ABORIGINAL HEALTH: PAST TO PRESENT
(formerly known as Koori Health: Past to Present)

Subject Number: 505-435 (PGDip) 505-535 (Masters)
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Health and Society
Subject Coordinator: Mr Shaun Ewen & Mr Paul Stewart (8344 9230/8344 0808)
Mode of Delivery: Classroom
Contact Hours: One 3-hour lecture per week.
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 2–3 hours of study for each hour of contact.
Semester: 1
Day/Time: Wednesdays, 9–12.00pm

Prerequisites: None

Description: Through the use of case studies located along a historical timeline, this subject provides students with a foundational understanding of Aboriginal health from pre-invasion to the present. Along this continuum, Aboriginal health issues are examined in terms of their socio-economic origins, the clash of Aboriginal and settler values, aspirations and outcomes, and comparative demographical trends. Key topics include: colonisation and infectious disease; loss of land/economy & health impacts; war and health; impacts of segregation; cultural oppression, identity and health; inter-generational health effects of family separations; and, institutional racism and health. Students will also consider the development of Aboriginal-led strategies, including Aboriginal leadership and community control of health services. The subject draws on a range of rich archival material in the form of a multimedia role-play, recent research, audio-visual materials as well as contemporary Indigenous community perspectives on Aboriginal health and wellbeing.

Subject Objectives:

PGDip (400 Level):
- Identify historical antecedents of contemporary Koori health status;
- Explain the historical basis of key socio-economic and demographic trends central to contemporary Koori health issues;
- Apply understandings of history to Koori experiences of health and illness and analyse the potential of public health interventions;
- Appraise professional and popular representations of Koori health disadvantage, own standpoint as an informed ethical public health practitioner and implications for own professional practice.

Masters (500 Level):
- Explain particular Koori health issues in terms of their historical antecedents;
- Explain contemporary Koori health issues in terms of key socio-economic and demographic variables and their historical basis.
- Analyse the potential of public health interventions in relation to Koori history and experiences of health/illness.
- Critically analyse professional and popular representations of Koori health disadvantage, own standpoint as an informed ethical public health practitioner and implications for own professional practice.
- Assess current responses to Koori health issues drawing on key social and cultural factors and their historical origins.

Generic Skills: On completion of this subject students should have developed the following generic skills:

PGDip (400 Level):
- well developed cognitive, analytic and problem-solving skills;
- capacity for independent critical thought, rational inquiry and self-directed learning;
- ability and confidence to participate effectively in collaborative learning as a team-member, while respecting individual differences;
- a profound respect for truth and intellectual integrity, and for the ethics of scholarship

Masters (500 Level):
- highly developed cognitive, analytic and problem-solving skills;
- capacity for independent critical thought, rational inquiry and self-directed learning;
- leadership capacity, including a willingness to engage in constructive public discourse, to accept social and civic responsibilities and to speak out against prejudice, injustice and the abuse of power;
- ability and confidence to participate effectively in collaborative learning as a team-member, while respecting individual differences;
- a profound respect for truth and intellectual integrity, and for the ethics of scholarship;

Assessment:

PGDip (400 Level):
Essay of 1500 words due mid-semester (40%). Essay of 2500 words due at end of semester (60%)

Masters (500 Level):
Essay of 2000 words due mid-semester (40%). Essay of 3000 words due at end of semester (60%)

Prescribed Texts: A set of recommended readings will be available for purchase.

Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

ADOLESCENT SEXUALITY AND SEXUAL HEALTH

Subject Number: 571-821
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Department of Paediatrics, Royal Children’s Hospital, Parkville
Subject Coordinator: Dr Hennie Williams (9341 6249)
Mode of Delivery: Block, on campus
Contact Hours: 30 hours over 5 days.
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 2 hours of study for each hour of contact.
Semester: Summer
Subject Dates: 16–20 February, 2009

Prerequisites: None

Description: This subject explores two main themes:
1. The social construction of sexuality – how our understandings of sexuality are developed in socio-cultural contexts; and
2. Sexual health – how it is defined and measured, what factors contribute to it, and practical issues to consider when interacting with adolescents and trying to have an impact on their sexual health and wellbeing.

Subject Objectives: This subject is designed to enable students to:
- appreciate the breadth, depth and diversity of adolescent sexuality;
- understand some of the historical aspects of the study and social construction of sexuality;
be up-to-date with current knowledge of the indicators of and influences on adolescent sexual health in Australia;
have gained some practical knowledge and skills to assist in working with adolescents who have sexual health concerns.

**Generic Skills:**
develope developmentally appropriate health promotion strategies related to young people and sexual health;
develop and adapt strategies for the successful advocacy of sex health programs;
critically appraise debates and discussions around the sexual health of young people;
identify the factors impacting on young peoples’ decision making around their sexual behaviour and sexuality;
develop practical skills supporting the positive engagement of young people around their sexual health concerns.

**Assessment:**
- A group presentation during on-campus Block-Mode session (30%).
- A major Assignment (Max: 2,500 words) – Due end of semester (70%)

**Comments:** This subject is a Group 2 elective in the Master of Public Health.

### ADVANCED CLINICAL TRIALS

**Subject Number:** 505-964  
**Credit Points:** 12.5  
**Teaching Centre or Unit:** Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia  
**Subject Coordinator:** Assoc Prof Val Gebski, NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre, University of Sydney (02 9562 5000)

**Mode of Delivery:** Distance  
**Time Commitment:** 8–12 hours total study time per week  
**Semester:** 2  
**Prerequisites:**
- 505-105 Mathematics Background for Biostatistics (MBB)  
- 505-106 Epidemiology (EPI)  
- 505-107 Principles of Statistical Inference (PSI)  
- 505-939 Design of Randomised Controlled Trials (DES)  
- 505-940 Linear Models (LMR)  
- 505-975 Probability and Distribution Theory (PDT)

**Description:** Methods in RCTs for determining: stopping rules for interim analysis (O’Brien-Fleming, Peto), spending functions, stochastic curtailment; statistical principles encountered in relation to aspects of regulatory guidelines (ICH, FDA, EMEA), and related to reports prepared for data safety and monitoring committees (DSMC); design and analysis of cross-over trials (period effects, interactions); equivalence and non-inferiority trials; problems of defining and using surrogate endpoints as alternatives to direct clinical outcomes.

**Subject Objectives:**
This elective subject extends and enhances the concepts developed in Design of Randomised Controlled Trials (505-939). On completion of this subject, students have the knowledge and skills required at an advanced professional level to design and analyse clinical trials, including cross-over designs and equivalence trials, and to identify and implement statistical methods for trial monitoring and reporting, with appropriate knowledge of regulatory requirements.

**Generic Skills:** Independent problem solving, facility with abstract reasoning, clarity of written expression, sound communication of technical concepts

**Assessment:** Three written assignments to be submitted during semester, two worth 25% each (approx 8 hrs work each) and one worth 10% (approx 6 hrs work). One end of semester at-home examination worth 40% (approx 12 hours)


**Recommended Text:** Jennison, C. and Turnbull, B.W. *Group Sequential Methods with Applications to Clinical Trials* 2000, Chapman & Hall. (ISBN 0849303168)

**Special Computer Requirements:** Stata or SAS statistical software. Some subject-specific software (freeware) is supplied by the subject coordinator.

**Resources Provided to Students:** Printed course notes, including published literature, and assignment material by mail and email, and online interaction facilities.

**Comments:** This subject is not available in the Master of Public Health.

### AUSTRALIAN HEALTH SYSTEMS

**Subject Number:** 505-448 (PGDip) 505-548 (Masters)  
**Credit Points:** 12.5  
**Teaching Centre or Unit:** Centre for Health and Society & Centre for Health Policy Programs and Economics  
**Subject Coordinator:** Professor Ian Anderson & Dr Margaret Kelaher (8344 0825/8344 0648)

**Mode of Delivery:** Intensive; 2 × 2 day intensives (6 hrs per day) during the semester

**Contact Hours:** A total of 24 hours over 4 days.

**Time Commitment:** In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 3 hours of study for each hour of contact.

**Subject Dates:** 13 & 14 August and 8 & 9 October

**Subject Times:** 9.30am–4.30pm

**Semester:** 2

**Timetable and Venue Information:** See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl

**Prerequisites:** None

**Description:** This subject will provide students with the knowledge and analytical frameworks about the social dynamics of those institutions and structures that constitute Australian health systems. The subject will enhance students’ ability to undertake critical policy analysis. Issues that will be addressed will include, but may not be exclusive to: the theoretical and institutional context of health policy and public policy; Federalism and intergovernmental relations in health; health financing systems; health workforce supply and policy; policy making structures and processes in health; critical themes in contemporary policy including population health policy, Indigenous health policy, primary health care policy, research, health information systems, complementary health systems and evidence based policy. Upon completion of the subject, students should be able to apply the critical analysis of health policy to health policy development and evaluation.

**Subject Objectives:**

**PGDip (400 Level):**
- To be able to describe and analyse the institutions, structures and processes that constitute Australian health systems
- To have developed a basic understanding of the social dynamics of Australian health systems
- To have a basic awareness of tensions in health policy from different institutional and professional perspectives;
- To be able to compare and contrast differing interests and perspectives on health policy

**Masters (500 Level):**
- To be able to describe and critically analyse the institutions, structures and processes that constitute Australian health systems
- To have developed a advanced understanding of the social dynamics of Australian health systems
- To have a sophisticated awareness of tensions in health policy from different institutional and professional perspectives;
- To be able to compare and contrast differing interests and perspectives on health policy
BIOETHICS: THE FUNDAMENTAL DEBATES

Subject Number: 505-405 (PGDip) 505-505 (Masters)
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Health and Society
Subject Coordinator: Dr Giuliana Fuscaldo (8344 0691)
Mode of Delivery: Classroom
Contact Hours: One 2-hour lecture per week.
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 3 hours of study for each hour of contact.
Semester: 2
Day & Time: Wednesdays, 4.15 – 6.15pm
Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl
Prerequisites: None
Description: This subject introduces students to the classic debates in bioethics about reproduction, life and death. Specific topics may include: active and passive euthanasia, abortion, organ transplantation, reproductive and genetic technologies (e.g. cloning, pre-natal diagnosis and embryos research), among others. There will be a focus on key theoretical issues, such as the notion of moral status, the concept of personhood, the claimed moral distinction acts and omissions, the so-called Doctrine of Double Effect, obligations to future persons and the non-identity problem, and so on. Normative moral theory will be discussed as it relates to key topics and issues.
Assessment:
PGDip (400 Level):
Review of set readings totalling 1,500 words, due mid semester (30%); Essay of approximately 2,500 words due at end of semester (70%).
Masters (500 Level):
Critical analysis of set readings totalling 2,000 words, due mid semester (30%); Essay of approximately 3,000 words due at end of semester (70%).
Prescribed Texts: None. A set of readings will be available for purchase.
Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

BIOINFORMATICS
(formerly known as Bioinformatics and Statistical Genetics)

Subject Number: 505-944
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia
Semester: 2
Subject Coordinator: Dr Graham Wood, Macquarie University (02 9850 8553)
Mode of Delivery: Distance
Time Commitment: 8–12 hours total study time per week
Prerequisites:
505-105 Mathematics Background for Biostatistics (MBB)
505-107 Principles of Statistical Inference (PSI)
505-108 Data Management & Statistics Computing (DMC)
505-975 Probability and Distribution Theory (PDT)
Description: Bioinformatics addresses problems related to the storage, retrieval and analysis of information about biological structure. This unit will provide a broad-ranging study of this application of quantitative methods in biology. Content will include: biology basics; population genetics; web-based tools, data sources and data retrieval; the analysis of single and multiple DNA or protein sequences; Hidden Markov Models and their applications; evolutionary models; phylogenetic trees; analysis of microarrays; functional genomics; use of R in bioinformatics applications.
Subject Objectives: To provide an introduction to the field of bioinformatics from a statistical point of view. This will include an understanding of the basic concepts of molecular biology.
Generic Skills: On completion students should have developed independent problem solving, facility with abstract reasoning, clarity of written expression, sound communication of technical concepts.
Assessment: Assignments 60% (three written assignments, each worth 20%, approx 6 hrs each) to be submitted during semester. Final at-home examination 40% (approx 12 hrs).
Special Computer Requirements: stata statistical software AND Excel (or equivalent)
Resources provided to Students: Printed course notes and assignment material by mail, email, and online interaction facilities.
Comments: This subject is not available in the Master of Public Health.

CATEGORICAL DATA AND GLMS

Subject Number: 505-941
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia
Subject Coordinator: Professor Gail Williams, University of Queensland (07 3365 5406)
Mode of Delivery: Distance
Time Commitment: 8–12 hours total study time per week
Semester: 2
Prerequisites:
505-105 Mathematics Background for Biostatistics (MBB)
505-106 Epidemiology (EPI)
505-107 Principles of Statistical Inference (PSI)
505-975 Probability and Distribution Theory (PDT)

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505-940 Linear Models (LMR) (may be taken concurrently)

**Description:** Introduction to and revision of conventional methods for contingency tables especially in epidemiology: odds ratios and relative risks, chi-squared tests for independence, Mantel-Haenszel methods for stratified tables, and methods for paired data. The exponential family of distributions; generalised linear models (GLMs), and parameter estimation for GLMs. Inference for GLMs – including the use of score, Wald and deviance statistics for confidence intervals and hypothesis tests, and residuals. Binary variables and logistic regression models – including methods for assessing model adequacy. Nominal and ordinal logistic regression for categorical response variables with more than two categories. Count data, Poisson regression and log-linear models.

**Subject Objectives:** To enable students to use generalised linear models (GLMs) and other methods to analyse categorical data with proper attention to the underlying assumptions. There is an emphasis on the practical interpretation and communication of results to colleagues and clients who may not be statisticians.

**Generic Skills:** Independent problem solving, facility with abstract reasoning, clarity of written expression, sound communication of technical concepts

**Assessment:** Two written assignments due before the end of the semester worth 20% each (approx 8 hours work each). Six practical exercises due throughout the semester worth 9% each (approx 6 hrs work each). Contribution to online discussions worth 6% (approx 6 hrs work)

**Prescribed texts:** None

**Special Computer Requirements:** Stata statistical software

**Resources Provided to Students:** Printed course notes and assignment material by mail, email, and online interaction facilities.

**Comments:** This subject is not available in the Master of Public Health.

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**CLINICAL SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH FOR NURSES**

**Subject Number:** 505-434 (PGCert) 505-534 (Masters)
**Credit Points:** 12.5
**Teaching Centre or Unit:** Melbourne Sexual Health Centre
**Subject Coordinator:** Dr Hennie Williams (9341 6249)
**Mode of Delivery:** Block
**Contact Hours:** 30 hours over 5 days (6 hrs per day).
**Time Commitment:** In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 2 hours of study for each hour of contact.
**Semester:** 1
**Subject Dates:** 19, 20, 26 & 27 March, 22 April

**Timetable and Venue Information:** See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl

**Prerequisites:** None

**Description:** On completion of this subject students should understand the basic clinical issues relevant to nurses in providing sexual and reproductive health services. The topics covered include sexually transmissible infections (prevention and screening, diagnosis and treatment), contraceptive choices for women during their reproductive life and the theory and rationale behind the provision and performance of Pap smears. Nurses will be able to gain the theoretical knowledge necessary to gain their Pap smear provider accreditation. Completion of this subject enables participants to undergo clinical supervision in Pap smear provision at MS HC (or elsewhere) under the supervision of appropriately trained preceptors in order to achieve accreditation as a Pap smear provider. There is no extra charge for this practical component of the course. The lecture topics include: introduction to sexual health, screening and public health control of STIs, the Pap smear and the pap screening programme, STI management including presentation, diagnosis and treatment, contraception, unplanned pregnancy, sexual dysfunction, sexual assault, HIV & Hepatitis, breast health and the development of policies relevant to sexual and reproductive health issues in the work place.

**Assessment:**
- **PGCert (400 level):** 4 short answer questions total word count 1000 mid semester (20%), group presentation on clinical scenario during block teaching (10%) 2000 word assignment end of semester (70%).
- **Masters (500 level):** 4 short answer questions, 1000 words in total mid semester (20%), group presentation during block teaching (10%) and 3000 word assignment end of semester (70%).


**Special Computer Requirements:** Students are required to have access to a computer with e-mail application, Web browser and CD ROM facility. Technical support is not available from the University of Melbourne in setting up such a system.

**Special Computer Skills:** Students will be expected to be proficient with a Web browser, e-mail application and word processing application prior to enrolment in this subject.

