

Public Health

MAJOR, MINOR

PROFESSORS: Bonnie Bowers (psychology), LeeRay Costa (gender and women's studies), Renee Godard (biology), Edward A. Lynch (political science), Darla Schumm (religious studies), Morgan Wilson (biology)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS: Vladimir Bratic (communication), Julie Clark (mathematics), Pablo Hernandez (economics), Lori Joseph (communication), Rachel Nuñez (history), Pauline Kaldas (English)

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS: Abubakarr Jalloh (public health), Mary Jane Carmichael (biology), Chris Florio (history), Brian Gentry (physics), Elizabeth Gleim (biology), Genevieve Hendricks (art), Son Nguyen (chemistry)

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSORS: Charles Lowney (philosophy)

The study of public health is an interdisciplinary endeavor that teaches students to recognize, assess, and address various issues of health on individual, community, and global levels. The interdisciplinary nature of the major allows students to build an integrated approach to health issues by combining sociocultural disciplines with the natural sciences. Students completing an undergraduate degree in public health can be employed in a variety of entry-level positions in both the public and private sector. Prospective job titles include health educator, community health worker, environmental health specialist, epidemiologist, public policy writer, emergency preparedness specialist, and coordinator of health initiatives. A Master's in Public Health degree will allow a student to advance in her career. The Hollins public health program is specifically designed with a core that builds a foundation of knowledge in public health and a slate of electives that allows students to build their own paths of specialty study. Working with the program director, they will construct generalized programs, programs focused on socio-cultural perspectives, or programs anchored in the natural sciences.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MAJOR IN PUBLIC HEALTH

11 courses (44 – 48 credits), including 5 core courses and one internship

REQUIRED COURSES (20)

- PH 101: Introduction to Public Health (4)
- STAT 140: Introduction to Statistics (4)
- PH 201: Epidemiology (4)
- PH 301: Global Health (4)
- PH 470: Senior Seminar (4)

INTERNSHIP (2 or 4)

- One internship completed during any term. Credits may vary depending on when a student chooses to complete the field experience. Academic component of supervised field experience in public health: students attend a weekly seminar to discuss readings linking research and practice, complete an independent project that builds on the internship, and develop presentations of their work. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration.

SIX ADDITIONAL AFFILIATED COURSES (22-24)

- At least 2 at the 300 level, no more than 2 courses from one department, except for those courses with a Public Health (PH) designation.

AFFILIATED COURSES:

- BIOL132: Human Biology
- BIOL 140: Human Genetics
- BIOL 220: Human Physiology
- BIOL 312: Microbiology
- BIOL 314: Genetics
- BIOL/ES 104: Introduction to Environmental Studies
- BIOL/ES 207: Ecology
- BIOL/ES 240: One Health: Linking Human, Animal, and Environmental Health
- BIOL/ES 316: Wildlife Disease
- BIO/ES 357: Conservation Biology and Lab

- BIO/PSY 317: Biological Psychology
- BLI 210: Conflict, Feedback, and Change
- BLI 220: Decision Making Strategies
- CHEM 214: Analytical Chemistry
- CHEM 221: Organic Chemistry
- COMM 208: Qualitative Methods
- COMM 225: Public Speaking
- COMM 238: Argumentation and Advocacy
- COMM 244: Social Marketing
- COMM 270: Intercultural Communication
- COMM 344: Health Communication
- ECON 157: Principles of Microeconomics
- ECON 241: The Economics of Social Issues
- ECON 254: The Economics of Health Care
- ECON 261: Public Finance
- ECON/ES 230: Economics and the Environment
- ENG 174: International Women's Voices
- ENG 211: Multicultural Women Writers
- ENG 320: Immigrant Literature
- ENG 346: Arab-American Literature
- ES/GWS 219: Food, Culture, and Justice
- ES/INTL 210: World Geography
- ES/PHIL 182: Environmental Ethics
- ES 373: Environmental Justice
- GWS 141: Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies
- GWS 242: Gender, Culture, & Power
- GWS/REL 281: Saints, Sinners, and Misfits: Religion and Disability
- GWS/HIST 310: The Body and Sexuality in Europe
- GWS/REL 318: Sexual Ethics
- GWS/SOC 250: Mad in America: Gender, Mental Health, and Popular Culture
- HIST 265: African-American History, 1865 to the Present
- HIST 329: Slavery: A Global History
- INTL/POLS 302: Comparative Urbanism
- PHIL 181: Contemporary Moral Issues
- PHIL 241/341: Poverty and Human Capability
- PHIL 253: Biomedical Ethics
- POLS 255: State and Local Government
- PSY 204: Social Psychology
- PSY 215: Motivation and Emotion
- PSY 342: Principles of Abnormal Behavior
- REL 126: Introduction to Religion
- REL 212: Christian Traditions
- REL 215: Silenced? Marginalized Voices in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
- REL 217: Islam and the West
- REL 218: Buddhist Traditions
- REL 219: Jewish Traditions
- REL 223: Women in Buddhism
- SOC 234: Social Problems

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MINOR IN PUBLIC HEALTH:

6 courses (22 – 24 credits)

- PH 101: Introduction to Public Health
- PH 201: Epidemiology
- STAT 140: Introduction to Statistics
- PH 301: Global Health
- 2 courses from the list of affiliated courses, with at least one at the 300 level

COURSES IN PUBLIC HEALTH:**PH 101: INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC HEALTH (4)****Jalloh**

Public health, founded on the principle of social justice, is the science of improving the health of all individuals in a community. In this introductory course, students will learn about the history of public health, the tools we use to improve the public's health, and the structure of the U.S. public health system. Students will then apply what they learn to better understand the state of health in the United States and current controversies in public health.

