

LAW AND PUBLIC HEALTH
Spring 2000, Professor Kinney

SYLLABUS

Course Description

This course on Law and Public Health addresses the law and policy that inform the practice of public health primarily in the United States. The course proceeds with an examination of the field of public health and various definitions of public health. The course also examines law governing the practice of public health by state, local, and federal agencies, as well as health care professionals and institutions. Specific topics addressed include the constitutional foundations for public health practice and regulation, models and issues in public health regulation, and the relationship and tension between public health and private interests.

Course Objectives

1. Provide a good understanding of the field of public health and its legal foundations.
2. Provide an understanding of how law shapes a major human endeavor such as the advancement of public health.
3. Examine and critique current law shaping the controversial issues in public health.

Course Text

The texts for the course are Lawrence O. Gostin, *Public Health Law: Power, Restraint, and Duty* (2000) and *Public Health Law and Ethics: A Reader* (2000). The first text, *Public Health Law: Power, Restraint, and Duty*, is a book available for purchase in the bookstore. The second text is a "reader" which is available by chapters on the course web site. Please note that assignments will be made in both course texts. Additional materials may be assigned and made available on the course web page.

Course Requirements

1. Read all assigned material.
2. Attend class and participate in all class discussions.
3. Complete a paper on a topic in law and public health.

Composition of Final Grade

The final grade in this course will be based on the paper (90 percent) and class participation (10 percent).

Attendance Policy

A student who is absent for more than 20 percent of the class hours may be dropped from the course at the professor's discretion. Three 2 hour class sessions constitute 20 percent of the class hours.

Please feel free to contact me about any questions or concerns you have about the course. My office is room 124, my telephone number is 274-4091 and my e-mail address is ekinney@iupui.edu.