**Comments:** This subject can be taken as a core subject by nurses (instead of 505-433) undertaking the postgraduate certificate in public health (sexual health). It is not possible to do
COMMUNITY: THEORY AND PRACTICE

Subject Number: 505-440 (PGDip) 505-540 (Masters)
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Health and Society
Subject Coordinator: Angela Clarke & Viki Briggs (8344 0912/8344 0880)
Mode of Delivery: Intensive
Contact Hours: 2 × 2 day intensives (6 hrs per day) during the semester.
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend 3 hours of study for each hour of contact.
Semester: 2
Subject dates: 6 & 7 August and 10 & 11 September
Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl
Prerequisites: None
Description: This subject will provide students with theoretical frameworks which they may apply to consider the range of differing perspectives on community development. Perspectives addressed will include, but may not be exclusive to: Indigenous Community Development, International Community Development, Historical approaches to Community Development, and current Government strategies to include community development in policy. Upon completion of the subject, students should be able to apply community development processes and principles to an area of their particular interest or relevance.
Subject Objectives:
PGDip (400 Level)
→ To identify ethical concerns and dilemmas in Community Development practice
→ Identify historical foundations of community development;
→ Examine differing approaches to community Development, specifically looking at Indigenous approaches to community development and International Community Development;
→ Compare and contrast differing approaches to Community Development.
Masters (500 Level)
→ To identify ethical concerns and dilemmas in Community Development practice
→ Identify historical foundations of community development;
→ Examine differing approaches to community Development, specifically looking at Indigenous approaches to community development and International Community Development;
→ Compare and contrast differing approaches to Community Development;
→ Analyse and critique particular Community Development initiatives, within students sphere on interest and expertise;
→ Critically analyse the potential of Community Development based initiatives, and their relevance for public health;
→ Generate and articulate commentary on Community Development Issues, with a sound understanding of key social, cultural and political factors.
Assessment:
PGDip (400 Level)
→ Literature Review of set readings totalling 1,500 words, due mid semester (40%).
→ Essay of approximately 2,500 words due at end of semester (60%).
Masters (500 Level)
→ Critical analysis of set readings (plus others) totalling 2,000 words, due mid semester (40%).
→ Essay of approximately 3,000 words due at end of semester (60%).
Prescribed Texts: A set of recommended readings will be available for purchase.
Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health

CONTROL OF SEXUALLY TRANSMISSIBLE INFECTIONS

Subject Number: 505-431 (PGCert) 505-531 (Masters)
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Melbourne Sexual Health Centre
Subject Coordinator: Dr Hennie Williams (9341 6249)
Mode of Delivery: Classroom or Distance
Contact Hours: Classroom: One 2-hour lecture per week
Time Commitment:
Classroom: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 2–3 hours of study for each hour of contact.
Distance: 8 hours per week
Day/Time: Mondays, 2.30–4.30pm (Classroom only)
Semester: 1
Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl
Prerequisites: None
Description: This subject provides students with an understanding of the epidemiology and determinants of sexually transmissible infections (STIs), including HIV in the developed world. It then uses this information to develop interventions for the control of these infections. This will be achieved through analysis of existing surveillance data, the use of mathematical models, and published literature and examples of contact tracing, educational, screening and other interventions. Candidates will explore why some of these strategies are well suited to some specific STIs but why other STIs require a completely different approach. The cost effectiveness of different approached will also be discussed. The subject will be offered via a standard classroom lecture format, and will also be offered via distance-education utilising CD-Rom or DVD and written material
Subject Objectives: On completion of this subject, students should: understand the factors that determine the community prevalence of a sexually transmitted infection; understand the role of sexual networks, clinical services, partner notification, and sex workers in determining the prevalence of a STI; understand the interaction between HIV and STIs in the spread of HIV; appreciate the role of screening for STI in their control; understand the reasons behind the large variation in the prevalence of STIs in the developed world.
Assessment: One written assignment of between 3,000–5,000 words at end of semester (100%).
Special Computer Requirements: Students are required to have access to a computer with e-mail application, Web browser and CD ROM facility. Technical support is not available from the University of Melbourne in setting up such a system.
Special Computer Skills: Students will be expected to be proficient with a Web browser, e-mail application and word processing application prior to enrolment in this subject.
Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health and a core subject in Postgraduate Certificate Public Health (Sexual Health)
CRITICAL DEBATES IN ABORIGINAL HEALTH

Subject Number: 505-538
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Health and Society
Subject Coordinator: Dr Bill Genat (8344 9375)
Mode of Delivery: Classroom
Contact Hours: 6 x 4hr lectures across the semester.

Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 3 hours of study for each hour of contact.

Semester: 2
Day/Time: Every 2nd Thursday commencing in week one, 1.15–5.15pm

Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl

Prerequisites: None

Description: This subject provides an introduction to critical medical anthropology, a rapidly growing and dynamic endeavour, which provides a link between social anthropology and biological anthropology. While the subject discusses various perspectives in medical anthropology, it focuses on critical medical anthropology which draws upon the interdisciplinary literature on political economy of health and world systems theory. The subject addresses topics such as health and the environment from foraging societies to the capitalist world system; the social origins of disease and suffering; medical systems in indigenous and pre-capitalist state societies; biomedicine; medical pluralism; health issues among Australian aborigines, the Maori, and peoples of Papua New Guinea; the anthropology of the body; and the struggle to create a healthy planet.

Subject Objectives: This subject aims to provide students with an introduction to principal concepts and theories in medical anthropology and with critical insights on the interface of health, society, and culture and the nature of medical systems in indigenous, developing, and developed societies.

Generic Skills: Post-graduate students in social health, public health, or the health professions will provided with insights, concepts, and theories that will enable them to better provide health care in a diversity of settings, both clinical and public health, and to understand the political, economic, and social structural roots of disease and illness.

Assessment:
PGDip (400 Level):
Assessment is in the form of a mid-semester 1500-word essay (40%) and a final 2000-word end of semester essay (50%) and two 250 word abstracts on selected readings to be discussed in class, to be submitted during the semester (2 × 5%).

Masters (500 Level):
Assessment is in the form of a mid-semester 2000-word essay (40%) and a final 2500-word end of semester essay (50%) and two 250 word abstracts on selected readings to be discussed in class, to be submitted during the semester (2 × 5%).

Prescribed Texts: A set of recommended readings will be available for purchase.

Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

CULTURE, HEALTH AND ILLNESS

Subject Number: 505-402 (PGDip) 505-502 (Masters)
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Health and Society
Subject Coordinator: Dr Hans Baer (8344 9895)
Mode of Delivery: Classroom
Contact Hours: One 2-hour lecture per week.

Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 2–3 hours of study for each hour of contact.

Semester: 2
Day/Time: Mondays, 3.15–5.15pm

Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl

Prerequisites: None

Description: This subject immerses students in the critical contemporary debates within Aboriginal health. Specific topics may include: equity and Aboriginal health funding; family trauma: incidence, origins and effects; stolen wages, the “welfare economy” and health; gender and Aboriginal health service provision; human rights and Aboriginal health; globalisation and Indigenous health; Aboriginal administration, history and health; Indigenous participation in health: partnerships, agreements and treaties, among others. Students will examine the explicit and implicit theoretical assumptions and frameworks informing these debates, the particular agendas of key stakeholders, the forums of debate, who participates, how Aboriginal knowledge is constructed, produced, legitimated and contested and implications for ethical health policy, practice and research.

Subject Objectives:

To critically analyse key standpoints within contemporary debates about Aboriginal health and their theoretical foundations.

To critically analyse key standpoints within contemporary debates about Aboriginal health and relevant ethical questions.

To formulate and justify strategic interventions in key areas of Aboriginal health on the basis of a particular ethical and theoretical standpoint.

Generate and articulate standpoints on contemporary Aboriginal health policy founded on sound ethical and theoretical arguments, an understanding of key institutions and systems and key social and cultural factors.

Assessment:

Case study: 15 minute oral presentation with accompanying PowerPoint notes and 500 word briefing paper due mid semester. (40%)

Essay, totalling 3, 500 words due at end of semester. (60%)

Prescribed Texts: A set of recommended readings will be available for purchase.

Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

CURRENT ISSUES IN HEALTH ETHICS

Subject Number: 505-407 (PGDip) 505-507 (Masters)
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Health and Society
Subject Coordinator: Dr Alison Brookes (8344 0826)
Mode of Delivery: Classroom
Contact Hours: One 2-hour lecture per week.

Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 2–3 hours of study for each hour of contact.

Semester: 2
Day/Time: Mondays, 3.15–5.15pm

Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl

Prerequisites: None
Description: The subject will involve the identification and exploration of theoretical and philosophical frameworks of participants in debates, resolutions/outcomes, and investigation of alternative positions. Possible topics include allocation of resources, access to health care, euthanasia, stem-cell research and commercial interests in pharmaceutical research and production.

Subject Objectives:

PGDip (400 Level):
- On completion of this subject students should:
  - Have gained an understanding of the application of theory in applied ethics
  - Be able to identify ethical issues in current events in health practice, health policy, health research, and the development and implementation of technology
  - Have developed skills in philosophical argument to engage with differing positions within health ethics debates

Masters (500 Level):
- On completion of this subject students should:
  - Have gained an understanding of the application of theory in applied ethics
  - Be able to identify ethical issues in current events in health practice, health policy, health research, and the development and implementation of technology
  - Have developed skills in philosophical argument to engage with differing positions within health ethics debates
  - Be able to critically analyse contributions to public and academic debates within health ethics

Generic Skills:

PGDip (400 Level):
- Oral and written communication
- Synthesising material and presenting it in oral and written form
- Ability to interpret ethical arguments from public and academic realms
- Familiarity with key ethical theories
- Critical thinking skills to evaluate ethical arguments

Masters (500 Level):
- Oral and written communication
- Synthesising material and presenting it in oral and written form
- Ability to interpret ethical arguments from public and academic realms
- Familiarity with key ethical theories
- Critical thinking skills to evaluate ethical arguments
- Generate and articulate commentaries on relevant issues
- Critical evaluation of ethical implications of current issues in health ethics

Assessment:

PGDip (400 Level):
- Oral presentation and written paper on selected topic totalling 1,500 words, due mid semester (40%); Written discussion paper, totalling 2, 500 words due at end of semester (60%).

Masters (500 Level):
- Oral presentation and written paper on selected topic totalling 2,000 words, due mid semester (40%); written discussion paper, totalling 3, 000 words due at end of semester (60%).

Prescribed Texts: None

Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

DATABASE SYSTEMS IN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES

Subject Number: 505-520
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic & Analytic Epidemiology
Subject Coordinator: Dr Gillian Dite (8344 0699)
Mode of Delivery: Classroom
Contact Hours: One 2-hour lecture per week.
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 4–5 hours of study for each hour of contact.
Semester: 1
Day/Time: Fridays, 2.15–4.15pm
Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgr-bin/subjects.pl

Prerequisites: None

Description: This subject covers the skills needed to design, program and manage a database application for epidemiological research. Topics covered include: efficient database design; database programming of tables, forms and macros; queries for extracting data and summary information; and, security, management and documentation of data in a research setting.

Subject Objectives:

Following completion of this subject students will be able to:
- systematically gather and review background information on epidemiological study design and then use it to design tables and corresponding relationships between tables to form a relational database
- implement the database design in Microsoft Access by creating tables with appropriate choice of field types (and associated field properties) and creating the relationships between tables
- use queries to retrieve individual records, display aggregate data or make changes to data.
- understand the use of complex criteria to select subsets of records and the effect of different join properties on retrieving records from multiple tables
- create data display forms using appropriate types of controls for data input and enhance the function of the forms using detailed macros
- understand the principles behind setting up user-Level security for databases
- develop comprehensive table and field documentation as part of an overall database user manual
- appreciate the utility of a carefully designed database in epidemiological research

Assessment: Two 1,500-word assignments (50% each) with a written component and a database programming component.


Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

DATA MANAGEMENT AND STATISTICAL COMPUTING

Subject Number: 505-108
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia
Subject Coordinator: Semester 1: Prof Cate D’Este (02 49132147) & Mr Stephen Hancock, University of Newcastle (02 4913 8812) Semester 2: Prof John Carlin, University of Melbourne (8344 0733/8344 9339)
Mode of Delivery: Distance
Time Commitment: 8–12 hours total study time per week
Semester: 1 or 2
Prerequisites: None
Description: Topics include data management concepts, introduction to Stata and SAS, data management using Stata and SAS. Data management principles and concepts are developed using relational database software (Microsoft Access). Data manipulation, descriptive analyses and interpretation are introduced using SAS and Stata statistical software.
Objectives: The aim of this course is to introduce students to essential concepts and tools required for the management and analysis of data using modern statistical software. Students will also acquire skills in data display, summary presentation and pattern recognition using these tools.
Generic Skills: Independent problem solving, clarity of written expression, sound communication of technical concepts
Assessment: Three written assignments to be submitted during semester, two worth 15% each (approx 6 hrs work each) and one worth 30% (approx 10 hrs work) One at-home examination at the end of Semester, worth 40% (approx 12 hrs work).
Hills, M and De Stavola, B, A Short Introduction to Stata for Biostatistics, Timberlake, 2006. – order online at www.survey-design.com.au
Resources Provided to Students: Printed course notes and assignment material provided by mail and email, and online interaction facilities.
Special Computer Requirements: SAS AND Stata software as well as Microsoft Access. For advice about purchasing these packages (education license prices); see “Study Resources” at: www.bca.edu.au/student_info.htm
Comments: This subject is not available in the Master of Public Health.

**DIRECTED STUDY IN SOCIAL HEALTH**

Subject Number: 505-404 (PGdip) 505-504 (Masters)
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Health and Society
Subject Coordinator: TBA
Mode of Delivery: Supervised Project
Contact Hours: 12 hours of supervision, plus self-directed learning.
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 7 hours of study for each hour of contact.
Semester: 1 or 2
Prerequisites: Normally students may only enrol in this subject after the completion of at least two subjects at Graduate Diploma or Masters level in Social Health.
Description: The content of this subject is individually negotiated between the student and a supervisor appointed by the subject co-ordinator, on the basis of the academic areas of expertise of the available supervisors, and the interests of the student. A list of available supervisors and their nominated fields of study is available from the subject co-ordinator. This subject functions to provide students with the opportunity to do supervised work on a particular topic area which is not covered in depth in other subjects. The assessment includes a literature review or annotated bibliography, and an essay. The exact form of the work will be negotiated between student and supervisor.
Assessment:
PGdip (400 Level):
Annotated bibliography of approximately 1,000 words, due mid semester (30%); Essay of approximately 3,000 words due at end of semester (70%).
Masters (500 Level):
Critical literature review of approximately 1,500 words due mid semester (30%); Essay of approximately 3,500 words due at end of semester (70%).
Comments: This subject is not available in the Master of Public Health.

**DISABILITY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

Subject Number: 505-902
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Nossal Institute for Global Health
Subject Coordinator: Ms Beth Fuller (8344 0914)
Mode of Delivery: Block
Quota: 35
Contact Hours: A minimum of 24 hours class contact taught in a block over 5 days
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 2–3 hours of study for each hour of contact.

Semester: 2
Subject Dates: 21–25 September, 2009 (9.00am–5.00pm)

Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl

Prerequisites: None

Description: This subject is an introduction to the issues and paradigms which influence and shape development responses to disability in low-income settings. Using examples of disability-inclusive development practices from around the world, students will gain an understanding of how the rights-based approach and UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities can be operationalised to develop, plan and implement disability specific and inclusive development interventions.

Subject Objectives:
On completion of this subject, students should be able to:

→ Understand the rights-based approach and the importance of participation and leadership of people with disabilities in development activities.

→ Understand the relationship between disability and poverty.

→ Understand how defining and measuring disability is shaped by skills in designing disability-specific and disability-inclusive development activities, including monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

→ Critique major approaches to disability in developing countries, including Community Based Rehabilitation and Inclusive Education.

→ Demonstrate skills in planning and implementing capacity-development activities for disability and development stakeholders, including Training-of-Trainers.

→ Understand the significance of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and

→ Advocate for inclusion using international and national frameworks which can support disability-inclusive development.

Assessment: One take home examination (40%) on the last day of the subject and one 3,000-word written assignment (60%) due at the end of semester.

Prescribed Texts: A set of readings will be available prior to commencement of the subject.

Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

DRUGS IN SOCIETY
(formerly known as Drugs in Society: Public Health Response)
Subject Number: 505-955
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Turning Point Drug and Alcohol Centre
Subject Coordinator: Mr Kieran Connolly, (8413 8704)
Mode of Delivery: Classroom
Contact Hours: One 2½-hour lecture per week

Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 2–3 hours of study for each hour of contact.

