

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

**HLTH 105 –INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC HEALTH**

**I. Basic Course Information**

A. Course Number and Title: HLTH 105 – Introduction to Public Health

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Year: Spring 2021

**D. Effective Term: Fall 2021**

E. Sponsoring Department: Health Science Education

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3

G. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: 3  
Laboratory: 0  
Out of class student work per week: 6

H. Prerequisites: ENGL 111 English Composition I

I. Laboratory Fees: None

J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of approval:

Chair- Linda Romaine, 908 526-1200 x8290, [Linda.Romaine@raritanval.edu](mailto:Linda.Romaine@raritanval.edu)

Dean – Sarah Imbriglio 908 526-1200 x8241, [Sarah.Imbriglio@raritanval.edu](mailto:Sarah.Imbriglio@raritanval.edu)

**II. Catalog Description**

Prerequisite: ENGL 111 English Composition I

This course introduces the beginning student to the current issues in public health today. It facilitates student exposure to the multiple factors influencing population health. A primary emphasis of the course is the focus on the public health of diverse communities, extending from the local community to that of the global community. The course includes consideration of community health problems, communicable disease control, epidemiological investigation, the public health response to bioterrorism, biomedical research, environmental assessment, analysis of individual and group behavior, public health nursing, common health indicators for measuring population and community health and policy developments. Course may be offered online or be web-based.

### **III. Statement of Course Need**

- A. Introduction to Public Health is an essential course for many of the health care, allied health, nursing, public policy, emergency preparedness and public health professions. All nurses applying for a NJ School Nurse Certificate through the NJ Department of Education must have a minimum of 30 semester-hour credits including training in “Public health, including such areas as public health nursing, community health problems and communicable disease control” (New Jersey Statute: Chapter 153).. Similarly, Introduction to Public Health or Community Health is frequently a required course for the BSN. Many pre-nursing students can benefit from this course while waiting to be admitted to a nursing program. Additionally, many nursing students who fail out or withdraw from the nursing program could utilize this course as a means of broadening their knowledge related to public and community health and improving their GPA for re-entrance into a nursing program. This is also an excellent course for anyone seeking professional training in emergency response or bioterrorism.
- B. There is no lab component.
- C. This course is designed to transfer as a health science elective.

### **IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum**

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course does not serve as a General Education course.
- C. This course meets a program requirement for the A.S. Degree in Health Science.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, [www.njtransfer.org](http://www.njtransfer.org); b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

### **V. Outline of Course Content**

- A. What is Public Health: Core Functions and 10 Essential Services
- B. History of Public Health
- C. The Public Health System (incl. Governmental, Non-profits, health care, NGOs, etc.)
- D. Government’s Influence on Public Health
- E. Epidemiology: Principals and Methods
- F. Statistics: Making Sense of Uncertainty
- G. The Role of Data in Public Health
- H. History of Infectious Disease
- I. Social and Behavioral Factors in Health
  - 1. Tobacco: Public Health Threat Number One
  - 2. Diet and Activity Patterns: Public Health Threat Number Two
- J. Social and Underlying Determinants of Health

- K. Occupational Health
- L. Public Health: Special Populations
  - 1. Maternal and Child Health
  - 2. Mental Health
- M. Environmental Issues in Public Health
- N. Solid and Hazardous Wastes: What to do with the Garbage?
- O. Safe Food and Drugs: An Ongoing Regulatory Battle
- P. Public Health Role in Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Q. Population: The Ultimate Environmental Health Issue
- R. Medical Care and Public Health (three below all incorporated to this)
- S. Health Services Research: Finding What Works
- T. Public Health and the Aging Population
- U. The Future of Public Health
- V. Public Health, Emergency Preparedness & Response
- W. Globalization and Public Health

## **VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes**

### **A. General Education Learning Outcomes:**

**At the completion of the course, students will be able to:**

1. Effectively discuss public health topics in both speech and writing. (GE-NJ1)
2. Apply appropriate epidemiological and statistical concepts and operations to interpret public health data and solve problems. (GE-NJ 2, 3\*)
3. Explain the societal impact and management of disease. (GE-NJ 5)
4. Describe the role of law and government in promoting and protecting the health of the public, and identify specific functions and roles of governmental public health agencies in assuring population health. (GE-NJ 5, ER)
5. Identify, measure, and assess the components of the public health infrastructure (GE-NJ 1, 2, 5\*)

### **B. Course Learning Outcomes:**

**At the completion of the course, students will be able to:**

1. Investigate common chronic and communicable illnesses, including symptoms and etiology.
2. Apply measures of population health and illness, including risk factors, to community health improvement initiatives.

### **C. Assessment Instruments**

1. Tests
2. Writing Assignments & Research Papers

### 3. Discussion Forums

## VII. Grade Determinants

- A. Written Exams
- B. Writing Assignments & Research Papers
- C. Projects – Capstone Paper
- D. Discussion Forums

Given the goals and outcomes described above, LIST the primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. computer-assisted instruction
- C. student collaboration and discussion forums

## VIII. Texts and Materials

- A. TEXT: An Introduction to Community and Public Health, James F. McKenzie, Robert Pinger, and Denise Seabert. Jones & Bartlett, 9th Edition, 2016, ISBN 978-1-2841-0841-5.
- B. PowerPoint Presentation
- C. Handouts
- D. Internet: self-grading quizzes, electronic flash cards
- E. Supplemental Learning Modules

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

## IX. Resources

- A. RVCC Library

## XII. Honors Options: None