

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**HPAA 750 (127) (Section 2)  
Spring 2007**

<b>Title:</b>	Introduction to Dental Public Health
<b>Instructor:</b>	R. Gary Rozier, D.D.S.
<b>Time &amp; Place:</b>	<b>On Campus [Dec 15<sup>th</sup>; Apr 28<sup>th</sup>]</b> Room 1101F McGavran-Greenberg Bld
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**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE**

The purpose of the course is to expose the student to the philosophy, practice and scope of dental public health as it exists in the health care system today. Four areas identified by the American Board of Dental Public Health as knowledge needed for the specialty practice of dental public health will be used as a framework for examining dental public health practice. These four areas are as follows: administration; research; prevention and control of oral diseases; and delivery and financing of dental care. The emphasis in this course is on identifying the basic knowledge and skills necessary for the planning and evaluation of public programs; understanding the organization, delivery and financing of oral health care, primarily in the United States; and how public health dentistry does and should fit into the health care system. This course forms the basis for in-depth studies of oral health promotion and disease prevention activities (HPAA 227: Dental Public Health Practice) and oral epidemiology (HPAA 228: Oral Epidemiology: Administrative and Policy Implications). The primary focus of HPAA 227 is on methods available for the prevention and control of oral diseases, an area not dealt with in this course.

**II. SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The basic objectives of this course are to:

- o examine the philosophy on which the practice of dental public health is based;
- o examine the scope of the specialty of dental public health practice;
- o develop an understanding of the scientific method as a basis for clinical practice, program planning and evaluation, health policy formulation, and research;
- o develop a conceptual model for examining the organization, delivery and financing of dental care in this and other countries;
- o examine dental delivery systems in the United States, with an emphasis on delivery of dental public health services.

### III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course assignments fall into four areas. First, you will be required to read the equivalent of about four scientific articles each week. You should be prepared for in-depth discussions of these readings. We also will discuss one case study on ethical issues associated with access to dental care. Second, you will be asked to select and present one article in class (Session on Experiments in Financing Dental Care). Third, you will be asked to make an in-class presentation on a dental program of your choice within the Federal government. These presentations can be as broad as the activities of the Division of Oral Health at the Centers for Disease Control or as specific as the community water fluoridation program at the Centers for Disease Control. Finally, you can prepare a 10-page paper on one of the dental issues addressed in class, such as financing of dental care, workforce shortages or access to dental care. This exercise is not required, but will provide extra credit for those who wish to earn it. The paper should include a discussion of the problem and your proposed solution. You should contact me if you decide to write the paper so that we can decide on a topic and its content.

#### **Grades**

Grades will be based on 'class' participation and performance on the assigned exercises.

#### **Honor Code**

"It shall be the responsibility of every student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to obey and support the enforcement of the Honor Code. The Honor Code is in effect in this class and all others at the University. I am committed to treating Honor Code violations seriously and urge all students to become familiar with its terms set out at <http://instrument.unc.edu>. If you have questions, it is your responsibility to ask me about the Code's application. All exams, written work, and other projects must be submitted with a statement that you have complied with the requirements of the Honor Code in all aspects of the submitted work."

#### **Campus Code**

"It shall be the further responsibility of every student to abide by the Campus Code; namely, to conduct oneself so as not to impair significantly the welfare or educational opportunities of others in the University community." [*Instrument of Student Judicial Governance, II.B.* (<http://www.unc.edu/student/policies/isig/>)]

### IV. COURSE MATERIALS

Readings for the course are as follows:

#### **Suggested Text**

Burt BA, Eklund SA. *Dentistry, Dental Practice, and the Community*. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. Philadelphia: WB Saunders, 2005 (order through Caduceus Bookstore or Elsevier publishers).

#### **Other Readings**

A number of journal articles and other documents are required reading. Most are available online at the web address given in the course syllabus. Those that are available only as printed material are assembled in a CoursePak that will be distributed.