Semester: 1
Day/Time: Wednesdays, 5.30–8.00pm
Location: 142 Gertude Street, Fitzroy (Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre Training Rooms)
Prerequisites: None

Description: This subject is an introduction to alcohol and drug use in the context of public health policy, practice and societal responses. The social implications of drug use and examples of public health responses will also be covered. The effects of drugs within special populations such as indigenous people and people with mental health problems will be covered. Students will be given a variety of resources to enhance their understanding and practice in this field.
Subject Objectives:
→ To gain an understanding of drug use and the role that drugs play for the individual and society.
→ To gain an understanding of the history of drug use and policy responses, as well as theories of use and models of dependence.
→ To understand the interdependence of research and policy development as these relate to the effects of drugs upon both the individual and society more widely.
Assessment: 4,000-word assignment due at the end of the semester (100%).
Prescribed Texts: A reading pack will be provided as required.
Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

ECONOMIC EVALUATION 1

Subject Number: 505-907
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Health Policy, Programs and Economics
Subject Coordinators: Dr Arthur Hsueh & Mr Steve Crowley (8344 0649/0712/0710)
Mode of Delivery: Classroom
Contact Hours: One 2-hour lecture per week.
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 4 hours of study for each hour of contact.
Semester: 1
Day/Time: Mondays, 10.00am–12.00noon
Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl
Prerequisites: 505-100 Health Economics and Program Evaluation (or equivalent) is desirable but not essential.
Description: This subject explores the basic concepts, methods and applications of economic evaluation in the health sector (and public health in particular).
Subject Objectives: On completion of this subject, students should have:
→ acquired an understanding of the rationale for economic appraisal and its role in health service planning and priority setting;
→ developed an appreciation of the various techniques for economic appraisal and key issues in protocol design; and
→ developed the necessary skills to undertake critical appraisal of economic evaluation studies.
Assessment: Four exercises (5% each), one major essay of up to 3,000 words (50%), one student presentation (15%) and student participation in seminar discussion (15%).
Prescribed Texts: A set of readings which include additional readings will be provided.
Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

ECONOMIC EVALUATION 2

Subject Number: 505-909
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Health Policy, Programs and Economics
Subject Coordinator: Mr Steve Crowley/Dr Arthur Hsueh (0408 242 202, 8344 0649, 8344 0710)
Mode of Delivery: Classroom
Contact Hours: One 2-hour lecture and six 4-hour lectures during semester.
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 2 hours of study for each hour of contact.
Semester: 2
Subject Dates: 27 July (9.00–11.00am) 3, 17, 31 Aug, 14 Sept, 5 & 19 October (8.00am–12.00noon)
Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl
Prerequisites: 505-907 Economic Evaluation I, or approval of the Subject Coordinator.
Description: This subject is aimed at: consolidating student knowledge and skills of conventional microeconomic evaluation techniques covered in Economic Evaluation I; and giving students an understanding of the key issues in moving from economic evaluation to priority setting and health service planning.
Subject Objectives: On completion of this subject, students should:
→ have developed skills in critical appraisal of the economic literature through a greater awareness of key issues in economic evaluation methods;
→ have developed skills in writing protocols for the design and conduct of an economic evaluation (to provide a firmer basis for a Masters or Doctorate thesis involving economic evaluation);
→ have a clearer appreciation of the role and usefulness of decision-tree analysis and associated modelling techniques in undertaking economic evaluation;
→ have an understanding of the protocol design issues in undertaking economic evaluations alongside clinical trials; be able to appraise critically PBMA studies and other approaches to economic evaluation (such as discrete choice modelling and cost value analysis);
→ be able to appraise the relative strengths of both economic and non-economic approaches to priority setting; and
→ be able to appraise which approach to priority setting might be appropriate for different decision contexts.
Assessment: Class participation in discussion demonstrating knowledge of prescribed readings (10%), one major essay of up to 3,000 words (60%), and four exercises (30%).
Prescribed Texts: A reading pack will be provided.
Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES EVALUATION

Subject Number: 505-966
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Health Policy, Programs and Economics
Subject Coordinator: Ms Helen Jordan (8344 0655/8344 0710)
Mode of Delivery: Classroom/Distance
Classroom: One 2-hour lecture per week
Time Commitment: Classroom: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 6 to 8 hours per week on this subject.
Distance: Approximately 120 hours studying course materials, including on-line learning activities, nominated readings and textbooks, and tutorials with forum and asynchronous tutor contact.
Semester: 2
Day/Time: Wednesday, 10.00am–12.00noon (Classroom)
ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCES ON HEALTH

Subject Number: 505-112
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
Subject Coordinator: Professor Brian Priestly, (9903 0531)
Mode of Delivery: Classroom
Contact Hours: Either one 2-hour lecture or one 1-hour lecture and one 1-hour tutorial per week.
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 3 hours of study for each hour of contact.
Semester: 2
Day/Time: Thursdays, 2.15–4.15pm
Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl

Prerequisites: None

Description: This subject is designed for students interested or practising in environmental health. The subject introduces students to the evaluation of environmental health services or programs. Topics covered include: the importance of evaluating environmental health (EH) services, aspects of EH services that can be evaluated, and scopeing and planning the evaluation. Stakeholder consultation and the need for culturally appropriate evaluations, in particular, evaluations involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations will be emphasised. Indicative development that includes the use of the DPSEEAA environmental health indicator development framework will also be introduced. The subject also introduces the student to the strengths, limitations and common design and logistical issues concerning the evaluation of particular aspects of environmental health programs. A large range of environmental health case-studies and examples will be used to illustrate key evaluation concepts throughout the subject that include food safety, air pollution, Aboriginal health, risk communication, and others.

Subject Objectives:
On completion of the course students should be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the nature and purposes of evaluation in relation to environmental health services or programs;
- identify a range of approaches used in conducting evaluations of environmental health programs;
- identify important stakeholders and communicate the importance of negotiating the terms and design of an evaluation with these stakeholders;
- scope an evaluation of an environmental health service or program and establish and develop appropriate evaluation questions, criteria for judging particular aspects of the service and choose appropriate methods for collecting data;
- recognise the strengths, limitations and common design and logistical issues concerning the evaluation; and
- demonstrate the application of key evaluation concepts and tools using an environmental health case-study (e.g. aboriginal environmental health, food safety, air pollution).

Assessment:
Minor Assignment: 1500 words due end of semester (30%);
Major Assignment: 4000 words commencing at start of semester and due at end of semester (60%); and submission of two exercises due week 4 & 8 of semester (5% each).
Comments: This is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health

The aim of this subject is to provide students with basic quantitative skills necessary for the practice of general public health and to enable students to critically evaluate the published epidemiological literature. The unit provides an introduction to descriptive and analytical epidemiology, case-control studies, cohort studies, clinical trials, risk and causation, bias, confounding, health program evaluation and measurement theory.

Subject Objectives:
At the completion of this unit, students should be able to:

- explain the methods and applications of descriptive and analytical epidemiology;
- explain the strengths and weaknesses of different epidemiological study designs;
- solve problems relating to the principal epidemiological concepts;
- critically appraise epidemiological papers, and;
- explain the uses of epidemiology in the practice of public health.

Prerequisites: Students are strongly advised to have completed 505-102 Epidemiology or equivalent

Description: To give students an understanding of the principles and techniques of hazard identification and risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication; and to illustrate these principles by providing examples of how chemical, physical and biological factors in our environment may influence health.

Subject Objectives:
At the end of this subject, students should be able to:

- nominate the important hazards and risks to health from the environment in Australia;
- demonstrate fluency with the terminology used to describe chemical, physical and microbiological hazards;
- relate methods to identify common hazards and nominate measures of risk from these hazards;
- nominate common interventions used to control environmental risks and the key personal, social and economic factors that inhibit controls or lessen their impact; and
- effectively and sensitively communicate information and principles about environmental hazards and risks.

Assessment: A minor assignment (30%), a major assignment (40%), plus a multiple choice question examination (30%)
Comments: This subject is a Master of Public Health Consortium subject.
### EPIDEMIOLOGY

**By distance education for the PGCert, PGDip, MBiostatistics courses**

**Subject Number:** 505-106  
**Credit Points:** 12.5  
**Teaching Centre or Unit:** Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia  
**Subject Coordinator:** Dr Andrew Page, University of Queensland (07 3365 5401)  
**Mode of Delivery:** Distance  
**Time Commitment:** 8–12 hours total study time per week  
**Semester:** 1 or 2  
**Prerequisites:** None  
**Description:** Topics include: historical developments in epidemiology; sources of data on mortality and morbidity; disease rates and standardisation; prevalence and incidence; life expectancy; linking exposure and disease (e.g. relative risk, attributable risk); main types of study designs – case series, ecological studies, cross-sectional surveys, case-control studies, cohort or follow-up studies, randomised controlled trials; sources of error (chance, bias, confounding); association and causality; evaluating published papers; epidemics and epidemic investigation; surveillance, prevention; screening; the role of epidemiology in health services research and policy.  
**Subject Objectives:** On completion of this subject students should be familiar with the major concepts and tools of epidemiology, the study of health in populations, and should be able to judge the quality of evidence in health-related research literature  
**Generic Skills:** Independent problem solving, critical appraisal of research literature, clarity of written expression  
**Assessment:** Three written assignments to be submitted during semester worth 20% (approx 8 hrs work) 25% (approx 8 hrs work) and 35% (approx 10 hrs work) respectively. One end-of-semester online exam worth 20% (approx 8 hrs work).  
**Resources Provided to Students:** Printed course notes and assignment material by mail, email, and online interaction facilities.  
**Comments:** This subject is not available in the Master of Public Health.

### EPIDEMIOLOGY AND ANALYTIC METHODS I

**Subject Number:** 505-969  
**Credit Points:** 12.5  
**Teaching Centre or Unit:** Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic & Analytic Epidemiology  
**Subject Coordinator:** Dr Catherine Bennett (8344 0736)  
**Mode of Delivery:** Block  
**Contact Hours:** 4 hours/wk (weeks 1–6).  
**Time Commitment:** In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 3 hours of study for each hour of contact.  
**Semester:** 1  
**Subject Dates:** 5 March – 9 April, 2009  
**Day/Time:** Thursdays, 1.15–5.15pm  
**Timetable and Venue Information:** See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl  
**Prerequisites:** None  
**Description:** This subject provides an introduction to epidemiological and biostatistical concepts and methods, and their application in the assessment and management of health issues in a range of clinical and population-based settings. Methods are taught in an applied context to enhance core skills and develop an awareness of current issues in epidemiological research and practice. Subject content includes an introduction to disease causation and measures of population health, including disease burden and the distribution of disease determinants. This subject also introduces basic demographic, including population structure and sampling methods, and introduces students to epidemiological research study designs. Key skills covered include how to set up datasets, tabulate, graph and explore health data and carry out basic descriptive analyses using the Stata statistical software package.  
**Subject Objectives:** On completion of this subject, students are expected to:  
- Understand the principles of epidemiology  
- Be familiar with the major study designs used in Epidemiology  
- Understand the measures of frequency and association used in epidemiology  
- Critically appraise measures of exposure and disease occurrence  
- Be familiar with the concepts of bias and confounding  
- Apply descriptive statistical methods  
- Understand the concept of sampling variability and how it underpins statistical inference in the form of estimation (using confidence intervals)  
- Competently interpret and report measures of disease distribution  
- Be familiar with spreadsheets and basic methods for statistical summary and description of epidemiological data computed by hand and using Stata  
- Summarise and interpret measures of disease distribution, effect and association  
- Compute and interpret confidence intervals for means and proportions  
**Generic Skills:**  
- On completion of this subject, students are expected to:  
  - Develop basic descriptive analytical skills  
  - Begin to develop the epidemiological frameworks to recognise and describe research methods  
  - Become familiar with the language and terminology used in epidemiology  
  - Develop skills in writing reports on health data  
  - Develop the ability to plan and prioritise reading and assessment tasks  
**Assessment:** One 1 hr computer-based assessment task (5%) in week 5, one take home 1500 word assessment task (25%) due week 5, and one assignment of up to 2500 words (70%) due a few weeks after the end of coursework  
**Prescribed Texts:**  
**Comments:** This subject, taken in conjunction with 505-970 Epidemiology and Analytic Methods II, replaces 505-101 and 505-102 as a core subject for the MPH Epidemiology and Biostatistics stream.
Epidemiology and Analytic Methods II

Subject Number: 505-970
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic & Analytic Epidemiology
Subject Coordinator: Dr Anne Cust (8344 0863)
Mode of Delivery: Block
Contact Hours: 4 hours/wk (weeks 7–12).
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 3 hours of study for each hour of contact.
Semester: 1
Subject Dates: 23, 30 April, 7, 14, 21, 28 May
Day/Time: Thursdays, 1.15–5.15pm
Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl
Prerequisites: 505969 Epidemiology & Analytic Methods I
Description: This subject consolidates the basic principles covered in “Epidemiology and Analytic Methods I” and develops a more substantial understanding of epidemiological research and in particular of the key concepts of confounding, information bias, stratification and statistical inference. Students are introduced to analytic methods for comparison of two means and two proportions, to stratified analysis to control confounding and tests for effect modification using the Stata statistical software package.
Subject Objectives:
On completion of this subject, students are expected to:
- Be able to calculate, apply and interpret the fundamental measures of association used in epidemiology
- Understand what confounding is and how to assess its presence
- Be able to perform stratified analyses for the control of confounding
- Know when and why standardisation is used and how to perform it
- Understand what effect modification is and how to assess its presence
- Be able to compute and interpret p-values and confidence intervals for comparing means and proportions
- Understand how information bias arises and its effect on study validity
- Be able to adjust measures of association for measurement error
- Be able to use Stata for the manipulation and analysis of epidemiological datasets
Generic Skills:
On completion of this subject, students are expected to:
- Develop basic problem solving and analytical skills
- Develop the epidemiological frameworks to recognise and describe research methods
- Become familiar with the language and terminology used in epidemiology
- Develop skills in written communication including basic methods for statistical summary and description of epidemiological data
- Develop the ability to plan and prioritise reading and assessment tasks
Assessment: One assignment of up to 1500 words (25%) due in week 9 or 10, a second assignment of up to 2500 words (45%) due a few weeks after the end of coursework and a 1.5 hour examination (30%) to be held in the University examination period.

Prescribed Texts:
Special computer skills required: Students are expected to have experience using the Stata statistical package for data managements and basic descriptive statistics.
Comments: This subject, taken in conjunction with 505-969 Epidemiology and Analytic Methods I, replaces 505-101 and 505-102 as a core subject for the MPH Epidemiology and Biostatistics stream.

Epidemiology in Practice

Subject Number: 505-974
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic & Analytic Epidemiology
Subject Coordinator: Assoc Prof Shyamali Dharmage (8344 0737)
Mode of Delivery: Block
Contact Hours: 5 days (weeks 5 to 8)
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 2 hours of study for each hour of contact.
Semester: 2
Subject Dates: 21 & 22 Aug, 4, 5 11 & 12 Sept, 2009
Time: 9.00am–5.00pm
Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl
Prerequisites:
505-969 Epidemiology & Analytic Methods I or equivalent
505-970 Epidemiology & Analytic Methods II or equivalent
505-973 Study Design in Epidemiology
Prerequisites or Co-requisites:
505-971 Linear & Logistic Regression
Description: This subject will build on the principles and methods covered in Epidemiology and Analytic Methods I and II and Study Design in Epidemiology, focussing on the application of epidemiological methods in a range of clinical and population-based settings. Subject content includes screening and diagnostic testing, surveillance of health events, systematic reviews and grant writing and preparation of scientific manuscripts. Practical aspects of running an epidemiological study will be covered including participant recruitment, linking databases, collecting biological specimens, project management and ethical issues. Analytical methods are taught in applied epidemiologic contexts using the Stata statistical software package.
Assessment: One assignment (up to 1000 words) worth 20% due on 3rd contact day (2nd contact week), One 10 minute small group oral presentation (10%) on 4th contact day, One 20 minutes group oral presentation (10%) 5th contact day. The final assessment task is an assignment (up to 2000 words) worth 60% due 3 to 4 weeks after the final contact session.
Special computer skills required: Students are expected to have experience using the Stata statistical package for multivariate statistical methods.
Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health

www.sph.unimelb.edu.au
FIELD METHODS FOR HEALTH MANAGEMENT

Subject Number: 505-958
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health
Subject Coordinator: Dr Tony Stewart (9282 2199/9282 2274)
Mode of Delivery: Block OR Partial Block (Sem 1) Block Only (Sem 2)
Quota: 10
Subject Dates:
- Semester 1:
  - 20–24 April 2009 (Block) or
  - 3 x 3hr Tues & 3 x 7hr Sat (For Partial block dates Contact the Burnet Institute 9282 2274 January 2009)
- Semester 2:
  - 7–11 September 2009 (Block)
Contact Hours: Minimum of 26 hours
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 2–3 hours of study for each hour of contact.
Semester: 2
Subject Dates: 20–24 July, 2009 (9.00am–4.30pm)
Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl
Co-requisite: 505-423 (PGDip) 505-523 (Masters) Gender and Health: Critical Perspectives
Description: The course will focus on understanding health, health inequalities and women and men's health within social, cultural, economic and political contexts. Inequalities in the health and illness by gender, socio-economic position and ethnicity over the life course will be described. Students will be introduced to a multilevel conceptual framework for understanding these inequalities. The framework will place emphasis on population-based approaches to health illness, the importance of socio-economic position, poverty, employment and work and interactions between these domains.

Subject Objectives:
On completion of the subject students are expected to have a:

PGDip (400 Level):
- Basic knowledge of how experiences of health and illness vary by gender, socio-economic position and ethnicity over the life course
- Basic understanding of a social model of health with emphasis on population-based approaches and gender, socio-economic position, poverty, employment and work.
On completion of the subject students will:
- be able to apply the social model of health to begin to analyse important women's health issues;
- have emerging skills in critical analysis;
- have good oral communication and written communication.
Masters (500 Level):
- Detailed knowledge of how experiences of health and illness vary by gender, socio-economic position and ethnicity over the life course
- Sophisticated understanding of a social model of health with emphasis on population-based approaches and gender, socio-economic position, poverty, employment and work.
On completion of the subject students will:
- be apply a social model of health to critically analyse important women's health issues;
- demonstrate advanced skills in critical analysis; and
- have strong written and oral communication skills

Generic Skills:
On completion of this subject, students should be able to:

PGDip (400 Level):
- examine and interpret evidence
- ability to develop and sustain an argument
- good oral and written communication skills
- skills in searching bibliographic data bases and synthesising evidence
Masters (500 Level):
- critically appraise evidence
- ability to develop sustain and interpret an argument
- well developed oral and written communication skills
- well developed skills in searching bibliographic data bases and synthesising evidence

Assessment:
PGDip (400 Level): Two case studies of 500 words; each worth 10%. One written assignment of 2500 words (60%). Class presentation of final assignment (20%).

GENDER AND HEALTH INEQUALITIES 1

Subject Number: 505-442 (PGDip) 505-542 (Masters)
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Key Centre for Women's Health in Society
Subject Coordinators: Associate Professor Anne Kavanagh (8344 0616)

Mode of Delivery: Classroom
Contact Hours: 4 x 6 hour days
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 3 hours of study for each hour of contact.
Semester: 1 (partial block or full block mode) or 2 (block mode)

Prerequisites:
505-102 Epidemiology

Description:
The subject will cover: rapid appraisal of community health needs; population surveys; survey sampling methods; program monitoring; using health data for decision making; participatory evaluation of health programs; and applied health research. At the end of this course, students will have the skills necessary for designing a baseline survey and qualitative assessment of a community-based primary care program.

Subject Objectives:
On completion of this subject, students should be able to:
- demonstrate a familiarity with the basic elements of health program design, implementation and evaluation;
- identify appropriate strategies for gathering and analysing information which can then be applied to the design of health programs at all Levels;
- use health data for appropriate decision making, including cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit measurements; and
- develop appropriate health program management tools, including situational analysis, population surveys, behavioural studies, health information systems, operations research and participatory evaluation.

Assessment:
Critical Evaluation – 1,000–1,500 words, due on last teaching day of the subject.
Assignment Plan – 350–450 words, due 2 weeks after last class
Program Plan – 2000–3000 words, due 4 weeks after last class

Prescribed Texts: A book of readings will be provided

Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.
Masters (500 Level): Two case studies of 500 words; each worth 10%. One written assignment of 3000–3500 words (60%). Class presentation (20 mins) of final assignment (20%).