Open to first-year students. Offered both terms. (DIV, MOD)

PH 201: EPIDEMIOLOGY (4)**Jalloh**

This course analyzes the distribution, determinants, and prevention of disease, disability, and premature death in populations. It includes a quantitative analysis of the biological, social, economic, and environmental conditions that affect health, as well as an examination of potential bias in studies.

Prerequisites: PH 101 and q, or permission of instructor. Open to first-year students. Offered Term 2. (r, Q)

PH 240: ONE HEALTH: LINKING HUMAN, ANIMAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (4)**Gleim**

Nearly two-thirds of all human infectious diseases are transmissible to animals and vice versa. One Health is a world-wide movement which focuses on the intersectionality of human, animal, and environmental health and how interdisciplinary efforts can be made to better study and solve these problems. This seminar-based course will take a case study approach to explore concepts and approaches integral to One Health. Key diseases and issues related to human, animal, and environmental health for which this approach could or has been utilized will be explored, along with its associated peer-reviewed literature. This course is specifically targeted towards pre-health, pre-vet, and public health students, along with students interested in field biology and environmental science. Also listed as BIOL/ES 240. Prerequisites: ES/BIOL 207/207L, or PH 201, or permission. Offered Term 2.

PH 250: SPECIAL TOPICS: SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH (4)**Jalloh**

Social circumstances influence the health and well-being of individuals and communities. This course fosters an

understanding of micro- and macro-determinants that result in racial/ethnic and socio-economic differences in health outcomes. Determinants include income, wealth, education, social status, social support, social stressors, and social-physical environments, among others. Students will learn about the social conditions impacting individual and community health. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2022-23. (o)

PH 253: MICROBIAL ECOLOGY (4)**Carmichael**

Microbial ecology is the study of microbes in the environment and their interactions with the environment, each other, and plant and animal species. The discipline is at the heart of the function of every ecosystem on the planet, from the lithosphere to the cryosphere, the human body, and the built environment. This course will survey the microbial diversity within the biosphere and delve into the complex interactions between microbial communities and the worlds they inhabit. Also listed as BIOL 253 and ES 253. Prerequisites: For BIOL Majors, BIOL 207/207L and BIOL 220/220L, or permission; ES Majors, ES 105 and ES 207/207L, or permission; For PH Majors, PH 101 and PH 201, or permission. BIOL majors cannot receive credit for BIOL 253/253L and BIOL 312/312L. Offered Term 1. (SCI: Must take lab to fulfill SCI).

PH 253L: MICROBIAL ECOLOGY LAB (4)**Carmichael**

This lab will use culture-dependent and independent techniques and common biogeochemical assays to survey the microbial ecology of a variety of environments. Also listed as BIOL 253L or ES 253L. Co-requisite: BIOL, ES, or PH 253. Offered Term 1. (SCI)

PH 260: PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (4)**Jalloh**

As social justice is the central mission of public health, this course provides critical analysis of the relationship between social justice and population health. Issues include racism, discrimination, poverty, education, employment, and housing, just to name a few. In particular, students will engage in in-depth examination of residential segregation and its impact on the health and well-being of racial/ethnic minorities. No prerequisites. Open to first-year students. Offered Term 2. (DIV)

PH 290: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)**Department**

Independent study conducted below the advanced level. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. Offered any term.

PH 301: GLOBAL HEALTH (4)**Jalloh**

This course expands ideas introduced in Introduction to Public Health and Epidemiology to infectious and chronic disease in terms of global prevalence. It considers case studies, theory, and methods about health from a multidisciplinary perspective. Students explore the relation of biological, economic, political, cultural, and behavior factors to health, as well as disease spread and management. Prerequisites: PH 101 and PH 201 or permission of instructor. Offered Term 1. (GLO)

PH 316: WILDLIFE DISEASE (4)**Gleim**

This lecture/lab course will provide a general understanding of disease ecology and examine both common and newly emerging diseases that impact wildlife. We'll also examine the roles these diseases play in population regulation, game management, conservation of rare and endangered species, and how they can affect human and domestic animal health. Lab components of the course will involve both field and laboratory-based experiences involved in routine testing of wildlife and/or vectors for pathogens. This course cannot count as a 300-level laboratory course for the biology major. Also listed as BIOL/ES 316. Prerequisite: BIOL/ES 207 and lab, and BIOL 236. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Not offered in 2022-23. (SCI)

PH 344: HEALTH COMMUNICATION (4)**Joseph**

Health communication is an emerging specialty in the field of communication. This course is a survey of some of the concepts and theories in health communication and explores several areas, including the social construction of health and illness, patient-provider interaction, the development of health care promotion messages, and an overview of health care models and organizational structures in the U.S. Also listed as COMM 344. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered Term 1.

PH 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)**Department**

Independent study conducted at the advanced level. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. Offered any term.

PH 399: INTERNSHIP (2 or 4)**Department**

Academic component of supervised field experience in Public Health. Students attend a weekly seminar to discuss readings linking research and practice, complete an independent project that builds on the internship, and develop presentations of their work. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. May be proposed any term.

PH 470: SENIOR SEMINAR (4)**Jalloh**

This course guides students through the process of public health intervention design, from needs assessment to evaluation. Students work in groups mentored by the course instructor to develop a community health needs assessment and improvement document, simulating public health working environments. The course is designed to empower students to synthesize their academic experience gained in prior public health coursework that will incorporate and gauge students' practical skills in developing an impactful project based on real life public health intervention. Prerequisite: Senior standing and PH 301 or permission of instructor. Offered Term 1.