**VI. COURSE SCHEDULE**

Session Number	Topic	Assignments
<b>I. THE DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRADITION</b>		
Dec 15	Course Introduction Philosophy and Practice of Dental Public Health	Readings #1-2
Jan 4	Philosophy and Practice of Dental Public Health (Con't) The Scientific Method & DPH	Review readings #1-2
Jan 18	Knowledge and Skills Needed for DPH	Readings #3-6
Jan 25	Ethical Standards in Dental Public Health	Readings #7-12
<b>II. COMMUNITY DIAGNOSIS &amp; DATA NEEDS IN DPH</b>		
Feb 1	Community Diagnosis: Risk vs Population Strategy	Readings #13-15
<b>III. DENTAL DELIVERY SYSTEM GOALS AND PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT</b>		
Feb 8	National Goals for Oral Health	Readings #16-19
<b>IV. DELIVERY OF DENTAL HEALTH SERVICES</b>		
Feb 15	Structure of US Dental Care System Overview	Readings #20-22
	Use and Expenditures	Readings #23
Feb 22	Structure of US Dental Care System (Con't) Workforce Trends	Readings #24-26
Mar 1	Structure of US Dental Care System (Con't) Financing Dental Care	Readings #27-31
Mar 8	Structure of US Dental Care System (Con't) Financing Dental Care (Con't)	Review readings #27-31
Mar 15	State Programs and Local Programs	Readings #32-33
Mar 29	Federal Programs: Overview	Review readings #20
<b>V. REFORM OF THE US HEALTH CARE SYSTEM</b>		
Apr 5	US Experiments in Financing Dental Care	Readings #34-37
Apr 12	Dental Health Care Reform	Readings #38-40
Apr 28	Course Review Class Presentations on Federal Programs	Presentations

## VII. READING ASSIGNMENTS

### I. DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE

Traditional and emerging definitions and philosophies of public health will be examined. The inevitable dichotomy faced by public health practitioners of "comprehensive services for a few people" or "limited services for many people" will be examined in light of justice and health care. The practice of dental public health will be related to the scientific method, a process common to the clinical practice of dentistry, biomedical research, and policymaking among other processes. Competencies necessary for the practice of dental public health will be reviewed.

**Session 1**     **Course Introduction**  
**(Dec 15):**    **Philosophy and Practice of Dental Public Health**  
**On Campus**

**Session 2**    **Philosophy and Practice of Dental Public Health (Con't)**  
**(Jan 4)**

1. Institute of Medicine. *The Future of Public Health*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press, 1988. Summary & Recommendations. pp. 1-18.  
Available at: <http://search.nap.edu/books/0309038308/html/>
2. Mullan F. Don Quixote, Machiavelli, and Robin Hood: Public Health Practice, Past and Present. *Am J Public Health* 2000;90:702-6.  
Available at Health Sciences Library Online [MEDLINE]: <http://www.hsl.unc.edu/>

**Session 3**    **Knowledge & Skills Required in Dental Public Health Practice**  
**(Jan 18)**

3. Harrell JA, Baker EL and the Essential Services Work Group. The essential services of public health.  
Available at: <http://www.apha.org/ppp/science/10ES.htm>
4. Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice. Core Competencies Project.  
Available at: <http://trainingfinder.org/competencies/background.htm>
5. Association of State and Territorial Dental Programs. Proven and Promising Practices for State and Community Oral Health Programs.  
Available at: [http://www.astdd.org/?template=bp\\_home.html&shell=best](http://www.astdd.org/?template=bp_home.html&shell=best)
6. Dental Public Health Competencies (and background materials from workshop). *J Public Health Dent* 1998;58(Suppl 1):114-22. [CoursePak]

**Session 4**    **Ethical Standards in Dental Public Health**  
**(Jan 25)**

7. American Public Health Association. A code of ethics for public health.  
Available at: <http://www.apha.org/codeofethics>
8. American Association of Public Health Dentistry. Code of ethics and standards of professional conduct. *J Public Health Dent* 1998;58(Suppl 1):123-4. [CoursePak]
9. Patthoff DE. How did we get here? Where are we going? Hopes and gaps in access to oral health care. *J Dent Educ* 2006;70:1125-32  
Available at Health Sciences Library Online [MEDLINE]: <http://www.hsl.unc.edu/>

10. Corsino BV, Patthoff DE. The ethical and practical aspects of acceptance and universal patient acceptance. *J Dent Educ* 2006;70:1198-1201. Available at Health Sciences Library Online [MEDLINE]: <http://www.hsl.unc.edu/>
11. Peltier B. Codes and Colleagues: Is there support for universal patient acceptance? *J Dent Educ* 2006;70:1221-5. Available at Health Sciences Library Online [MEDLINE]: <http://www.hsl.unc.edu/>
12. Support for the Alaska Dental Health Aide Therapist and Other Innovative Programs for Underserved Populations. APHA Resolution (LB—1), 2006. Available at: [http://www.apha.org/private/2006\\_proposed\\_policies/Alaska%20Dental%20Health%20Aide%206-16-06.pdf](http://www.apha.org/private/2006_proposed_policies/Alaska%20Dental%20Health%20Aide%206-16-06.pdf)

## II. COMMUNITY DIAGNOSIS AND DATA NEEDS IN DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

As with the clinical practice of dentistry, diagnosis should be at the core of public health practice. A case study of community diagnosis will be presented, with treatment plans, policymaking, and research resulting from this community diagnosis. Specific techniques used for diagnosing community dental problems will be included in subsequent general and oral epidemiology courses.