Prescribed Texts: Selected readings will be available.

Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

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GENDER AND HEALTH: CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES

Subject Number: 505-423 (PGDip) 505-523 (Masters)
Credit Points: 12.5pts
Teaching Centre or Unit: Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society

Subject Coordinator: TBA
Mode of Delivery: Classroom
Contact Hours: One 2-hour lecture per week

Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 3 hours of study for each hour of contact.

Semester: 1
Day/Time: Mondays, 2.00–4.00pm

Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl

Prerequisites: None

Description: This subject examines the way Gender and Health, and particularly Women’s Health have been examined within and across the disciplinary fields of Public Health, Biomedicine, Epidemiology, Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology. We will examine the key feminist, socio-cultural, psychological and psychoanalytic discourses and ideas that have informed our understanding of gender and health, focusing on the on sex/ gender, human rights and power. The course will also examine the critical contribution of first, second and third wave feminism to the fields of Women’s Health, Men’s Health and Gender and Health.

Subject Objectives:

By the end of the semester students will be expected to:

- Describe the meaning and use of key terms- sex, gender, gender relations, diversity, health, illness, and disease, gender mainstreaming – that underpin the fields of Gender and Health and Women’s/ Men’s Health;
- Describe and critically reflect on the ways in which gender and health have been examined within the disciplinary fields of Public Health, Biomedicine, Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology;
- Understand the historical and core ideas that underpin and frame research on gender and health, particularly women’s health;
- Demonstrate in both written and oral form your capacity for critical thought and self-directed learning.

Generic Skills:

On completion of this subject, students should be able to:

- PGDip (400 Level):
  - examine and interpret evidence
  - ability to interpret as well as develop and sustain an argument
  - oral and written communication skills
  - skills in searching bibliographic data bases and synthesising evidence
- Masters (500 Level):
  - critical appraisal of evidence
  - advanced skills in developing, interpreting and sustaining an argument
  - well developed oral and written communication skills
  - advanced skills in searching bibliographic data bases and synthesising evidence

Assessment:

- PGDip (400 Level):
  - Reading journal (critical comment on prescribed reading material for each week) total of 1000 words submitted twice during semester (20%); class presentation (20%) and written assignment of 2500 words (60%) due end of semester.

Masters (500 level):

Reading journal (critical comment on prescribed reading material for each week) total of 1500 words submitted twice during semester (20%); class presentation (20%) and written assignment of 2500–3000 words (60%) due end of semester.

Prescribed Texts: Selected readings will be available.

Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

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GENDER, VIOLENCE AND HEALTH

Subject Number: 505-451 (PGDip) 505-551 (Masters)
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society

Subject Coordinator: TBA
Mode of Delivery: Classroom / Block Mode
Contact Hours: 4 × 6 hour days

Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 3 hours of study for each hour of contact.

Semester: 2 (mid-semester 2 break)
Subject Dates: 29 Sept – 2 Oct, 2009
Time: 9am–4.30pm

Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl

Prerequisites: None

Description: Violence is a major concern worldwide, with negative impacts on both men and women. In Victoria, it is currently the major cause of disability, illness and death amongst women of reproductive age. This subject uses a gender framework to consider a broad range of topics including childhood sexual abuse, intimate partner violence and sexual assault. Definitions, conceptualisations and prevalence will be discussed in relation to both research and practice. It will:

- Explore the intersection of gender and violence, together with other social and contextual factors, in relation to causation, dynamics and responses.
- Consider the impact of various forms of violence on physical and mental health and wellbeing.
- Examine the barriers, within the community and within research, to understanding and responding to gender-based violence.

It aims to:

- Enhance understanding of the intersection of cultural, social and governance factors with gender and violence.
- Increase awareness of the connection between violence with health
- Develop critical thinking in relation to violence and gender relations
- Apprise participants of ethical considerations associated with research and practice
- Explore current responses to violence in society

Subject Objectives:

On completion of this subject students are expected to have a:

- PGDip (400 Level):
  - Basic understanding of the intersection of gender relations, health and violence in society
  - Basic knowledge of prevalence, causal factors, dynamics and health impacts of gender-based violence
GENETIC EPIDEMIOLOGY

Subject Number: 505-926
Credit Points: 12.5

Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic & Analytic Epidemiology

Subject Coordinator: Dr Mark Jenkins (8344 0902)

Mode of Delivery: Classroom or Distance

Contact Hours:
Classroom: One 2-hour lecture per week
Distance: 2 hours per week via internet.

Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 4–5 hours of study for each hour of contact.

Semester: 2

Day/Time: Thursdays, 10.00am–12.00 noon

Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl

Prerequisites:
505-969 Epidemiology & Analytic Methods I, or equivalent
505-970 Epidemiology & Analytic Methods II, or equivalent
505-973 Study Design in Epidemiology

Description: The majority of chronic diseases share a common risk factor: the family history for that disease. Epidemiologists can use families to assess the role of the interrelated genetic and environmental risk factors. This subject provides an introduction to epidemiological methods that are used to help identify genes associated with disease, and to estimate what proportion of the disease can be attributed to measured or unmeasured genetic factors. Concepts, methodologies, and interpretation of familial risk factors for chronic diseases are the major topics in this subject. Topics covered include introduction to population genetics, introduction to molecular genetics, design of family studies including both twin and pedigree studies, segregation analysis, linkage, association studies, estimating the magnitude of the gene effect on disease susceptibility, and genetic screening.

Objectives:
On completion of this subject, students should be able to:
- understand that susceptibility to complex diseases is due to both genetic and environmental factors;
- understand the relationship between familial aggregation of disease and genetic aetiology;
- understand that genes can be altered in various ways with varying effects on molecular function;
- understand the fundamentals and limitations of studies designed to identify genes that influence disease susceptibility;
- determine the significance of disease susceptibility genes in the risk of disease; critically appraise a genetic epidemiology study;
- appreciate that genetic epidemiology is a developing field with a high degree of statistical modelling; and understand a variety of techniques to find genes for disease using epidemiological studies.

Assessment: Tutorial participation (10%), one written assignment of 2,000 words (40%) due mid-semester and one written assignment of 2,500 words (50%) due end semester.

Prescribed Texts: None

Special Computer Requirements: For students studying via Distance Mode – Access to computer with a Web browser and print access. A university e-mail account is also required. Lecture notes will be provided via internet and tutorials will be conducted over the internet

Special Computer Skills Required: Proficiency with a Web browser and basic word processing skills Resources provided to Distance students: A tutor will be assigned to each student. Lecture notes and a discussion forum will be provided via the University’s Learning Management System. A set of reading material will be mailed to each student prior to the start of semester.

Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH & PRACTICE

Subject Number: 509-001
Credit Points: 12.5

Teaching Centre or Unit: Nossal Institute for Global Health

Subject Coordinator: Dr Martha Morrow (8344 0912)

Mode of Delivery: Block

Quota: 35

Contact Hours: 30 hours over 5 days.

Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 3–4 hours of study for each hour of contact.
HEALTH ECONOMICS AND PROGRAM EVALUATION

Subject Number: 505-100
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Health Policy, Programs and Economics
Subject Coordinators: Ms Rosemary McKenzie & Dr Arthur Hsueh (8344 0649/8344 0710).
Mode of Delivery: Classroom
Contact Hours: One 1-hour lecture and one 1-hour tutorial per week.
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 2 hours of study for each hour of contact.
Semester: 2
Day/Time: Thursdays 5.15–6.15pm (Lecture) 6.15–7.15pm (Tutorial)
Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl
Prerequisites: None
Description: This subject provides an introduction to the disciplines of health economics and program evaluation and provides students with the opportunity to develop an appreciation of the contribution that health economics and program evaluation make to the practice of public health.
Prerequisites:
- Microeconomic tools for health economics;
- Health program evaluation, which provides a basic introduction to program evaluation principles and design applicable to public health programs.

Description:
This subject explores and further applies the concepts covered in the Health Economics section of Health Economics and Program Evaluation. The subject comprises four parts:
1. Dimensions of Health Economics;
2. Microeconomic Tools for Health Economics;
3. The Australian Health Care System from an Economic Perspective (including government intervention and economic rationalism); and

Assessment:
Four exercises (5% each), one major essay of 3,000 words (50%), one student presentation (15%) and student participation in seminar discussion (15%).

Prescribed Texts:

Resources Provided to Students:
Additional readings and case studies will be distributed.

Comments:
This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.
critically analyse key relevant issues within the scope of the subject at a basic level
be open to critiques of standard approaches in health ethics
apply theoretical concepts to key issues within the scope of the subject at a basic level

Masters (500 Level):
On completion of the subject students should be able to:
critically analyse key relevant issues within the scope of the subject at an advanced level
be open to critiques of standard approaches in health ethics
apply theoretical concepts to key issues within the scope of the subject at an advanced level.

Assessment:
PGDip (400 Level): Analyses of set readings x 2 (2,000 words) (40%); Final essay (2,000 words) (60%)
Masters (500 Level): Analyses of set readings x 2 (2,000 words) (40%); Final essay (3,000 words) (60%)


Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.
Description: This subject examines the diverse purposes of health program evaluations can serve and the wide range of environments in which health program evaluations are conducted. Using Australian and overseas evaluation examples, students gain an overview of conceptual and methodological issues in the key evaluation approaches. The three major stages in the conduct of an evaluation are covered: planning and negotiating the terms and design of the evaluation; data collection and analysis; and the provision of findings. Each stage is considered through example and critique of those examples, with opportunities to apply these skills in the development of an evaluation plan for a real, work-based program. The limitations of evaluation in assisting decision-making are examined.

Subject Objectives:
On completion of this subject students will have:

→ An advanced understanding of the nature and purposes of health program evaluation
→ Ability to apply key evaluation concepts in the design and conduct of health program evaluations at an advanced level
→ Ability to apply the skills of negotiating the terms and design of an evaluation, data collection and analysis and the provision of evaluative findings to stakeholders at an advanced level
→ Ability to critically review evaluation plans
→ Ability to apply the elements of small scale program evaluation planning to real situations at an advanced level
→ An understanding of the limitation of program evaluation in knowledge building and decision-making at an advanced level.

Assessment: Satisfactory completion of three minor assignments of 700 words each (10% each) set in weeks 4, 8 and 9, a major assignment of 3000 words (an evaluation plan) (60%) due three weeks after the last session and student contribution in class and through the forum (10%)

Prescribed Texts:
Hawthorne, G., Introduction to Health Program Evaluation, Centre for Health Program Evaluation, 2000 (provided with subject notes)

Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.
**Description:** This subject aims to provide an understanding of health promotion concepts and approaches as they relate to contemporary health issues in Australia and internationally. The unit is designed to assist students to: appreciate the key developments in Australia and internationally that have contributed to current understandings of health, its determinants and health promotion practice; examine the range of theoretical and practical intervention frameworks; become familiar with the information and skills required for the development of evidence-based health promotion programs; and describe and form opinions on dilemmas and difficulties in health promotion practice.

**Subject Objectives:**
The unit aims to enable students to:

- Appreciate the key developments in Australia and internationally that have contributed to current understandings of health and health promotion;
- Examine the range of theoretical and practical intervention frameworks available for health promotion delivery;
- Become familiar with the information and skills required for the development of health promotion programs.

**Assessment:** One 2,000 word assignment (40%), and one 3,000-word assignment (60%)

**Prescribed Texts:** A unit study guide and reader are provided.

**Comments:** This subject is a Master of Public Health Consortium subject.

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**HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH 1**

**Subject Number:** 505-510 (Masters)

**Credit Points:** 12.5

**Teaching Centre or Unit:** Centre for Health Policy, Programs and Economics

**Subject Coordinator:** Assoc Prof David Dunt (8344 0645/8344 0710)

**Mode of Delivery:** Distance and classroom

**Contact Hours:** One 2-hour lecture per week.

**Time Commitment:** Classroom: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 6 to 8 hours per week on this subject.

**Distance:** Approximately 120 hours studying course materials, including on-line learning activities, nominated readings and textbooks, and tutorials with forum and asynchronous tutor contact.

**Semester:** 1

**Day/Time:** Mondays, 2.15–4.15pm

**Timetable and Venue Information:** See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl

**Prerequisites:** None

**Description:**

On completion of this subject, students will be able to:

- Discuss the contribution of Health Services Research (HSR) to health policy and health services management through the provision of information as well as the generation and testing of hypotheses in relation to the operation of health services;
- Describe the content, including definitions, basic strategies and performance measures of HSR as well as its boundaries in relation to other disciplines;
- Discuss the contribution of the public health approach in general and epidemiology in particular to the conduct of HSR;
- Explain the application of both descriptive and analytical epidemiology to HSR;
- Explain the nature of the principal epidemiological research designs, their strengths and weaknesses and ability to address threats to validity and generalisability in relation to HSR beyond a basic level;
- Discuss the principles of Evidence-Based Medicine as applied to health services, including its focus on health outcomes to an advanced level; and
- Analyse critically the methods and findings of HSR studies to an advanced level.

**Assessment:** 3 written assignments of equal value, 2 × 1,750 words and one problem solving exercise.


**Comments:** This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

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**HIV AND AIDS: AN EVOLVING GLOBAL RESPONSE**

*(formerly known as HIV/AIDS: An Evolving Global Response)*

**Subject Number:** 509-002

**Credit Points:** 12.5

**Teaching Centre or Unit:** Nossal Institute for Global Health

**Subject Coordinator:** Dr Timothy Moore (8344 1996)

**Mode of Delivery:** Classroom

**Quota:** 30

**Contact Hours:** One 2-hour lecture per week

**Time Commitment:** In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 6–8 hours per week on this subject.

**Semester:** 1

**Day/Time:** Tuesdays, 10.00am–12.00noon

**Timetable and Venue Information:** See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl

**Prerequisites:** None

**Description:**

The HIV and AIDS pandemic stands as one of the most devastating in recorded history, with the majority of its burden falling on developing nations and vulnerable people. The nature of the virus and its routes of human transmission present unique challenges to public health practitioners aiming to prevent its spread and to support care and treatment for those living with the virus.

**Subject Objectives:** This subject will provide students with basic tools to face those challenges internationally by exploring the current state of the global pandemic in the new era of expanding treatment options. Participating students will benefit from the experience of an array of noted speakers on HIV and AIDS who will discuss: the history, epidemiology, science and impact of the disease; prevention theory and practice; transmission and vulnerability; policy and human rights; the global network of protagonists fighting HIV; and treatment and care with a focus on resource-poor settings. "Field experiences in HIV” will provide an insight into the real-life application of HIV and AIDS knowledge.

**Generic Skills:** It is intended that students completing this subject will:

- Critically analyse the complex and multifaceted arguments relating to HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment and care;
- Critically reflect on current issues relating to HIV and AIDS globally, drawing from classroom presentations, recommended readings and other informational sources.
- Demonstrate the capacity to apply theory and knowledge of HIV and AIDS to a realistic, community-based scenario.
- Generate and articulate academic works appropriate to master level students.

**Assessment:** A short briefing paper, 500 words (20%) due mid April; group presentation of 20 minutes (4–6 students per group) and a one-page written overview (maximum 300 words) on a community-based HIV and/or AIDS project (30%) scheduled for
INFECTIONOUS DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY – SPECIAL TOPICS

Subject Number: 505-936
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic & Analytic Epidemiology
Subject Coordinator: Dr Catherine Bennett (8344 0736)
Mode of Delivery: Classroom
Contact Hours: One 2-hour lecture per week
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 4–6 hours of study for each hour of contact.
Semester: 2
Day/Time: Fridays, 10.00am–12.00noon
Prerequisites:
505-102 or 505-106 Epidemiology, or
505-969 Epidemiology & Analytic Methods I, or equivalent
505-929 Infectious Disease Epidemiology
Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl

Description: This subject introduces students to specialist areas in infectious disease epidemiology. The modules will be linked by themes that include evidence-based public health decision-making, infectious disease policy development, risk assessment and risk communication to enable the student to develop a broader view of infectious disease management. An emphasis is placed on applied examples, and communicable disease experts from public health departments, clinical sector and industry are brought in to the classroom to provide different perspectives, experience and content knowledge. The subject content includes: hospital epidemiology and nosocomial infection monitoring and control; the application of infectious disease modelling and health economics in the development and evaluation of disease control programs and public health policy, and vaccine efficacy and safety evaluation, and priority-setting for vaccine programs.

Subject Objectives: On completion of this subject the student should be able to: Understand infectious disease epidemiology in the hospital setting; Develop and evaluate hospital infection surveillance programs; Understand how health economics and disease modelling can be used in Public Health decision making and policy development; Develop public health policy for infectious diseases; Evaluate infectious disease control programs.

Assessment: 2 written assignments of equal weighting and up to 2,000 words each. The first is due in week 9 of semester, the second in 2nd week of November.

Prescribed Texts: Recommended reading will be identified and/or provided in lectures.

Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

INTERNATIONAL ADOLESCENT HEALTH

Subject Number: 505-901
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Nossal Institute for Global Health.
Subject Coordinator: Ms Emma Brathwaite (8344 0914)
Mode of Delivery: Block
Quota: 35
Contact Hours: Thirty hours over 5 days.
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 2 hours of study for each hour of contact.
Semester: Summer
Subject Dates: 2nd – 6th February, 2009 (9.00am–5.00pm)
Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl
Prerequisites: None
Description: This subject provides a comprehensive picture of emerging health issues for adolescents, focusing on young people from developing countries. Topics include: key stages of adolescent health and youth development; socio-cultural determinants in adolescent health; important topic areas including HIV/AIDS, alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, mental health, nutrition and sexual and reproductive health.

Subject Objectives:
On completion of this subject, students should be able to:

→ critique a number of frameworks used to address adolescent health needs;
→ incorporate the lifecycle approach into public health programming for young people;
→ develop strategies for effective engagement of young people and their communities to improve adolescent health and well-being; and
→ describe the technical issues relevant to health promotion and advocacy for adolescent health.

