmental origins, combined with evolutionary and adaptive perspectives on developmental plasticity and the construction of human health.
Same as Anthro 4595
Credit 3 units. A&S: NS; A&S: IQ, NSM FA: NSM

L58 PHealth 4596 Biomarkers: Measuring Population Health, Reproductive and Social Endocrinology
How do we study contemporary human biology and population-level health? How do we investigate individual differences in health within a larger population? In this course, we specifically address these questions by looking at how anthropologists, nutritionists and public health workers investigate individual and population-level health. This is done through the study of biomarkers collected from individuals. In this class, we discuss the theory behind the use of biomarkers, the underlying biology and physiology of the human body reflected in these data, and the methods used in collection and analyses of biomarkers. Finally, we discuss how biomarkers can be integrated into studies of population and individual-level health.
Same as Anthro 4596
Credit 3 units. A&S: NS; A&S: IQ, NSM FA: NSM

L58 PHealth 4882 Anthropology and Public Health
Anthropological approaches to public health practice and research; role of anthropology in public health systems; cross-cultural public health research; community vs. institutional bases of public health advocacy.
Same as Anthro 4882
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS; A&S: IQ, SSC FA: SSP

L58 PHealth 4883 Political Economy of Health
Same as Anthro 4883
Credit 3 units. A&S: SS; A&S: IQ, SSC FA: SSP