SYLLABUS: EPH 555b, PRACTICUM IN CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY, AND PUBLIC HEALTH
INSTRUCTOR: DR. ROBERT DUBROW
Spring 2017

1. Prerequisite: participation in the Fall 2016 Climate Change, Sustainability, and Public Health Leadership Training Workshop.

2. Course Description: This course is one of the options available to students to fulfill the practice requirement for the M.P.H. degree. In this course, interdisciplinary student teams carry out applied research or practice projects in the area of climate change, sustainability, and public health. Each team works with a sponsoring organization (e.g., unit within Yale, local health department, state agency, community organization, other non-governmental organization). As a prerequisite for enrollment, this unique Spring Term course requires participation in the Fall Term Climate Change, Sustainability, and Public Health Leadership Training Workshop, a partnership between the Climate Change and Health Initiative, the Global Health Leadership Institute, and the Office of Sustainability. In September, students apply to join a team, and in November the selected students participate in this weekend workshop that provides training on leadership, strategic problem solving, and policy/applied research implementation. Teams use these skills to further conceptualize and plan their projects. These established student teams then implement their projects in this Spring Term course, which affords the opportunity to apply concepts and competencies learned in the workshop and in the classroom to this important area of climate change, sustainability, and public health. This course should be of interest to students across Yale School of Public Health and the University.

3. Course Learning Objectives: Successful completion of this course will enable students to:
   - Apply knowledge and skills learned in their M.P.H. course work to an important public health problem.
   - Within a defined timeframe, work as part of an interdisciplinary collaborative team to design, implement, and evaluate a concrete public health project that complies with established YSPH criteria for the M.P.H. practicum experience.
   - Present an in-depth review of a specific practical problem in climate change, sustainability, and public health.
   - Utilize team building, negotiation, and conflict management skills.
   - Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills.
   - Demonstrate specific competencies selected from the YSPH core curriculum and student area of concentration that are pertinent to the practicum project.
   - Demonstrate attainment of general cross cutting competencies in the areas of communication, diversity and culture, leadership, and professionalism.

4. Meeting Place and Time: to be determined

5. Course Website: The Canvas course website can be accessed through http://canvas.yale.edu. Course announcements and other information are posted on the website.

6. Office Hours: The instructor's office hours are Thursday, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm in LEPH 429. Please sign up for his office hours using the Canvas Calendar.

7. Contacting the instructor: The best way to contact him is by e-mail (robert.dubrow@yale.edu).
8. Course Requirements:
   a. **Project implementation**: The major time commitment for this course is implementation of the team project, with an expectation of about 8 hours per week. Projects are identified by the instructor in consultation with potential sponsoring organizations during the previous summer. Types of projects include, but are not limited to, developing policy recommendations and writing a “white paper” or policy brief; researching and writing a technical report; analyzing and interpreting data (either pre-existing data or limited data collected during the project, such as focus group data); conducting strategic planning; developing and conducting a workshop; or developing educational, communications and/or outreach strategies and/or materials. The course aims for four teams, each consisting of three or four students.

   Students apply for admission to the course, including ranking of their project preferences, in September of the Fall Term. In November, the selected students are assigned to a project and, after making a commitment to enroll in the course in the Spring Term, participate in the Climate Change, Sustainability, and Public Health Leadership Training Workshop, a weekend event that helps teams further conceptualize and plan their projects and therefore “hit the ground running” when the course begins in the Spring Term. Each team is advised by a preceptor from the sponsoring organization, as well as by the course instructor.

   b. **Class attendance and participation**: Weekly class sessions will consist of team meetings as well as meetings of the entire class to assess progress, discuss and propose solutions to problems that arise in project implementation, share experiences and best practices among teams, and provide opportunity for instructor and cross-team feedback.

   c. **Team interim and final oral presentations**: The interim presentation will cover progress to date and will take place the week before Spring break. The final presentation will present the background and significance, methods, results, discussion and conclusions of the project and will take place during the reading period.

   d. **Team interim and final written reports**: The interim report will document progress to date and will be due the day before Spring break (Friday, March 10). The final report will be due during the final examination period. The final report should include an abstract, executive summary, and sections on background and significance, methods, results, discussion, conclusions, and an appendix with supporting documents (e.g., questionnaire, intervention guide).

   e. **Project-specific interim products**: These are essential products (e.g., questionnaire, intervention guide) needed to enable timely completion of each project and will be determined early in the semester by each team in consultation with the instructor.

   f. **Individual self-reflection**: Each student will write a short paper (2-4 pages, double-spaced) about the strengths and weaknesses of his or her contributions to the project and how working on the project has addressed project-specific competencies (including YSPH core curriculum competencies) identified at the beginning of the semester.

   g. **Peer evaluations**: At the end of the semester each student will anonymously evaluate the performance of his or her team members.

9. **Grades**: The grade for the course will be calculated as follows:
   - Class attendance and participation: 10%
   - Team interim oral presentation: 5%
   - Individual contribution to interim oral presentation: 5%
Team interim written report 10%
Team final oral presentation 15%
Individual contribution to final oral presentation 5%
Team final written report 30%
Individual self-reflection 10%
Peer evaluation 5%
Preceptor evaluation of team performance 5%

Your numerical course grade will translate into your transcript grade as follows:
>90 Honors
80 – 89.99 High Pass
65 – 79.99 Pass
<65 Fail

Policy on late submission of assignments: The assignment will be graded down by 10 points for each day late.

10. Classroom etiquette: During class, please turn off cell phones and pagers and please do not surf the internet, text, or read your email.

11. Academic integrity: Academic integrity is a core institutional value at Yale. It means truth in presentation, diligence and precision in citing works and ideas you have used, and acknowledging collaborations with others. Violations of academic integrity include cheating on exams, problem sets and all other forms of assessment; falsification or fabrication of data; plagiarism, that is, the failure in a dissertation, essay or other written exercise to acknowledge ideas, research, or language taken from others; and multiple submission of the same work without obtaining explicit written permission from both instructors before the material is submitted. Students found guilty of violations of academic integrity are subject to written reprimand, probation (noted on a student’s transcript), suspension (noted on a student’s transcript) or dismissal (noted on a student’s transcript). Students will sign the following statement at the end of each written assignment: I certify that this is my own original work and that I have not committed plagiarism.

12. Class schedule and readings:
• Classes 1-7: Team meetings as well as meetings of the entire class to assess progress, discuss and propose solutions to problems that arise in project implementation, share experiences and best practices among teams, and provide opportunity for instructor and cross-team feedback.
• Class 8: Interim oral presentations.
• Classes 9-13: Team meetings as well as meetings of the entire class to assess progress, discuss and propose solutions to problems that arise in project implementation, share experiences and best practices among teams, and provide opportunity for instructor and cross-team feedback.
• Class 14 (reading week): Final oral presentations.