Assessment: One take-home examination (40%) on the last day of the subject and one 3000-word essay (60%).
Prescribed Texts: A set of readings will be available prior to the subject commencing.
Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

INTERNATIONAL CHILD HEALTH

Subject Number: 505-900
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Nossal Institute for Global Health
Subject Coordinator: Dr Alison Morgan (8344 9138)
Mode of Delivery: Block
Quota: 35
Contact Hours: Approximately thirty-five hours over 6 days.
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 2 hours of study for each hour of contact.
Semester: 2
Subject Dates: 11–13 & 16–18 November, 2009 (9.00am–5.00pm)
Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl
Prerequisites: None
Description: This subject provides an overview and practical guidelines to address international child health issues, including acute respiratory illness, diarrhoea diseases, perinatal conditions, nutritional deficiencies, and communicable diseases. These issues will be presented from the perspective of public health practice in a range of countries. The subject will highlight the lifecycle approach and association with other stages of development, particularly the health of the mother and the role of family and community practices.

Subject Objectives:
On completion, students should be able to:

→ understand the current strategies for prevention and management of important causes of childhood illness, including their evidence base;
→ identify new approaches to the promotion of child development and child human rights;
→ understand effective child public health program development; and
→ identify priorities for research in international child health.

Assessment: A group work presentation during the teaching period (20%), one take-home exam on the last day of the subject (30%), and one essay of up to 3,000 words (50%).
Prescribed Texts: Students will be given a set of readings prior to the commencement of the subject.
Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

KEY CONCEPTS IN SOCIAL HEALTH
(formerly known as The Body Social: Medical Social Science)

Subject Number: 505-408 (PGDip) 505-508 (Masters)
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Health and Society
Subject Coordinator: Dr Alison Brookes (8344 0826)
Mode of Delivery: Classroom
Contact Hours: One 2-hour lecture per week and two 6-hour workshops.
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 3 hours of study for each hour of contact.
Semester: 2
Day/Time: Lectures: Tuesdays 3.15–5.15pm. Workshops: 12 Sept and 10 Oct, 10.00am–4.00pm
Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl
Prerequisites: None
Description: This subject explores key ways that bodies and the people that inhabit them are understood in the social and medical sciences. How knowledge about bodies is constructed within medical and social sciences is investigated through theoretical understandings of class, race, culture and gender. Key topics are illustrated with reference to historical, contemporary, academic and popular literature which challenge commonly held understandings from both a western and cross-cultural perspective. Topics include: What is science? The roles of nature and nurture and debates about their impact on what makes us human. Bodies at different ages – understanding notions of childhood and ageing. The relationship between genetic science and technology and changing social understandings of family kinship, biological determinism, disability and eugenic practices. How medical and artistic representations of bodies are informed by theory and practice and challenge the boundaries between art and science. How does the use of body modification challenge our understanding of what is human? How have changing historical and cultural understandings of disease impacted on social behaviours and expectations? Making sense of illness – how people understand their experiences of illness with reference to dominant cultural narratives.

Subject Objectives:
PGDip (400 Level): To demonstrate the ability to:

→ understand social aspects of health and illness and cross-cultural aspects of health and illness
→ conduct an independent literature search and evaluation
→ read critically across a range of social science disciplines
→ apply social theory to health issues
→ critically analyse taken-for-granted assumptions, particularly in relation to Western scientific constructions of knowledge
KEY PERSPECTIVES IN MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

(formerly known as Advanced Topics In Medical Anthropology)

Subject Number: 505-403 (PGDip) 505-503 (Masters)
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Health and Society
Subject Coordinator: TBA
Mode of Delivery: Classroom
Contact Hours: One 2-hour lecture per week.
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 3 hours of study for each hour of contact.
Semester: 2
Day/Time: Wednesdays, 2.15-4.15pm
Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl

Prerequisites:
505-402/502 Culture Health and Illness

Description: This subject examines a range of classic and current theoretical debates within the discipline of anthropology: on rationality and cultural difference; objectivity and reflexivity; modes of anthropological representation and the politics of applied anthropological research.

Topics and themes include the cross-cultural study of illness causation; emotion; ideas of psychopathology in different societies and psychological anthropology; ideas of embodiment and the relationship between culture, linguistic communication, expressive behaviour and health. Where possible, the texts selected for reading include examples of the application of Medical Anthropology so that the theoretical approaches are clarified through practical instances.

This subject explores different emotions and bodily states as they are perceived across cultures and at the ways these are represented within the discipline of Anthropology. Theoretical analyses of debates about universality, cultural relativism, and human rights in the context of health, scholarly objectivity and political advocacy are sometimes explicit in the readings, but students are expected to read critically so that they develop analytical and interpretative skills. This subject is conducted as a seminar series in which students are required to read and discuss the set texts for each week. Each student will be expected to choose a discussion topic for a specific class during the first week’s class and take responsibility for leading the discussion on the given day.

Subject Objectives & Generic Skills:

PGDip (400 Level):
On completion of this course students will:

> have a critical understanding of recent developments in theories of Medical Anthropology

> have developed the basic capacity to formulate comparative explanations of illness causation, drawing on a variety of explanatory models of cultural, social and behavioural determinants of health.

> be able to contextualise socio-cultural studies and present them in terms of policy and practice in the fields of International Development.

Masters (500 Level):
On completion of this course students will:

> have a critical understanding of recent developments in theories of Medical Anthropology and be able to apply these interpretatively.

> have developed an advanced capacity to formulate comparative explanations of illness causation, drawing on a variety of explanatory models of cultural, social and behavioural determinants of health.

> have developed skills in designing research projects on cross-cultural disease aetiology and illness experience using anthropological theories and methods.

> be able to contextualise socio-cultural studies and present them in terms of policy and practice in the fields of International Development.

Assessment:

PGDip (400 Level): Written work, approximately 4,000 words comprising one class paper (1000 words – 25%) and an essay (3000 words – 75%)

Masters (500 Level): Written work, approximately 5,000 words comprising one class paper (1500 words -20%) and an essay (3500 words – 75%)

Prescribed Texts: A set of readings will be available for purchase.

Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.
LINEAR AND LOGISTIC REGRESSION

Subject Number: 505-971
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic & Analytic Epidemiology
Subject Coordinator: Dr Katrina Scurrah (8344 0746)
Mode of Delivery: Classroom
Contact Hours: One 4-hour lecture per week over the first 6 weeks of semester.
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 2–3 hours of study for each hour of contact.
Semester: 2
Day/Time: Thursdays 1.15–5.15pm (wks 1–6)
Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl
Prerequisites: 505-969 Epidemiology & Analytic Methods I or equivalent 505-970 Epidemiology & Analytic Methods II or equivalent
Description: This subject covers linear regression methods for continuous outcome variables and logistic regression methods for binary outcome variables. The focus will be on regression methods and models used in epidemiology. The concepts of correlation (for linear regression) and proportions and odds ratios (for logistic regression) will be reviewed. Topics common to both types of regression modelling including model fitting, prediction and how to address confounding and interaction among covariates. Many simpler formula-based techniques for epidemiological analysis will be re-cast within the regression framework. Strategies for analysis including model building, model checking and regression diagnostics will be covered briefly. Extensive case studies and real-world examples will be investigated using the statistical package Stata; a key aim of this subject is to equip students with the practical skills to fit and interpret regression models.
Subject Objectives:
On completion of this subject, students are expected to:
- Develop an understanding of the role of linear and logistic regression models in epidemiology, particularly with regard to confounding and interaction, and to relate simpler methods of epidemiological analysis to special cases of regression modelling.
- Develop practical skills in fitting and interpreting linear and logistic regression models in the statistical computing package Stata
- Gain a practical working knowledge of model building, model checking, regression diagnostics and prediction
- Understand essential aspects of the theory of linear and logistic regression modelling and their implications for practice.
Generic Skills:
On completion of this subject, students are expected to:
- Develop applied analytic skills in using regression models in epidemiology
- Have the analytic frameworks to plan and carry out regression analyses on new or existing databases
- Have the theoretical understanding and technical skills to read and appraise the research and professional literature in epidemiology and biostatistics where linear and logistic regression analyses have been used
- Acquire skills in written communication including the demonstrated ability to present statistical results in a format suitable for publication in health-related journals or professional reports
- Have the ability to plan and prioritise subject workload commitments
Assessment: Two written assignments equivalent to 2000 words, one on each of linear and logistic regression (the first assignment worth 30% will be due mid-teaching period, the second worth 40% a few weeks after the end of teaching) and an end of semester examination (2 hours in length constituting 30% of the total assessment) to be held in the University examination period.
Special computer skills required: Students are expected to have experience using the Stata statistical package for basic descriptive statistics and analytic methods.
Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health

LINEAR MODELS

Subject Number: 505-940
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia
Subject Coordinator: Prof John Carlin, University of Melbourne (8344 0733/8344 9339) & Prof Andrew Forbes, Monash University (9903 0596)
Mode of Delivery: Distance
Contact Hours: Distance
Semester: 2
Prerequisites: 505-106 Epidemiology (EPI) 505-105 Mathematics Background for Biostatistics (MBB) 505-107 Principles of Statistical Inference (PSI) 505-975 Probability and Distribution Theory (PDT)
Description: The method of least squares; regression models and related statistical inference; flexible nonparametric regression; analysis of covariance to adjust for confounding; multiple regression with matrix algebra; model construction and interpretation (use of dummy variables, parameterisation, interaction and transformations); model checking and diagnostics; regression to the mean; handling of baseline values; the analysis of variance; variance components and random effects.
Subject Objectives: To enable students to apply methods based on linear models to biostatistical data analysis, with proper attention to underlying assumptions and a major emphasis on the practical interpretation and communication of results.
Generic Skills: Independent problem solving, facility with abstract reasoning, clarity of written expression, sound communication of technical concepts
Assessment: Two case study assignments to be submitted during semester worth 35% and 40% respectively (approx 12 hours work each). Submission of selected practical exercises throughout the semester worth 20% in total (approx 10 hrs of work) Contribution to online quizzes worth 5% (approx 6 hrs of work)
Resources Provided to Students: Printed course notes and assignments by mail, email, and online interaction.
Special Computer Requirements: Stata statistical software
Comments: This subject is not available in the Master of Public Health

www.sph.unimelb.edu.au
LIVING LONGER: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

Subject Number: 505-439 (PGDip) 505-539 (Masters)
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Health and Society
Subject Coordinator: Prof Janet McCalman (8344 9107)
Mode of Delivery: Classroom
Contact Hours: One 2-hour lecture per week.

Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 3 hours of study for each hour of contact.

Semester: 1
Day/Time: Wednesdays, 5.15–7.15pm

Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl

Prerequisites: None

Description: The course will study the history of health transitions from a global perspective, focusing on the factors historians have identified in bringing about the modern rise in life expectancy. The course is structured around the book by James C. Riley, *Rising Life Expectancy: A Global History* (Cambridge University Press, 2001). After providing an overview of the health transition, it will examine in turn: the rise and impact of public health; the role of biomedicine; wealth, income and economic development; famine, malnutrition and diet; households and individuals; literacy and education. Studies will be made in turn of first, second, third and fourth world examples. Particular attention will be paid to controversies among historians and social scientists and the ideological conflicts that pervade debate over the health transition.

Subject Objectives:
- To provide historical contextual knowledge of the factors in the rise in human life-expectancy and the health transition
- To promote awareness of change over time
- To equip students with theoretical perspectives on changing life expectancy
- To improve students’ understanding of processes of change, the role of human agency, governments and biomedical intervention in life expectancy.

Generic Skills:
- To provide training in the use of multifactorial evidence in the analysis of public health issues
- To provide training in the employment of consilient knowledge systems in social analysis
- To gain knowledge of change over time and on human agency in change
- To provide training in research skills and the use of evidence and theory.

Assessment: Seminar Reading diary (400 level: 1500 words; 500 level 2000 words). Students will be expected to keep a diary of their reading of both the recommended historical and contemporary literature. Reviewed during semester, final version due at end of semester (30%). Research essay (400 level: 2500 words, 500 level: 3000 words) on one of the five case studies in the course, due at the end of semester (70%).

A printed set of readings will also be available for purchase.

Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

LONGITUDINAL AND CORRELATED DATA

Subject Number: 505-943
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia

Subject Coordinator: Prof Andrew Forbes, Monash University and Prof John Carlin, University of Melbourne (8344 0733/8344 9339)

Mode of Delivery: Distance

Time Commitment: 8–12 hours total study time per week

Semester: 1

Prerequisites: 505-106 Epidemiology (EPI) 505-105 Mathematics Background for Biostatistics (MBB) 505-107 Principles of Statistical Inference (PSI) 505-940 Linear Models (LMR) 505-941 Categorical Data and GLMs (CDA) 505-975 Probability and Distribution Theory (PDT)

Description: Topics covered: Paired data; the effect of non-independence on comparisons within and between clusters of observations; methods for continuous outcomes: normal mixed effects (hierarchical or multilevel) models and generalised estimating equations (GEE); role and limitations of repeated measures ANOVA; methods for discrete data: GEE and generalised linear mixed models (GLMM); methods for count data.

Subject Objectives: To enable students to apply appropriate methods to the analysis of data arising from longitudinal (repeated measures) epidemiological or clinical studies, and from studies with other forms of clustering (cluster sample surveys, cluster randomised trials, family studies) that will produce non-exchangeable outcomes.

Assessment: Two written assignments to be submitted during semester worth 40% each (approx 12 hours work each)
Four practical exercises due throughout the semester worth 5% each (approx 6 hrs work each)

Prescribed Texts: None

Recommended Text:

Resources Provided to Students: Printed course notes and assignment material by mail, email, and online interaction facilities.

Special Computer Requirements: Stata and SAS statistical software

Comments: This subject is not available in the Master of Public Health.

MATHEMATICS BACKGROUND FOR BIOSTATISTICS

Subject Number: 505-105
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia

Subject Coordinator: Dr Keith Dear, Australian National University (02 6125 4865) & Assoc Prof Julian Leslie, Macquarie University (02 9850 8593)

Mode of Delivery: Distance

Time Commitment: 8–12 hours total study time per week

Semester: 1 or 2

Prerequisites: None
MEDICINE AND CULTURE

(Formerly known as Disease and Culture)

Subject Number: 136-528
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Dept of History and Philosophy of Science
Subject Coordinator: Dr James Bradley 8344
Mode of Delivery: Classroom
Contact Hours: One 2-hour lecture per week
Semester: 2

**Description:**
Over the ages, people have deployed various methods – metaphysical, magical or the pure empirical – to combat the ravages of disease. Bloodletting, cupping, leaching, doses of highly poisonous chemicals, blisters, copious draughts of mineral water, hypnotism and much more besides, have been used to intervene in the course of disease. But what was the relationship between different models of the body and its ailments, and the therapeutic methods that medical practitioners have used to combat illness? "Medicine, Biology and Culture" will take a "therapeutic perspective" to answer this question. Our focus will be upon four different themes: plural medicines, the relationship between different models of the body and its ailments, and the therapeutic methods that medical practitioners have used to combat illness; medicine; the evolution of the hospital, the contest between lay and professional practitioners, dissection and the birth of the clinic, the discovery of the germ and the rise of the laboratory.

**Generic Skills:**
- students will develop skills in:
  - comprehension of the subtle interplay between science and medicine, and culture and society
  - development of analytical and communication skills;
  - ability to conduct independent research, using primary and secondary source to mount an effective argument;

**Assessment:**
- A 1500 word seminar diary 30% (due at the end of semester),
- a 500 word essay proposal and plan 10% (due mid-semester),
- a 3000 word research essay 50% (due at the end of semester) and class participation 10%. A hurdle requirement of 80 per cent attendance of seminars required.

**Prescribed Texts:**
- None

**Comments:**
This is a core subject in the Graduate Diploma in Social Health (History).

**MEdICINE: FROM MAGIC TO MICROBES**

Subject Number: 136-039
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Dept of History and Philosophy of Science
Subject Coordinator: Prof Janet McCalman 8344 0053
Mode of Delivery: Classroom
Contact Hours: Two 1-hour lectures and one 1-hour tutorial per week.

**Time Commitment:**
In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 6 hours per week.

**Semester:**
1

**Timetable and Venue Information:**
See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl

**Prescribed Texts:**

**Comments:**
This subject is a Group 2 elective in the Master of Public Health.
METHODS FOR EVALUATING HEALTH SERVICES 1

Subject Number: 505-511  
Credit Points: 12.5  
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Health Policy, Programs and Economics  
Subject Coordinator: Dr Margaret Kelaher (8344 0468)  
Mode of Delivery: Classroom and Distance  
Contact Hours: One 2-hour lecture per week (Classroom).  

Time Commitment:  
Classroom: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 6–8 hours per week.  
Distance: Approximately 120 hours per semester. This time includes working through the session, completing session activities, reading key references, participating in the Forum(s) or tele-tutorial, communicating with your tutor and other students, completing assessment: tasks and the assignment.  

Semester: 2  
Day/Time: Mondays, 2.15–4.15pm  
Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl  
Prerequisites: None, though completion of 505-509 Health Program Evaluation 1 is desirable  
Description: This subject is a how-to guide for conducting health services research and health program evaluation. Students will be asked to undertake in-depth studies in quantitative and qualitative methodologies, the use and limitations of experimental, quasi-experimental and naturalistic research designs. Students will also be introduced to the theory of measurement in public health programs, data collection methods and the critical appraisal of evidence. Hands on analysis of small datasets will provide an introduction to computer software techniques.  

