P8749 SECTION 001:

THE CONCEPT AND PRACTICE OF PROFESSIONALISM IN PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICINE

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Learning Objectives for the Course:

This course addresses three domains of competency identified by the ASPH MPH core competency model, including professionalism, social and behavioral sciences, and health policy and management. The primary focus of the course, however, is the concept of professionalism. Through a reading of the critical historical and sociological texts, key case studies, and classroom discussions, students will be able to:

- Define the concept of professionalism as it relates to public health and medicine;
- Understand how key events in the 19th and 20th century contributed to making public and medicine into professions;
- Explain the social, political, and economic factors that have influenced the concept of professionalism and the practice of public health and medicine;
- Define how the unique characteristics of public health its focus on population, community, and prevention have influenced the concept of professionalism and the practice of public health;
- Define how the unique characteristics of medicine, including its focus on individual, doctor/patient relationship, and cure have influenced the concept of professionalism and the practice of medicine;
- Analyze how these unique characteristic have created tensions between the professions and how these tensions have influenced professional behavior and practices in both fields;
- Understand how public health and medicine interface with elected officials, enforcement agencies, regulatory agencies, human rights organizations, and industry and how these interactions shaped and are shaped by concepts of professionalism.

Evaluation:

The class will be conducted in seminar format. Students will be expected to attend all sessions and participate fully in the discussions. Students will be required to
present two case studies in class. Students will also be responsible for researching and writing a paper that explores in depth a salient issue in the field of professionalism. Papers will be due December 8, 2008.

*Course Evaluation Breakdown:
20% - Attendance
40% - Presentation of Case Studies: Each worth 20%
40% - Final Paper*

Copies of all readings will be available at the Health Science Library, Fayerweather Hall and Butler Library. A binding containing all the articles will be available for purchase at the college and health sciences campus bookstores. Starred (*) Items listed on syllabus will also be available at health sciences campus bookstores.
Course Topics

I. The Concept of Professionalism

A. Public Health

Required:

B. Medicine

Required:
1. The Hippocratic Oath (Binder)
3. Parsons T. *The Social System* (New York 1951), ch 10, pp.428-479. (B)

II. The Emergence of Professionalism

Required:

III. Educating the Professions

Required:
1. Ludmerer KM. *Time to Heal: American Medical Education from the Turn of the Century to the Era of Managed Care* (Oxford, UK 1999), pp. 3-78, 102-124, 162-179. (B)
Recommended:

IV. Public Health and the Market

Required:

Recommended:

V. Money and Medicine

Required:

VI. Public Health and the State

Required:

A. **Regulating the Professions**

*Required:

5. *Bosk CL. Forgive and Remember: Managing Medical Failure* (Chicago, 2003), pp. 2-213(B)
6. IOM. *To Err is Human* (Washington, D.C. 2000), pp. 49-68, 86-108. (B)

**VIII. The Pursuit of Knowledge and Professional Ethics**

A. **The Case of AIDS**

*Required:


B. **The Case of Organs**

*Required:

4. *Rothman DJ, Rothman SM. “The International Traffic in Organs” in Rothman and Rothman, Trust is Not Enough: Bringing Human Rights to Medicine, pp. 3-29

IX. Differentiating Public Health from Social Custom: The Case of Female Circumcision

Required:
2. Althaus FA. “Female Circumcision: Rite of Passage or Violation of Rights?” International Family Planning Perspectives, 1997 (23), pp. 130-133.

X. Professional Participation in Torture and Executions

Required:

XI. Professionalism and the Right to Health and Health Care

Required:
3. Farmer, P. Health, Human Rights, and the New War in the Poor (Berkeley 2003), pp. 137-159. (B)
5. Rothman DJ, Rothman SM. “The Right to Health Care: Lessons from South Africa” in Rothman and Rothman, Trust is Not Enough: Bringing Human Rights to Medicine, pp. 139-155. (B)