### **Session 5**     **Community Diagnosis** (Feb 1)

13. Rose G. Sick individuals and sick populations. *Int J Epidemiol* 1985;14:32-8. (Reprinted in Buck C, Llopis A, Najera E, Terris M, Editors. *The Challenge of Epidemiology: Issues and Selected Readings*. Pan American Health Organization, Washington, D.C., 1995.) [CoursePak]
14. Beltran E, Malvitz D, Lockwood S, Rozier G, Tomar S. Oral health surveillance: past, present and future challenges. *J Public Health Dent* 2003;63:141-9. [CoursePak]
15. Kuthy RA, Siegal MD, Wulf CA. Establishing maternal and child health data collection priorities for state and local oral health programs. *J Public Health Dent* 1997;57:197-205. [CoursePak]

## III. GOALS OF THE U.S. DENTAL DELIVERY SYSTEM

In the past few years, international and national health goals have been specified by various organizations. The development of goals and standards has been advocated by some experts and questioned by others. Advocates believe that these statements can help clarify purposes and priorities for health programs, resulting in more effective and efficient uses of resources and greater accountability. Critics are particularly concerned about deleterious impacts on creativity and local initiatives. Attainment of these goals, however, should lead to improved oral health of the public. Major efforts in specification of goals will be examined. A related effort in public health has been the movement to develop performance standards, and to collect and analyze performance data. The purpose of these efforts is to improve system-wide performance. We also will examine this movement in public health.

<http://www.apha.org/ppp/phi/main/>

### **Session 6**     **USA National Goals for Oral Health** (Feb 8)

16. Healthy People 2010: Background material and Chapter 21—Oral Health. Available at: [www.healthypeople.gov/document/html/volume2/21oral.htm](http://www.healthypeople.gov/document/html/volume2/21oral.htm).
17. Healthy People 2010 Midcourse Review. Available at: <http://www.healthypeople.gov/data/midcourse/comments/facontents.asp?id=21>
18. Oral Health America. Keep America Smiling: Oral Health in America. The Oral Health America National Grading Project 2003. Oral Health America, 2003. [Full report Available at: <http://www.oralhealthamerica.org/pdf/2003ReportCard.pdf>
19. Oral Health America. A for Effort. Making the Grade in Oral Health. [Available at: <http://www.oralhealthamerica.org/pdf/A%20for%20Effort%20Report%20final%20web.pdf> ]

#### IV. THE US DENTAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

A conceptual model for studying the organization, delivery and financing of dental services will be presented. Within this model, trends in dental services will be discussed. The nature and scope of public health programs at national, state, and local levels will be examined, as well as the services provided.

##### **Session 7 (Feb 15)** **Overview and Structure of the US Dental Health Care System**

###### General Overview

20. Provision of oral health care. Chapter 9. In: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Oral health in America: a report of the Surgeon General. Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, National Institute of Health, 2000: 223-42. Available at: <http://www2.nidcr.nih.gov/sqr/sqrohweb/chap9.htm>
21. Mertz E, O'Neil E. The growing challenge of providing oral health care services to all Americans. *Health Affairs* 2002;21:65-77. Available at: Health Sciences Library Online [MEDLINE]: <http://www.hsl.unc.edu/>
22. Guay AH. Access to dental care: the triad of essential factors in access-to-care programs. *J Am Dent Assoc* 2004;135:779-85. Available at Health Sciences Library Online [MEDLINE]: <http://www.hsl.unc.edu/>

###### Use and Expenditures

23. American Dental Association. Financing of and access to dental services. Chapter 4. In: Future of Dentistry. Chicago: American Dental Association, Health Policy Resources Center: 2001: 52-76. Available at: <http://www.ada.org/prof/resources/topics/futuredent/index.asp>

##### **Session 8 (Feb 22)** **Structure of the US Dental Health Care System (Con't)**

###### Workforce Trends

24. Tomar SL. An assessment of the dental public health infrastructure in the United States. *J Public Health Dent* 2006;66:5-16. [CoursePak]

25. Mitchell DA, Lassiter SL. Addressing health care disparities and increasing workforce diversity: the next step for the dental, medical and public health professions. *Am J Public Health* 2006;96:2093-97.  
Available at Health Sciences Library Online [MEDLINE]: <http://www.hsl.unc.edu/>
26. American Dental Association. Clinical dental practice and management. Chapter 3. In: *Future of Dentistry*. Chicago: American Dental Association, Health Policy Resources Center: 2001: 30-50.  
Available at: <http://www.ada.org/prof/resources/topics/futuredent/index.asp>