Subject Objectives:  
On completion of this subject, students will be able to:  
→ plan a study;  
→ determine an appropriate sample strategy;  
→ determine an appropriate sample size;  
→ apply principles of measurement to select appropriate instruments and indicators;  
→ collect, manage and analyse quantitative data;  
→ collect, manage and analyse qualitative data;  
→ report and synthesise data to answer health services research and health program evaluation questions; and  
→ apply these skills independently in a range of contexts.  
Assessment: 3 assessment exercises (10% each); Critical appraisal of a health service research project of 1,000-words (20%), and a major assignment of 3,000-words due at end of semester (50%).  
Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.  

Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 72–96 hours in this subject.  
Semester: 1 & 2 or 2 & 1  
Prerequisites: None  
Description: A thesis of 12,000 to 15,000 words will be completed under appropriate academic supervision.  
Assessment: A thesis of 12,000 to 15,000 words on an approved topic (100%).  
Comments: This subject is not available in the Master of Public Health.  

MINOR THESIS (MASTER OF EPIDEMIOLOGY)

Subject Number: 505-931  
Credit Points: 50  
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic & Analytic Epidemiology  
Subject Coordinator: Dr Mark Jenkins (8344 0902)  
Mode of Delivery: Supervised Project  
Contact Hours/Time Commitment: Regular meetings with supervisor(s), one hour weekly or fortnightly. Total time commitment is expected to average 20 hours per week.  
Semester: 1 & 2 or 2 & 1  
Prerequisites: Students must have passed any of the following subjects that may be relevant to their project: Observational Epidemiology, Clinical Epidemiology and EBM, Intermediate Biostatistics, Multivariate Biostatistics, Genetic Epidemiology, Molecular Epidemiology, Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Data Management in Clinical Studies, Databases Systems in Epidemiological Studies.  
Description: To develop a question in Epidemiology which can be answered through the scientific method and to attempt to answer the question by a critical review of the published and published literature, the development of a protocol and the collection and analysis of data.  

Subject Objectives:  
On completion of this subject, students will have:  
→ developed a range of skills and an understanding of research methods to an advanced level.  
→ formulated a hypothesis,  
→ conducted a critical appraisal of the literature,  
→ designed a study, collect data, analyse the data, and interpret and summarise their findings.  
→ selected and justified an issue or problem of public health importance;  
→ completed a critical review and evaluation of the published literature and grasped the problems of methodology and analysis;  
→ selected and described an appropriate sample and methods for selecting a sample;  
→ selected and described an appropriate research design;  
→ selected and justified appropriate methods for data analysis;  
→ sought and obtained ethics approval;  
→ demonstrated skill in using appropriate methods to collect and analyse a set of public health data;  
→ demonstrated skill in interpreting the analysis of the data in such a way that has relevance for public health policy or practice; demonstrated skill in writing up the results in the form of a research project and oral presentation/answering questions.  
Assessment: A 15-minute verbal presentation (5%); a final 15-minute presentation (15%); a written submission, suitable for publication between 10,000–15,000 words to be assessed by an external examiner (80%). Students must pass the written research report assessment, and must receive a combined score for the research report and the presentations of a least 50% in order to pass this subject.  

MINOR THESIS IN SOCIAL HEALTH

Subject Number: 505-920  
Credit Points: 37.5  
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Health and Society  
Subject Coordinator: Assoc Prof Marily Guelmin (8344 0827)  
Mode of Delivery: Supervised Project  
Contact Hours: 24 contact hours per semester

Remark: The content seems to be a list of subjects and their details, providing information about prerequisites, contact hours, time commitment, and assessment methods. The subjects include methods for evaluating health services, minor thesis (master of epidemiology), and minor thesis in social health.
POLICY PROCESSES IN ABORIGINAL HEALTH

Subject Number: 505-436 (PGDip) 505-536 (Masters)
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Health and Society
Subject Coordinator: Dr Bill Genat (8344 9375)
Mode of Delivery: Intensive
Contact Hours: One 2-hour Orientation session plus 2 x 2 day intensives (6hrs per day).
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 2–3 hours of study for each hour of contact.
Semester: 1
Subject Dates/Times: 2nd March, 8 & 9 April, 9am-4.00pm
Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl
Prerequisites: None
Description: This subject reviews the historical, social, economic and cultural factors influencing structures and practices central to the policy process in Aboriginal health. Students explore the context of the policy process at macro, meso and micro levels in terms of current evidence concerning health status, key health demographics, social determinants of Aboriginal health, models of health and illness, funding approaches and equity questions. They examine federal, state and local jurisdictions in Aboriginal health policy, capacity issues and enablers and barriers to policy implementation. The subject covers governance in Aboriginal health, participation, conceptual models of health and illness, social justice questions and policy approaches such as community control, partnership, shared responsibility, whole-of-government and self-determination. The content is brought into focus through specific analysis of particular Aboriginal health policies and consideration of the practice implications for socially aware, self-reflective health professionals.

Subject Objectives:
PGDip (400 Level):
→ Understand the origins and evidence base of Aboriginal health policy and associated policy-making and funding structures.
→ Comprehend Aboriginal health policy documents, their related theoretical assumptions and their program and practice implications.
→ Reflect on the practice implications for an ethical public health practitioner of engaging with Aboriginal health structures and policy processes.
→ Demonstrate the capacity to identify and articulate the key issues in Aboriginal health policy formation, their implications and remaining outstanding questions.
Masters (500 Level):
→ Critically analyse the origins and evidence base of Aboriginal health policy and associated policy-making and funding structures.
→ Critically analyse Aboriginal health policy documents, their explicit and implicit theoretical assumptions and evaluate their program and practice implications.
→ Critically reflect on the practice implications of particular scenarios in Aboriginal health policy processes for an ethical public health professional and justify particular solutions.
→ Demonstrate the capacity to apply key theoretical concepts to a critical analysis of issues in Aboriginal health policy formation and identify their practical implications.
→ Generate and articulate standpoints on Aboriginal health policy founded on sound ethical and theoretical arguments and an understanding of key institutions and systems.

Assessment:
PGDip (400 Level):
Case study: 15 minute oral presentation with accompanying PowerPoint notes and 500 word briefing paper due mid semester (40%). Essay totalling 2, 500 words due end of semester (60%).
Masters (500 Level):
Case study: 15 minute oral presentation with accompanying PowerPoint notes and 500 word briefing paper due mid semester (40%). Essay totalling 3, 500 words due end of semester (60%).
Prescribed Texts: A set of recommended readings will be available for purchase.
Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health

PRESENTING ACADEMIC DISCOURSE

Subject Number: 175-501
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Dept of Linguistics and Applied Linguistics
Subject Coordinator: Dr Neomy Storch (8344 5208/8344 4366)
Mode of Delivery: Classroom
Contact Hours: Two 1.5-hour lectures per week
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 1 hour of study for each hour of contact.
Semester: 1 or 2
Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl
Prerequisites: None
Description: This subject aims to develop the advanced language and research skills required for successful postgraduate study in English. In this subject students will develop effective research skills, critical reading and writing, the ability to plan and present confidently on a research topic, and the ability to write a literature review fluently and accurately. Particular attention is paid to grammatical and stylistic aspects of written and spoken academic discourse. Students write and present on a research topic that is relevant to their field of study.

Generic Skills:
→ be able to critically read a range of academic texts;
→ be able to summarise and paraphrase and synthesise information from a variety of sources;
→ be able to acknowledge information sources appropriately;
→ be able to write a grammatically accurate and cohesive literature review;
→ be able to deliver a seminar presentation using appropriate visual aids;
→ be able to direct discussions and respond appropriately to questions from the audience;
→ be able to participate effectively in group work;
→ be able to develop the ability to self and peer review written and oral work.

Assessment:
Assessment is based on three written assignments (65% in total), a 10-minute formal seminar presentation (30%), and participation in class exercises (5%). The written assignments include: a 300–500 word summary of a text, a 1000 word critical review of a text, and a literature review of approximately 3000 words.
Prescribed Texts: A small Reading Package is sold at the University Bookshop
Comments: This subject is a Group 2 elective in the Master of Public Health. Recommended only for overseas-born students of non-English speaking background
PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (JAMKHED, INDIA)

Subject Number: 505-963
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Nossal Institute for Global Health
Subject Coordinator: Dr Alison Morgan (8344 9138/8344 0914)
Mode of Delivery: Block
Contact Hours: This subject is delivered in partnership with the Comprehensive Rural Health Project (CRHP), Jamkhed, Maharashtra, India. It is a 3-week residential course in India that includes lectures, small group activities and field trips (approximately 80+ contact hours).
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 30 hours in private study for this subject.
Semester: Semester 2, 2009 or Summer, 2010
Subject Dates:
Semester 2: 15 November – 5 December 2009
Summer 2010: 3–23 January 2010 (to be confirmed)
Prerequisites/Exclusions: None, although students who have already completed 505-957 Primary Health Care in Developing World should not enrol in this subject.
Description: This subject will provide students with the opportunity to learn about primary health care within the context of a primary health program in a low income setting in India. Students will learn about the principles of health policy development and program management of communities in developing countries. An overview of the history, principles and practice of primary health care in developing countries, as well as the key elements and practical applications of project design, implementation and evaluation will be provided. Students will have opportunities to observe a world-renowned primary health care program including field visits with village health workers, learning with men’s and women’s groups and observation of village health worker training.
Subject Objectives:
At the end of this subject the student will be able to:
→ Outline the principles of community based primary health care;
→ Describe the principles of working with communities to identify and address health needs;
→ Describe the steps required to undertake a multisectoral approach to meeting a community’s identified health problem;
→ Outline the steps required for the selection, training and support of village health workers;
→ Construct a monitoring and evaluation framework for a PHC project.
Assessment: Participation forms 20% of the overall mark, and students will be required to develop and present a project proposal to address a particular health setting during their time at Jamkhed. In addition:
→ a written 1000 word reflection completed while at Jamkhed, that addresses an aspect of CRHP’s program (20%) and
→ an individual assessment task, either an essay or small project proposal, of 3,000-words (60%).
Prescribed Texts: A set of resources will be provided.
Special Note: This is a quota subject with limited places available. Students must contact the Subject Coordinator (Dr Alison Morgan) directly for approval to enrol. Students are responsible for the cost of airfares, visas and insurance and to pay The Nossal Institute, prior to travel, the additional costs of field trips, accommodation and food at Jamkhed (contact Ms Joni Law for details: jycl@unimelb.edu.au or tel 8344 0914).
Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Note: This is a quota subject and places are extremely limited
Subject Number: 505-957
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health
Subject Coordinator: Dr Chris Morgan (9282 2110)
Mode of Delivery: Partial Block (Sem 1) or Block (Sem 2)
Contact Hours: Minimum of 26 hours.
Partial Block: 6 x 4 hour Tuesday sessions (2–6pm), plus 2 x 7hrs Saturdays (9am–5pm)
Block: 17–21 August 2009 (5 days; 9am–5pm)
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 80 hours in non-contact study for this subject.
Semester: 1 (partial block mode) or 2 (block mode)
Timetable and Venue Information: Please contact the Macfarlane Burnet Institute on 9282 2274 for dates and times.
Prerequisites/Exclusions: None, although students doing 505-963 Primary Health Care (Jamkhed, India) should not enrol in this subject.
Description: This subject will cover the principles and practice of primary health care (PHC) in resource-poor settings, including: history, principles and key elements of PHC developmental contexts, community health workers and local health systems, PHC approaches to disease control, trends in international development for health, global agencies in health, and current demographic and epidemiological trends affecting PHC. A field visit to PHC sites in Melbourne is included.
Subject Objectives:
On completing this subject, students should be able to:
→ Be familiar with the history, principles and elements of primary health care (PHC) in developing countries;
→ Identify causes of poor community health in developing countries;
→ Outline a range of models for making health care accessible to different sectors of the community, the approaches taken to manage health services at all levels, and how PHC is adaptable to different settings;
→ Analyse a PHC management system and evaluate its likely effectiveness in coordinating health services.
Assessment: Open book short answer examination (30%) and a 3,000–4,000-word essay (70%)
Prescribed Texts: A book of readings will be provided
Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Subject Number: 505-111
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Deakin University
Subject Coordinator: Dr Emma Miller (9244 6136)
Mode of Delivery: Classroom
Contact Hours: One 1-hour lecture and one 1-hour tutorial per week.
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least six hours of private study per week.
Semester: 1
Crossroads
Australia: The Organized Effort

Prerequisites: None

Description: This unit provides students with an integrated overview of the ways in which different theories and disciplinary perspectives have informed public health principles and practices both in the past and present. The unit provides the foundations for a contextual understanding of the specific methods of public health research, policy development and program planning and implementation. Principles and Practice of Public Health is a "glue" unit for the study of public health, drawing linkages between areas that may at first sight appear quite disparate.

Subject Objectives:
At the completion of this unit, you should be able to:

→ Discuss the historical underpinnings of contemporary public health theory and how these events have shaped current theory and practice of public health;

→ Understand how political movements and events have shaped public health including human rights, imperialism, wars, famines and the development of global health organisations;

→ Describe the diversity of public health, its sources of knowledge, policies and regulations;

→ Identify the key influences of different disciplinary perspectives on public health theory and practice.

Assessment: Two 1,000-word minor assignments (20% each) one 3,000-word major assignment (60%)

Prescribed Texts:

Comments: This subject is a Master of Public Health Consortium subject.

PRINCIPLES OF QUALITATIVE RESEARCH DESIGN

Subject Number: 505-921
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Health and Society
Subject Coordinators: Assoc Prof Marilys Guillemin & Assoc Prof Lynn Gillam (8344 0827 /8344 0831)
Mode of Delivery: Classroom intensive
Quota: 25
Contact Hours: 6-day intensive (9.00am–5.00pm).
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 3 hours of study for each hour of contact.
Semester: Summer
Subject Dates: 11, 12, 13, 25, 26 & 27 February, 2009
Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl
Prerequisites: None

Description: This subject will give students an understanding of the principles underlying good qualitative research. The topics covered will be relevant for students interested in qualitative research specifically, and for health research students who want to learn about qualitative research in order to combine qualitative with quantitative research. The first part of this subject will concentrate on qualitative research design and process. These sessions will provide both theoretical background and practical advice for doing qualitative research. The second part will discuss ethics in research. Areas to be covered will include the rationale for formal ethical review of research involving humans and details of the ethics committee process, as well as more general discussion of basic ethical principles in research, and issues particularly relevant to qualitative and document-based research. The subject will draw on different social science disciplines to highlight different disciplinary approaches to designing and formulating research projects.

Subject Objectives:
After the completion of this subject students will:

→ understand the principles and processes of qualitative research design
→ be able to identify research issues and formulate qualitative research questions
→ have a capacity to design and conduct qualitative research at a postgraduate level
→ have developed a respect and understanding for the ethics of scholarship
→ have developed an understanding of the different kinds of ethical issues involved in doing research with human subjects
→ be familiar with the formal process of ethical review of research
→ be able to complete a human research ethics application form
→ have developed problem-solving abilities in the conduct of research

Generic Skills:
On completion of this subject, students should be able to:

→ critically review literature;
→ have developed abilities in problem-solving in relation to qualitative research design;
→ critically review a human research ethics application;
→ complete a human research ethics application;
→ plan and design a qualitative research study;
→ identify the key methodological and ethical aspects of good qualitative research design.

Assessment: Completion of a structured written assignment related to human research ethics up to a maximum of 2,500 words (50%) due mid semester
Essay up to a maximum of 2,500 words (50%) due at the end of the semester.


Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

PRINCIPLES OF STATISTICAL INFERENCE

Subject Number: 505-107
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia
Subject Coordinators:
Semester 1: Ms Adrienne Kirby, University of Sydney
Semester 2: Dr Patrick Kelly, University of Sydney

Mode of Delivery: Distance
Time Commitment: 8–12 hours total study time per week
Semester: 1 or 2

Prerequisites:
505-105 Mathematics Background for Biostatistics (MBB)
505-975 Probability and Distribution Theory (PDT)

Description: Review of the key concepts of estimation, and construction of Normal-theory confidence intervals; frequentist theory of estimation including hypothesis tests; methods of inference based on likelihood theory, including use of Fisher and observed information and likelihood ratio; Wald and score tests; an introduction to the Bayesian approach to inference; an introduction to distribution-free statistical methods.
Objectives: To provide a strong mathematical and conceptual foundation in the methods of statistical inference, with an emphasis on practical aspects of the interpretation and communication of statistically based conclusions in health research.

Generic Skills: Independent problem solving, facility with abstract reasoning, clarity of written expression, sound communication of technical concepts

Assessment: Two written assignments to be submitted during semester worth 35% each (approx 6 hrs work each). Submission of selected practical exercises throughout the semester worth 10% each (approx 6 hrs work each).

Recommended Texts:

Special Computer Requirements: SAS or Stata Statistical Software

Resources Provided to Students: Printed course notes and assignment material by mail, email, and online interaction facilities.

Comments: This subject is not available in the Master of Public Health.

PROBABILITY AND DISTRIBUTION THEORY (PDT)

Subject Number: 505-975
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia
Subject Coordinators: Dr Rory Wolfe, Dept of Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine, Monash University (03 9903 0594)
Mode of Delivery: Distance
Contact Hours: 8–12 hours total study time per week
Semester: 1 or 2
Prerequisites: 505-105 Mathematics Background for Biostatistics (MBB)

Description: This subject begins with the study of probability, random variables, discrete and continuous distributions, and the use of calculus to obtain expressions for parameters of these distributions such as the mean and variance. Joint distributions for multiple random variables are introduced together with the important concepts of independence, correlation and covariance, and marginal and conditional distributions. Techniques for determining distributions of transformations of random variables are discussed. The concept of the sampling distribution and standard error of an estimator of a parameter is presented, together with key properties of estimators. Large sample results concerning the properties of estimators are presented with emphasis on the central role of the normal distribution in these results. General approaches to obtaining estimators of parameters are introduced. Numerical simulation and graphing with Stata is used throughout to demonstrate key concepts.

