

Capstone Class in EHS (Spring 2006)  
PBHL 7800 (3 hr)

Course Title: Capstone Project in Public Health  
Course Computer Title: CAPSTONE PUBL HLT

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The primary **purpose** of this class is to assist MPH students in preparing a scholarly paper that represents a culminating perspective for the MPH degree and in preparing and presenting a poster. Learning to communicate effectively is very important for the success of most professionals, both orally and in writing. *The class will be tailored to the needs of individual students.*

**Expected outcome:** The paper should be written for purposes of publication in the peer reviewed literature or of the caliber for a peer reviewed paper. You will learn how to prepare, print and present a poster.

**Class Schedule:** Tuesday AM (to be determined), **EHS Room 207 (Rowe Room)**. Attendance is required.

**Office hours:** 1 hr before class, by appointment.

### **University Honor Code and Academic Honesty Policy**

All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. The link to more detailed information about academic honesty can be found at: <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm>

### **Grading:**

Grades will be determined by *meeting deadlines* given in the syllabus, *quality* of paper, and *improvements* in paper during revisions of the drafts (70% of grade). The poster preparation and presentation will constitute 40% of the grade. The *quality* of the poster information and the *ability to discuss* the poster contents will be evaluated.

## **Syllabus**

**Jan. 10** What is your idea? Can you tell a story? Do you know what you are talking about? Decide what you want to do.

**Jan. 17** Thinking critically. Can you do this? How do you organize your thoughts? Do you write the way you speak? Listen to tips from very good writers. Looking at well written papers and learning how they do it.

**Jan. 24** Game plan for your paper! Discussions about the paper, outline of paper, requirements for the paper. Literature review.

**Jan. 31** - Dissecting the paper and writing its components. Reading papers and evaluating papers. Do you read?

**Feb. 7** - Review of work to date on the paper, Introduction and Methods Sections

**Feb. 14** - Results, Conclusions, Abstract Citations, paraphrasing, Figures, Tables

**Feb., 21** - Why papers get rejected because of writing style and presentation of information. How do you avoid this? How does your paper stack-up?

**Feb. 28** - **1<sup>st</sup> complete draft (rough)...** Discussion of papers in class, read each others paper

**Mar. 7** - Student lead discussion on writing papers (DR. FISHER OUT OF TOWN)

**Mar. 14** - **SPRING BREAK, no class**

**Mar. 21** - Work on papers in class and read sections of papers. Evaluate approaches.

**Mar. 28** - **2<sup>nd</sup> complete draft of paper**

**April 3** - feedback on second draft paper

**April** - meet one on one with students to discuss their paper, discuss and prepare poster.

**May 3** -**Final paper due- hard copy and pdf.** Poster presentation date will be determined by College of Public Health.