**Session 9**      **Structure of the US Dental Health Care System (Con't)**  
(Mar 1)

**Financing Dental Care**

27. Grytten J. Models for financing dental services. A review. *Community Dent Health* 2005;22:75-85. [CoursePak]
28. Boe TL, Davis E. A review of dental plans: PPOs and referral plans to dominate future. *Empl Benefits J* 2003;28:36-9. [CoursePak]
29. Bailit H. Dental insurance, managed care and traditional practice. *J Am Dent Assoc* 1999;130:1721-7.  
Available at Health Sciences Library Online [MEDLINE]: <http://www.hsl.unc.edu/>
30. Guay AH. The differences between dental and medical care: implications for dental benefit plan design. *J Am Dent Assoc* 2006;137:801-6.  
Available at Health Sciences Library Online [MEDLINE]: <http://www.hsl.unc.edu/>
31. Anderson MH. Future Trends in Dental Benefits. *J Dent Educ* 2005;69:586-94.  
Available at Health Sciences Library Online [MEDLINE]: <http://www.hsl.unc.edu/>

**Session 10**      **Structure of the US Dental Health Care System (Con't)**  
(Mar 8)

**Financing Dental Care (Con't)**

Review Readings #27-#31

**Session 11**      **Dental Public Health Delivery Systems: State and Local Programs**  
(Mar 15)

32. Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors. *Guidelines for State and Territorial Oral Health Programs*. ASTDD, 2001.  
Available at: :  
[http://www.astdd.org/docs/ASTDDGuidelines\\_BestPracLinksMay2005rev7final6.29.2005.pdf](http://www.astdd.org/docs/ASTDDGuidelines_BestPracLinksMay2005rev7final6.29.2005.pdf)
33. Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors. *Building infrastructure and capacity in state and territorial oral health programs*. April 2000: 44 pgs.  
Available at: <http://www.astdd.org/docs/Infrastructure.pdf>

**Session 12**      **Dental Public Health Delivery Systems: Federal Programs Overview**  
(Mar 29)

Review Reading #20

**V. REFORM OF MEDICAL & DENTAL CARE**

Only three times in the history of the United States has health been given close political attention—the Great Society Programs of the Johnson administration, financing of health care during the Nixon administration, and health care reform during the Clinton administration. These debates concerning what the health care system should look like during the early years of the Clinton administration led the dental profession to closely scrutinize its role in the current system, and what its role should be in the future. This part of the course will examine the scientific evidence for different approaches to financing and organizing dental personal health care services. An effort by leaders in North Carolina to improve access to dental care in North Carolina will be used as an example of recent attempts to reform the dental health care system.

**Session 13**    **U.S. Experiments in Financing Dental Care**  
(Apr 5)

34. Manning WG, Bailit HL, Benjamin B, Newhouse JP. The demand for dental care: evidence from a randomized trial in health insurance. *J Am Dent Assoc* 1985;110:895-902.  
Available at Health Sciences Library Online [MEDLINE]: <http://www.hsl.unc.edu/>
35. Mofidi M, Slifkin R, Freeman V, Silberman P. The impact of a State Children's Health Insurance Program on access to dental care. *J Am Dent Assoc* 2002;133:707-14.  
Available at Health Sciences Library Online [MEDLINE]: <http://www.hsl.unc.edu/>
36. Ismail AI, Woosung S. The impact of universal access to dental care on disparities in caries experience in children. *J Am Dent Assoc* 2001;132:295-303.  
Available at Health Sciences Library Online [MEDLINE]: <http://www.hsl.unc.edu/>
37. Nietert PJ, Bradford WD, Kaste LM. The impact of an innovative reform to the South Carolina dental Medicaid system. *Health Serv Res* 2005;40:1078-91.  
Available at Health Sciences Library Online [MEDLINE]: <http://www.hsl.unc.edu/>

**Session 14**    **Dental Health Care Reform**  
(Apr 12)

38. American Dental Association. State and Community Models for Improving Access to Dental Care for the Underserved—A White Paper. American Dental Association, October 2004.  
[http://www.ada.org/prof/resources/topics/topics\\_access\\_whitepaper.pdf](http://www.ada.org/prof/resources/topics/topics_access_whitepaper.pdf)
39. Task Force on Dental Care Access. Final Report to the North Carolina General Assembly and to the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. NC Institute of Medicine, 1999.  
Available at: <http://www.nciom.org/pubs/dental.html>
40. 2005 North Carolina Oral Health Summit Access to Dental Care. Summit Proceedings and Action Plan. NC Institute of Medicine, October 2005. Available at: <http://www.nciom.org/pubs/dental.html>

**Session 15**    **Course Review**  
(Apr 28)       **Presentations on Federal Programs**  
On Campus