Objectives: This subject will focus on applying the calculus-based techniques learned in 505-105 Mathematical Background for Biostatistics (MBB). These two subjects, together with the subsequent 505-107 Principles of Statistical Inference (PSI) unit, provide the core prerequisite mathematical statistics background required for the study of later units in the Postgraduate Diploma or Masters degree.

Generic Skills: Independent problem solving, facility with abstract reasoning, clarity of written expression, sound communication of technical concepts

Assessment: Two written assignments to be submitted during semester worth 40% each (approx 12 hours work each). Four practical written exercises to be submitted during semester worth 5% each (approx 6 hrs work each).

Prescribed Texts:

Special Computer Requirements: Stata Statistical Software

Resources Provided to Students: Printed course notes and assignment material by mail, email, and online interaction facilities.

Comments: This subject is not available in the Master of Public Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERSHIP

Subject Number: 509-003
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Nossal Institute for Global Health
Subject Coordinator: Professor Rob Moodie (8344 2626)
Mode of Delivery: Block
Quota: 30
Contact Hours: 30 hours over 5 days
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 3–4 hours of study for each hour of contact.
Semester: Mid semester
Subject Dates: 29 June – 3 July (9am–5 pm)
Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl
Prerequisites: None

Description: This subject introduces students to the real world of public health. It provides an understanding of the world in which health/ill health is created; an understanding of how power works, how decisions are made and how resources are allocated; an understanding of the organisation you work in and basically an understanding of yourself as a leader.

It covers the changing social, economic, commercial, cultural and political determinants that influence health and ill health. It examines the political, bureaucratic, business, media and community power and processes at international, national, and local levels.

In examining your/your organisation it looks at power structures, people of influence, the characteristics of good leaders and the fundamentals of leading and managing a team. Finally, it looks at the elements that are important for successful living, an integral part of successful leadership.

Senior political, bureaucratic, business and public health leaders will be invited to present on this subject.

Subject Objectives:

On completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Describe the emerging determinants of ill health
2. Analyse the health implications of power and influence
3. Develop a strategy to put a public health issue onto the political/community agenda
4. Define the key characteristics of successful leaders and
5. Map pathways they can follow to become successful leaders in public health
6. Reflect and develop a greater understanding of their own purposes and mechanisms they can use to lead successful lives, not only be successful leaders

Generic Skills:

By participating in this subject, students will develop the following generic skills:

1. Evaluation of personal values and their impact on work practice
2. Synthesising material and presenting it in written form
3. Critical thinking skills to analyse organisational cultures and practices

www.sph.unimelb.edu.au
RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIAL HEALTH

Subject Number: 505-922
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Health and Society
Subject Coordinators: Assoc Prof Marilyse Guillemot & Assoc Prof Lynn Gillam (8344 0827 /8344 0831)
Mode of Delivery: Block

Contact Hours: Five one-day sessions across semester, including a one-day workshop where students present and gain feedback on their research proposal.

Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 3 hours of study for each hour of contact.

Semester: 1

Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl

Co-requisite: 505-921 Principles of Qualitative Research Design

Description: This subject provides training in research methods for qualitative and literature-based social and ethical research. A core component of this subject is training in analytic thinking and in the development of a research proposal. Students will also have the opportunity to gain training in empirical social research methods, such as in-depth interviews and focus groups. Students will be expected to participate in exercises designed to enhance skills and techniques. They will also be expected to participate in the analysis and criticism of each other’s research proposal, providing feedback in the refinement of the research design.

Subject Objectives:
On completion of this subject, students should:
→ Have relevant training in social health research methods
→ Be able to critically evaluate the relationship between research design and research methods;
→ Be able to solve problems in research practice;
→ Be able to develop a detailed proposal for their research topic.

Generic Skills:
On completion of this subject, students should have:
→ Developed relevant social research methods skills
→ Refined analytic skills needed to plan and critically evaluate a research proposal
→ Developed the ability to plan their own research work
→ Developed strategies for dealing with problems that arise in the planning and conduct of research

Assessment: Completion of two research methods exercises of up to 1500 words in total, due mid-semester (15% each) and completion of a detailed research proposal up to 3500 words due at the end of semester (70%).

Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

RESEARCH PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Subject Number: 505-948 (Masters)
Credit Points: 12.5 points
Teaching Centre or Unit: Key Centre for Women's Health in Society
Subject Coordinator: TBA
Mode of Delivery: Classroom
Contact Hours: One 2-hour lecture per week.
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 3 hours of study for each hour of contact.
Semester: 1
Day/Time: Mondays, 8.30–10.30am
Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl
Prerequisites: None
Description: Students will be introduced to the requirements for an acceptable research proposal and an application for ethics approval. They will work through the essential elements of a research proposal as relevant to their own project, including: development of research questions/hypothesis; ethical issues in research; a critical review of relevant literature; choice of appropriate study design and associated methodology; and development of realistic time lines for completion of the project.
Subject Objectives: Students who successfully complete this subject should have:
- carried out a critical review of the literature in a chosen topic;
- prepared a research protocol for a proposed research project;
- formally presented the research proposal orally to staff and other students; and
- prepared an application seeking ethics approval for the proposal.
Generic Skills: On completion of the subject students will:
- skills in collection, evaluation and interpretation of data
- skills to operationalise a research question
- effective written and oral communication skills
Assessment: Critical review of literature (due mid semester) 2000 words (40%), Ethics Application (due end of semester) 2000 words (40%) and Oral Presentation (20 mins) scheduled during semester (20%).
Prescribed Texts: Selected readings will be available.
Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health or a core subject in the Women's health specialisation of the Master of Public Health.

RESEARCH PROJECT IN EPIDEMIOLOGY/BIOSTATISTICS

Subject Number: 505-925
Credit Points: 25
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic & Analytic Epidemiology
Subject Coordinator: Dr Mark Jenkins (8344 0902)
Mode of Delivery: Supervised Project
Contact Hours/Time Commitment: Regular meetings with supervisor, one hour weekly or fortnightly. Total time commitment is expected to average 10 hours per week.
Semester: 1 & 2 or 2 & 1
Prerequisites: Students must have either passed or be concurrently enrolled in the core subjects for the M Epi.
Description: To develop a question in Epidemiology which can be answered through the scientific method and to attempt to answer the question whether by a critical review of the published and unpublished literature, by a meta-analysis of the published and unpublished literature, or by the analysis of an existing data set, or by the development of a protocol.
Subject Objectives: Following the completion of this subject, students will have developed a range of skills and a sound understanding of research methods that will enable them to: critically appraise the research literature relevant to their proposal; formulate a research question; provide a rationale for the choice of research question, the research design and analytic methods; summarise, analyse and interpret research findings; present their research as formal oral presentations; and write up their research as a research report &or as a journal manuscript.
Assessment: A 15-minute verbal presentation (10%); a final 15-minute presentation (20%); a written submission, suitable for publication of between 5,000–8,000 words (70%). Students must pass the written research report assessment and must receive a combined score for the research report and the presentations of at least 50% in order to pass this subject.
Comments: This subject is not available in the Master of Public Health.

RESEARCH PROJECT (MASTER OF EPIDEMIOLOGY)

Subject Number: 505-930
Credit Points: 25
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic & Analytic Epidemiology
Subject Coordinator: Dr Mark Jenkins (8344 0902)
Mode of Delivery: Supervised Project
Contact Hours/Time Commitment: Regular meetings with supervisor/s, one hour weekly or fortnightly. Total time commitment is expected to average 10 hours per week.
Semester: 1 & 2 or 2 & 1
Prerequisites: Students must have either passed or be concurrently enrolled in the core subjects for the M Epi.
Description: To develop a question in Epidemiology which can be answered through the scientific method and to attempt to answer the question whether by a critical review of the published and unpublished literature, by a meta-analysis of the published and unpublished literature, or by the analysis of an existing data set, or by the development of a protocol.
Subject Objectives: Following the completion of this subject, students will have developed a range of skills and a sound understanding of research methods that will enable them to: critically appraise the research literature relevant to their proposal; formulate a research question; provide a rationale for the choice of research question, the research design and analytic methods; summarise, analyse and interpret research findings; present their research as formal oral presentations; and write up their research as a research report &or as a journal manuscript.
Assessment: A 15-minute verbal presentation (10%); a final 15-minute presentation (20%); a written submission, suitable for publication of between 5,000–8,000 words (70%). Students
must receive a combined score for the research report and the presentations of at least 50% in order to pass this subject.

Comments: This subject is a Master of Public Health Research Project.

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**RESEARCH PROJECT IN HEALTH ECONOMICS**

**Subject Number:** 505-906  
**Credit Points:** 25  
**Teaching Centre or Unit:** Centre for Health Policy, Programs and Economics  
**Subject Coordinator:** Dr Arthur Hsueh & Mr Steve Crowley  
(8344 0649/0712/0710)  
**Mode of Delivery:** Supervised Project – on campus/distance

**Contact Hours/Time Commitment:** Regular meetings with supervisor, one hour weekly or fortnightly. Total time commitment is expected to average 10 hours per week.

**Semester:** 1 & 2 or 2 & 1  
**Prerequisites:**  
505-907 Economic Evaluation I  
505-908 Health Economics 1.  

**Description:** To develop a research question in Health Economics/Economic Evaluation and to adopt appropriate research methods to answer this question. The research report will normally include one or a number of the following components: critical appraisal of the literature and/or developing an evaluation protocol and/or applied analysis.

**Subject Objectives:**  
To apply the content knowledge and analytical methods of the subjects in health economics and/or economic evaluation to a case study of the students’ interest in relation of public health or health care system or health care policy  
To demonstrate that the student has an in-depth understanding of economic concepts and methods taught in the course and how they would be applied to a real world public health or health care system or health care policy related problem  
Alternatively, a student may choose a more theoretical topic and discuss the current methodological and practical issues (eg utility assessment, willingness-to-pay) relating to topics of interferes in public health or health care system or health care policy related problem  
Assessment: A 15 minute work-in-progress seminar (10%); a final 30 minute presentation seminar (20%); a written submission, suitable for publication, of between 6,000–10,000 words, (70%). Students must pass the written research report assessment and must receive a combined score for the research report and the presentations of at least 50% in order to pass this subject.

**Special Computer Requirements:** Distance students will be expected to communicate with tutors through an e-mail facility.

**Comments:** This subject is a Master of Public Health Research Project.

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**RESEARCH PROJECT IN INTERNATIONAL HEALTH**

**Subject Number:** 505-903  
**Credit Points:** 25  
**Teaching Centre or Unit:** Nossal Institute for Global Health  
**Subject Coordinator:** Dr Owen Lewis (8344 9012)  
**Mode of Delivery:** Supervised Project  
**Quota:** 20 (Sem 1) 10 (Sem 2)  
**Contact Hours/Time Commitment:** Regular meetings with supervisor. International Health research report tutorials (2 hours per month). Total time commitment is expected to average 8–10 hours per week.

**Semester:** 1 & 2 or 2 & 1  
**Prerequisites:** None. This is normally the last subject undertaken in the Master of Public Health.

**Description:** To develop and address a research question in an area of International Public Health which can be answered by a critical review of the published and unpublished literature, by the analysis of an existing data set or the development of a research protocol. Supervisors will be health professionals in active practice in international public health.

**Subject Objectives:** To provide the student with the skills to demonstrate her/his ability to integrate and apply international health research principles and practice to a specific health issue or question.

**Assessment:** Initial 15-minute verbal presentation (10%); final 15-minute presentation (20%); written report, of between 5,000–10,000 words (70%). Students must pass the written report assessment and must receive a combined score for the
research report and the presentations of at least 50% in order to pass the subject.

Prescribed Texts: n/a

Comments: This subject is a Master of Public Health Research Project.

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**RESEARCH PROJECT IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE**

Subject Number: 585-600  
Credit Points: 25  
Teaching Centre or Unit: Dept of General Practice  
Subject Coordinator: Assoc Prof Kelsey Hegarty (8344 4538)  
Mode of Delivery: Supervised Project  
Contact Hours/Time Commitment: Regular meetings with supervisor, one hour weekly or fortnightly. Total time commitment is expected to average 10 hours per week.  
Semester: 1 & 2 or 2 & 1  
Prerequisites: None. It is recommended that this be the last subject Undertaken in the Master of Public Health.  
Description: To develop and address a research question in an area of Primary Health Care which can be answered either by a critical review of the published and unpublished literature, or by the analysis of an existing data set or the development of a hypothesis and the subsequent collection and analysis of data. Supervisors will be University academic staff with research expertise in primary health care.  
Assessment: An initial 15-minute verbal presentation (10%), a final 30-minute presentation (20%), and a written submission, suitable for publication, of 5,000–10,000 words, to be assessed by an independent examiner (70%). Students must pass the written report assessment, and must receive a combined score for the research report and the presentations of at least 50% in order to pass.  
Comments: This subject is a Master of Public Health Research Project.

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**RESEARCH PROJECT IN SOCIAL HEALTH**

Subject Number: 505-919  
Credit Points: 25  
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Health and Society  
Subject Coordinator: Paul Stewart (8344 0808)  
Mode of Delivery: Supervised Research Project  
Contact Hours/Time Commitment: Regular meetings with supervisor, one hour weekly or fortnightly. Total time commitment is expected to average 10 hours per week.  
Semester: 1 & 2 or 2 & 1  
Prerequisites: None. It is recommended that this be the last subject Undertaken in the Master of Public Health.  
Description: The research project must be in the area of social health and the topic must be approved by the nominated supervisor. Under normal circumstances, the project will involve: a) a conceptual or theoretical analysis of a given topic in social health; or b) an analysis of existing data relevant to social health. Collection and analysis of primary data may be undertaken, but only with the specific approval of the subject co-ordinator, in consultation with the nominated supervisor. Supervisors will be University academic staff with research capacity and interest in social health. Normally, students will have completed their coursework requirements before being enrolled for this subject.  
Subject Objectives:  
After completion of the research project candidates will demonstrate their ability to:  
- Review the current and existing sexual health literature critically  
- Frame a research question and choose appropriate methods of investigation  
- Design, conduct and evaluate research in sexual health  
- Present their research in a written report of an appropriate academic standard  
- And communicate their research effectively and appropriately in oral form to an audience  
Students may also wish to develop their research for dissemination to a wider audience by the preparation, in consultation with their supervisor, of an article for publication in the peer reviewed literature.  
Generic Skills:  
Students will develop skills in:  
- Searching academic data bases and interpreting evidence  
- Critically appraising the literature  
- Oral and written communication in an academic environment  
- Designing, conducting and evaluating research  
Assessment: An initial 15 minute verbal presentation (10%), a final 30 minute presentation (20%) and a 5,000–8,000-word research report of a standard acceptable for publication to be assessed by an independent examiner 70%.  
Comments: This subject is a Master of Public Health Research Project.

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**RESEARCH PROJECT IN SEXUAL HEALTH**

Subject Number: 505-980  
Credit Points: 25  
Teaching Centre or Unit: Melbourne Sexual Health Centre  
Subject Coordinator: Dr Hennie Williams (9341 6249)  
Mode of Delivery: Supervised Project  
Contact Hours/Time Commitment: Supervised project over two semesters. Regular meetings with supervisor (1 hour fortnightly). Attendance at two presentations.  
Semester: 1 & 2 or 2 & 1  
Prerequisites: In addition to the core course requirements, students wishing to enrol in a project in this stream must have completed either:  
505-973 Study Design in Epidemiology  
505-921 Principles of Research Design  
AND one of  
505-531 Control of Sexually Transmissible Infections  
505-532 Sexually Transmissible Infections  
505-533 Sexual and Reproductive Health  
505-534 Clinical Sexual & Reproductive Health for Nurses  
Description: The Research Project must be in an area of relevance to sexual health and the topic approved by the student’s supervisor. The research project may include quantitative and/or qualitative research. It should include a literature review and may include secondary analysis of data.  
Subject Objectives:  
On completion of this subject, students should have demonstrated their ability to:  
- Complete a critical literature review at masters level  
- Frame a research question and choose appropriate methods of investigation  
- Design and conduct on stated research topic in social health  
- Complete analysis of a stated research topic in social health  
- Present their research in a written report of an appropriate academic standard  
- Communicate their research effectively and appropriately in oral form to an audience.
RESEARCH PROJECT IN WOMEN’S HEALTH

Subject Number: 505-947
Credit Points: 25 points
Teaching Centre or Unit: Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society
Subject Coordinator: TBA
Mode of Delivery: Supervised project over two semesters
Contact Hours/Time Commitment: Regular meetings with supervisor, one hour weekly or fortnightly. Total time commitment is expected to average 10 hours per week.
Semester: 1 & 2 or 2 & 1
Prerequisites: 505-948 Research Project Development

Description: The Research Project must be in an area of relevance to women’s health and the topic approved by the student’s supervisor. The research project may be a conceptual or theoretical analysis, and may include quantitative and/or qualitative research. It should include a literature review and may include secondary analysis of data. Normally, students complete their coursework requirements before being enrolled for supervision of their Research Project.

Subject Objectives:
After completion of the research Project candidates will demonstrate their ability to
- review critically the existing research literature in an area of Women’s Health
- frame a research question and choose appropriate methods of investigation
- demonstrate the development of advanced research methodology skills
- design, conduct and evaluate research in Women’s Health
- present their findings in a written Research Report
- communicate their findings in oral form

Students may wish to develop their research for dissemination to a wider audience by the preparation, in consultation with their supervisor, of an article for publication in the peer reviewed literature.

Generic Skills:
Students will demonstrate:
- highly developed skills in searching bibliographic data bases and synthesising evidence
- advanced skills in the critical appraisal of evidence
- advanced capacity to develop, sustain and interpret an academic argument
- highly developed problem solving skills
- highly developed oral and written communication skills

Assessment: 8000–10,000 word research report (70%); 15-minute work in progress oral presentation (10%); 30-minute final oral presentation (20%).

