

# M19 500

## COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is designed to introduce medical students to population health sciences research and the context in which it is developed and disseminated. Students will become familiar with the forums in which population health research is disseminated to clinical and lay audiences and how the messages for each are crafted. This course provides students the opportunity to interact with faculty and guest lecturers on topics currently making headlines. Students will explore how research from the past informs present day public health research and our understanding of what makes effective public health practice and policy. In addition, students will be expected to stay informed on current clinical and population health research. This will prepare them for participation in journal clubs and similar professional exchanges conducted during the course of academic medical careers. We will discuss what research makes headlines and how lay and professional audiences interpret the findings. Students are expected to generate ideas for and participate actively in class discussions.

### INSTRUCTOR

Allison King, MD, MPH  
Associate Professor  
Occupational Therapy,  
Surgery, Pediatrics

### CLASSROOM

TAB Bldg, Room ?

### TIME

Tuesday 12-1pm

### OFFICE HOURS

By appointment

### CONTACT

p: 314-454-4291  
e: king\_a@kids.wustl.edu

### EVALUATION

Your grade is based on:

- 40% attendance
- 10% presentation
- 30% written project
- 20% class discussion

## COMPETENCIES

- 1) Be familiar with key sources of population health research & news.
- 2) Review news-making population health stories for balance and understanding.
- 3) Communicate population health research for multiple audiences.
- 4) Discuss how population health and clinical medicine intersect in media communication settings.

# COURSE REQUIREMENTS

## **Class attendance (40%)**

Class attendance is required. As a courtesy to other students, you are expected to arrive on time. More than one unexcused absence may result in a lowered grade. Be especially responsible about attendance during guest lectures dates. The value of the class stems from the quality of the conversations and dialog with peers and instructors.

## **Assignments**

Grades for late assignments will be reduced by 5 percentage points for each day late (including weekends) unless prior approval is obtained from the instructor or a compelling situation prevents prior approval (e.g., documented family emergencies, such as birth or death in the family). Health-related issues must be documented by a physician.

Written assignments must have a minimum of 1 inch margins and be completed in 12-point Times New Roman font. Be responsive to deadlines as they also impact other students. Exceptions or changes to due dates will not be granted

## **Written project (20%)**

Students will prepare a 3-5 page double spaced paper to summarize a current public health topic and the controversies surrounding it. A cogent synthesis of potentially opposing views and public health implications of the work should be presented.

## **Presentation (10%)**

Each student will present a written project as a class discussion topic in a series of rotations with classmates.

## **Participation in class discussion (30%)**

Each student in the class is expected to participate actively in the class discussion each week. Students should come to class having read the assigned readings and being ready to review the science and implications of the research presented. Each week students are also expected to come to class with a news or journal article of interest that was published or presented in media in the previous week. Students are also required to identify a faculty mentor who they will meet with at least monthly to participate in the faculty research lab/research efforts.

## **REQUIRED READING**

Although M19 500 does not use a textbook, students are expected to complete the required readings before each class session. Students are also expected to read current health news in major sources, such as the NY Times, and to keep current on publications in major medical journals, such as JAMA.

# CLASS EXPECTATIONS

## Mobile phones/IM/social networking

Phone ringers should be silenced during class. No IM or social networking is permitted.

## Lunch

Students may bring and eat lunch during class provided it doesn't disrupt the ability of the instructor(s) to teach or other students to learn. Please check before bringing lunch to guest lecturers' offices.

## Classroom environment

In this course, students explore how research is conducted and presented. To help students feel comfortable presenting work and voicing opinions, please be respectful.

## Academic honesty

Students are expected to complete all assignments in accordance with the university's academic rules and regulations regarding honesty and integrity. Any evidence of academic misconduct (e.g., cheating, failure to cite sources, plagiarism) will result in action as dictated by the university. Violations of academic honesty will result in notification to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at the Washington University School of Medicine, as well as the to MPHS Director, Assistant Director(s), and Program Committee. Any hint of violation in a written assignment will result in no grade for the exam/assignment. For more information see the University's Student Academic Integrity Policy. Misappropriation of intellectual property, including the unauthorized use of ideas or text, is considered plagiarism and falls under the definition of scientific misconduct.

## Special Needs

Per University policy, students with learning, sensory, or physical disability or other impairment should contact the Washington University Center for Advanced Learning Disability Resources (DR) at 314-935-4062 or Students whose second language is English and/or those in need of assistance in lectures, reading or writing assignments, and/or testing, should contact the University Writing Center at 314-935-4981

