Semester Cluster Course Proposal

**PHE 446  Community Health Principles and Practices**

Offered: Fall Quarter

Cluster/Coordinator: Healthy People/Healthy Places  Sy Adler USP

Course Description:

This course will examine traditional health services at the level of the community. Epidemiology, disease control, health promotion, federal/state/county public health services, health costs to society, environmental health and international health will be covered. Student field work is required.

Course Development:

This course was recently revised from PHS 446 Public Health Principles and Practices. It is based on community health principles including epidemiological studies and disease control. This course also incorporates community health service field work at a local health agency. Set criteria are used to assign students to designated community service. The students are expected to keep a journal which reflects tasks and challenges at the field site in addition to the in-class work.

**General Education Goals:**

Human Experience:

This course is partially experiential in scope. Students are required to spend 25 hours in the field interacting in a public health agency acquiring direct experience with the public health community. Class discussions and journal writing will generate reflections on community field work. Finally, class readings will detail group difference in disease rates and health needs.

Ethical Issues and Social Responsibility:

Class discussions and written reports will incorporate issues of ethical/unethical health care and local/state/federal responsibility for, and commitment to, community health services.
Communication:

Students will keep a journal of their job tasks and reflections which will be graded on the basis of content. Weekly class discussions and small group activities provide oral communication situations. Students will also turn in a written report and present their field work experience to the class at the end of the quarter.

Critical inquiry:

This course will examine the determinants and the distribution of disease, methods used for predicting cause and effect relationships in community health, public health agencies, environmental and international health concerns and health promotion/health behavior issues.

**Topical Course Outline:**

1) Introduction to Community Health. Description of field work and requirements and field setting assignments given.
2) Epidemiology. Distributions and determinants of disease in our society. Disease control measures.
3) Community and individual health behaviors. Risks associated with health behaviors. Health promotion and education strategies in our community.
4) Public health services. Local/state/federal services examined. Community health care agencies overviewed.
5) Environmental/occupational health. Environmentally-determined health issues in the community. Worksite health and fitness.
7) The larger community-international health. The interrelated, interdependent world.
8) Student field work reports.

Instructor: Judith Sobel - School of Community Health

Readings:

**Dimensions of Community Health** by Dean Miller. Brown and Benchmark 1995