Prescribed Texts: None

Comments: This subject is the existing Research Project in Women’s Health in the Master of Public Health Women’s Health Specialisation.
SEXUAL FUNCTION AND DYSFUNCTION

Subject Number: 505-441 (PGCert), 505-541 (Masters)
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Melbourne Sexual Health Centre
Subject Coordinator: Dr Hennie Williams (9341 6249)
Mode of Delivery: Distance
Time Commitment: 8 hours per week
Semester: 1 or 2
Prerequisites: None

Description: This subject aims to provide detailed and current evidence-based information on diagnosing, treating, and caring for people experiencing sexual dysfunction. The subject will use two models as a framework for students to develop their knowledge and skills. These two models are the ‘Pisstt model’ and the ‘Depor model’. The topics covered will include the normal sexual response, anatomy and physiology, an overview of assessment and counselling, working with special groups, female desire problems, male desire problems, female arousal problems, male arousal problems and ED, female orgasm problems, male orgasm problems, genital pain syndromes and special medical conditions and relevant special needs e.g. HIV disease, diabetes, spinal cord problems and cardio-vascular disease.

Subject Objectives:
On completion of this subject students will:
→ Have gained a greater understanding and insight into human sexual behaviour, the sexual cycle, and sexual dysfunction.
→ Be able to evaluate a clinical sexual dysfunction problem and provide support, sensitivity and empathy for those experiencing sexual dysfunction.
→ Have the knowledge to advise on treatment options and outcomes and initiate treatments (if appropriate).

Generic Skills:
To enhance critical thinking skills;
→ To develop advanced written and oral communication skills;
→ To be able to incorporate evidence based information into clinical practice.

Assessment:
PGDip (400 level): 6 short answer questions totalling 1500 words due mid semester (50%) and written assignment of 2000 words due end of semester (50%).
Masters (500 level): 6 short answer questions totalling 1500 words due mid semester (50%) and written assignment due end of semester of 3000 words (50%)

Special Computer Requirements: Students are required to have access to a computer with e-mail application, Web browser and CD-ROM facility. Technical support is not available from the University of Melbourne in setting up such a system.

Special Computer Skills: Students will be expected to be proficient with a Web browser, e-mail application and word processing application prior to enrolment in this subject.

Prescribed Text:

Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health. This subject is an elective subject in the Postgraduate Certificate in Public Health (Sexual Health).

SEXUALLY TRANSMISSIBLE INFECTIONS

Subject Number: 505-432 (PGCert), 505-532 (Masters)
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Melbourne Sexual Health Centre
Subject Coordinator: Dr Hennie Williams (9341 6249)

Description:
This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health and a core subject in the PGrad Certificate in Public Health (Sexual Health).
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Subject Number: 505-109
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: La Trobe University
Subject Coordinator: Dr Bruce Rumbold (9479 1454/9285 5269)
Mode of Delivery: Classroom
Contact Hours: One 1-hour lecture and one 1-hour tutorial per week
Semester: 2
Day/Time: Wednesdays, 2.15–3.15pm (Lecture) 3.15–4.15pm (Tutorial)
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 8 hours of private study per week.
Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl
Prerequisites: None
Description: In this unit, students explore the multi-disciplinary partnerships between public health and the social science disciplines including sociology and anthropology with particular attention to the ways in which cultural beliefs and practices shape population risks for both infectious and non-infectious diseases and how social factors such as social status, ethnicity and gender impact on health inequalities. Thus this unit will provide students with a solid grounding in understanding the different ways in which the social sciences contribute to public health theory and practice.
Subject Objectives:
At the completion of this unit, you should be able to:
→ Describe the way key social science disciplines inform understandings of health
→ Describe social science influences on public health theory, method and practice
→ Explain how cultural and social factors shape population health and public health interventions
→ Critically appraise public health literature in terms of social and cultural content
Assessment: Unstructured Reflective Journal of 2,000 words (40%); Two 1,500-word projects (30% each)
Recommended Texts: A manual of readings will be distributed at the beginning of the course
Comments: This subject is a Master of Public Health Consortium subject

STATISTICS

Subject Number: 505-101
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic & Analytic Epidemiology
Subject Coordinator: Dr Julie Simpson (8344 0732)
Mode of Delivery: Classroom
Contact Hours: One 1-hour lecture and one 1-hour tutorial per week.
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 4–5 hours of study for each hour of contact.
Semester: 1
Day/Time: Wednesdays 2.15–3.15pm (Lecture) 3.15–4.15pm or 4.15–5.15pm (Tutorial)
Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl
Prerequisites: None
Description: This unit aims to introduce students to basic statistical concepts and methods.
Subject Objectives:
At the completion of the unit, students should be able to:
→ distinguish basic data types (binary, categorical, continuous) and summarise them appropriately using tables and graphs;
→ understand the concept of sampling variability and describe how simple statistical analyses of data from a sample can be used to draw inferences about population parameters;
→ calculate standard errors and confidence intervals for estimated means and proportions;
→ obtain p-values from tables and understand their role as measure of evidence;
→ distinguish between clinical relevance and statistical significance; and
→ appreciate the importance of statistical power and perform a sample size calculation.
Assessment: A multichoice and short answer 1 hour examination mid semester (25%), and a 2 hour short answer assignment (25%) and a final open book 2 hour examination at the end of semester (50%).
Comments: This subject is a Master of Public Health Consortium subject

STUDY DESIGN IN EPIDEMIOLOGY

Subject Number: 505-973
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic & Analytic Epidemiology
Subject Coordinator: Prof Dallas English (8344 0637/8344 0637)
Mode of Delivery: Block
Contact Hours: 5 days over semester weeks 8 to 12.
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to undertake additional study averaging 80 hours in total through to end of assessment.
Semester: 1
Subject Dates: Fri 8, Sat 9, Fri 15, Sat 16, Sat 30 May
Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl
Prerequisites: 505-969 Epidemiology & Analytic Methods I, or equivalent
505-970 Epidemiology & Analytic Methods II, or equivalent
505-104 Introductory Epidemiology and 505-101 Introductory Statistics
Description: This subject covers the main epidemiological study designs in detail. Methodological issues in study design will be illustrated using practical examples and critical appraisal. The following designs will be covered: trials, cohort studies, case-control studies, cross-sectional studies and ecological studies including selection of participants, measurement of exposure and outcome and overview of analytical techniques. Causal inference from epidemiological studies will also be covered.
Subject Objectives:
On completion of this subject, students are expected to:
→ Understand the design principles of randomised controlled trials, cluster randomised trials, cohort studies, case-control studies, cross-sectional studies and ecological studies
Understand the relative strengths and weaknesses of each design
Understand how appropriate design, conduct and analysis of studies can minimise the effects of selection bias, information bias, confounding and chance
Be able to identify the most appropriate study design to answer a specific research question
Be able to use published guidelines for the reporting of trials and observational studies
Be able to critique the design and analysis of published trials and observational studies
Know the importance of sample size in minimising the play of chance
Be able to calculate sample sizes for simple designs
Understand the factors that affect generalisability (external validity)

Generic Skills:
On completion of the subject, students are expected to:

- Have the critical thinking skills and sufficient understanding of epidemiological frameworks to recognise, describe and appraise research designs
- Have an advanced understanding of the language and terminology used in epidemiological research
- Develop skills in written communication including the description and appraisal of epidemiological study designs
- Have developed effective oral presentation skills
- Demonstrate the ability to plan and prioritise tasks set outside the contact period.
- Develop inter-professional, team working skills

Assessment: One 1500 word assignment due on the third contact day (25%), one assignment of up to 2,500 words (45%) due a few weeks after the teaching block and a 1.5 hour examination (30%) to be held in the University examination period.

Prescribed Texts: None
Recommended Texts:

Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health

SURVIVAL ANALYSIS AND REGRESSION FOR RATES

Subject Number: 505-972
Credit points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic & Analytic Epidemiology
Subject Coordinator: Dr Lyle Gurrin (8344 0731)
Mode of Delivery: Classroom
Contact Hours: One 4-hour lecture per week over the last 6 weeks of semester.
Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 2–3 hours of study for each hour of contact.
Day/Time: Thursdays, 1:15pm–5:15pm (wks 7–12)
Semester: 2

Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl

Prerequisites and/or Co-requisites
505-969 Epidemiology & Analytic Methods I or equivalent
505-970 Epidemiology & Analytic Methods II or equivalent
505-971 Linear and Logistic Regression

Description: This subject expands on Linear and Logistic Regression, introducing the use of rates and rate ratios and the analysis of censored time to event (survival) data. The focus is on methods for modelling the relationship between events measured over time, or censored time-to-event outcomes with a number of covariates, including Poisson regression and survival modelling using the proportional hazards model (Cox regression). Emphasis is on practical application and interpretation of results in the context of standard epidemiological study designs and particularly longitudinal studies. Further topics may include

Survival Analysis

Subject Number: 505-942
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia
Subject Coordinator: Dr Petra Graham, Macquarie University (02 9850-6138)
Mode of Delivery: Distance
Time Commitment: 8–12 hours total study time per week
Semester: 1
Prerequisites:
505-105 Mathematics Background for Biostatistics (MBB)
505-106 Epidemiology (EPI)
505-107 Principles of Statistical Inference (PSI)
505-975 Probability and Distribution Theory (PDT)
505-940 Linear Models (LMR)
the use of flexible regression models to represent non-linear relationships. Practical work will use the statistical package Stata.

**Subject Objectives:**
On completion of this subject, students are expected:

- To gain an understanding of generalised linear regression modeling of events over time and censored survival time data
- To gain familiarity with the topics of model building and prediction in the context of generalised linear models in epidemiology
- To develop a basic understanding of the role of regression modeling of rates and epidemiology, particularly in the context of longitudinal studies
- To learn practical skills in fitting and interpreting generalised linear regression models for count data over time (Poisson and Cox models) in the statistical computing package Stata
- To be introduced to the theory of generalised linear models

**Generic Skills:**
On completion of this subject, students are expected to:

- Develop applied analytic skills in using regression models of categorical data in Epidemiology
- Have the analytic frameworks to plan and carry out regression analyses on new or existing databases of longitudinal, survival or rate data
- Have the theoretical understanding and technical skills to read and appraise the research and professional literature in epidemiology and biostatistics where Poisson and Cox regression analyses have been used
- Acquire skills in written communication including the demonstrated ability to present statistical results in a format suitable for publication in health-related journals or professional reports
- Have the ability to plan and prioritise subject workload commitments

**Assessment:**
One 2,000 word written assignment on modelling rates using Poisson regression due mid-teaching period (30%). One 2,000 word written assignment on modelling time-to-event data using Cox regression due at the end of semester (40%). An end of semester examination (2 hours in length constituting 30% of the total assessment) to be held in the University examination period.

**Prescribed texts:**

**Special computer skills required:**
Students are expected to have experience using the Stata statistical package for multivariate analytic methods. Resources provided to distance students (applicable only to distance education subjects).

**Comments:**
This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health

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**WOMEN AND GLOBAL HEALTH**

*formerly known as Women’s Health in Asia and the Pacific*

**Subject Number:** 505-425 (PGDip) 505-525 (Masters)

**Credit Points:** 12.5

**Teaching Centre or Unit:** Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society

**Subject Coordinator:** Assoc Prof Jane Fisher (8344 0687/8344 0717)

**Mode of Delivery:** Classroom/Block

**Contact Hours:** 24 hours over 4 days (6 hours per day)

**Time Commitment:** In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 6 hours of study for each hour of contact.

**Semester:** 2

**Subject Dates:** 31 July, 7 & 14 Aug and 16 Oct

**Days/Time:** Fridays, 9.00am–4.30pm

**Timetable and Venue Information:** See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/schedule.pl

**Prerequisites:**
None

**Description:** Developing and newly-industrialised countries experience wide variation in terms of history, politics, demographic transition, development and epidemiology. This subject situates women and their health in a dynamic context of development, globalisation and change. It examines key health issues, primarily for women in the Region, but also in other international contexts, and explores factors which impact on health and illness through the lifespan. Gender and rights provide frameworks for analysis.

**Subject Objectives:**
On completion of this subject, students should be able to:

- Describe the context of women and their health in an international context
- Discuss key health issues for women in an international context
- Develop a gender framework for a country-specific intervention

**Generic Skills:**
On completion of this subject, students should be able to:

- Critical appraisal of evidence
- Well developed oral and written communication skills
- Well developed skills in searching bibliographic data bases and in synthesising evidence
- Ability to frame and sustain an argument
- Professional reports
- Format suitable for publication in health-related journals or professional reports

**Assessment:**

**PGDip (400 Level):**
- One in-class presentation of 20 mins (20%); written paper of 1000 words (30%), due mid-semester and one 2,000 word essay (50%) due at the end of the semester.

**Masters (500 Level):**
- One in-class presentation of 20 mins (20%); written paper of 1000 words (30%), due mid-semester and one 3,000 word essay (60%) due at the end of the semester.

**Prescribed Texts:** Selected readings will be available.

**Comments:**
This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

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**WOMEN’S HEALTH PROMOTION AND EVALUATION**

**Subject Number:** 505-453 (PGDip) 505-553 (Masters)

**Credit Points:** 12.5points

**Teaching Centre or Unit:** Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society

**Subject Coordinator:** TBA

**Mode of Delivery:** Classroom

**Contact Hours:** One 2-hour lecture per week

**Time Commitment:** In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 6 hours of study for each hour of contact.

**Semester:** 2

**Day/Time:** Tuesdays, 10.00am–12.00noon

**Timetable and Venue Information:** See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/schedule.pl

**Prerequisites:**
None
Description: A gendered health determinants framework will be used to examine women’s physical and mental health status and to identify ways in which health promotion and preventive health approaches could be utilised effectively to reduce women’s exposure to health risks and promote health. The effectiveness of health promotion and preventive health strategies will be evaluated. Methods in health needs assessment, program development and program evaluation will be comprehensively investigated.

Subject Objectives:
Students who successfully complete this subject will:

PGDip (400 level):
- apply concepts of health promotion and prevention in the context of women’s health;
- select appropriate methods for health promotion planning and evaluation;
- assess critically current health promotion programs and evaluation

Masters (500 Level):
- apply concepts of health promotion and prevention in the context of women’s health;
- develop appropriate methods for health promotion planning and evaluation;
- critically evaluate current health promotion programs and evaluation

Generic Skills:
On completion of the subject students will:

PGDip (400 Level):
- skills in searching bibliographic data bases and synthesising evidence
- examine and interpret evidence
- ability to develop and sustain an argument
- planning skills
- good written and oral presentation skills.

Masters (500 Level):
- advanced skills in searching bibliographic data bases and synthesising evidence
- critically appraise evidence
- ability to develop, sustain and interpret an argument
- advanced planning skills
- advanced written and oral presentation skills.

Assessment:

PG Dip (400 level):
Class presentation (20%) and a class paper (1000 words) due during semester (20%), and an essay (2500 words) due at the end of semester (60%).

Masters (500 level):
Class presentation (20%) and a class paper (1000 words) due during semester (20%), and an essay (3000–3500 words) due at the end of semester (60%).

Prescribed Texts: Selected readings will be available.

Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

WOMEN’S SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
(formerly known as Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights)

Subject Number: 505-422 (PGDip) 505-522 (Masters)
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society
Subject Coordinator: Dr Jane Hocking (8344 0762/8344 0717)
Mode of Delivery: Classroom
Contact Hours: One 2-hour lecture per week

Time Commitment: In addition to the stated contact hours, students are expected to spend at least 6 hours of study for each hour of contact.

Semester: 1
Day/Time: Tuesdays, 2.00–4.00pm

Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/cgi-bin/subjects.pl

Prerequisites: None

Description: This subject takes as a starting point a consideration of what constitutes sexual and reproductive health over the life course. It provides an overview of key sexual and reproductive health issues in a variety of geographic locations and considers the factors that enable or inhibit women and men’s reproductive and sexual health. Within the broad parameters of gender, society and culture, there will be an examination of the impact of multi-level factors, including economic, legislative and policy environments, community and institutional cultures, and understandings of sexuality and reproduction. Students will be encouraged to consider the impact of such factors on the development of sexual and reproductive health interventions.

Subject Objectives:
On completion of this subject, students should be able to:

PGDip (400 Level):
- Discuss factors that impact on sexual and reproductive health throughout the lifespan
- Describe key sexual and reproductive health issues for men and women internationally
- Identify appropriate policy responses to sexual and reproductive health
- Identify the principals and components of appropriate gender-sensitive interventions

Masters (500 Level):
- Analyse in-depth the intersection of contextual and individual factors that impact on sexual and reproductive health
- Demonstrate knowledge of sexual and reproductive health issues internationally and the understand the range of disciplinary discourses and responses to these issues
- Analyse the human and reproductive rights discourses in relation to women’s health
- Present a sophisticated critical analysis of policy responses to sexual and reproductive health issues
- Develop a gender-sensitive intervention to address a specific sexual and reproductive health issue in a selected region

Generic Skills:

PGDip (400 Level):
- critical thinking and writing
- research skills including information seeking, evaluation and retrieval
- capacity to deliver an oral presentation

Masters (500 Level):
- advanced critical thinking and writing
- sophisticated research skills including information seeking, evaluation and retrieval
- advanced oral communication skills

Assessment:

PGDip (400 Level): Oral presentation (20 mins) (20%) and class paper approximately 1,000 words (20%) on selected topic during the semester. Essay due last day of semester, approximately 2500 words (60%)

Masters (500 Level): Oral presentation (20 mins) (20%) and class paper approximately 1,500 words (20%) on selected topic during the semester. Essay due last day of semester, approximately 3000 words (60%)

Prescribed Texts: Selected readings will be available.

Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.
WORKPLACE PROJECT PORTFOLIO-D

Subject Number: 505-978
Credit Points: 25
Teaching Centre or Unit: Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia
Subject Coordinator: Prof John Carlin (8344 0733/8344 9339)
Mode of Delivery: Independent study with supervision
Time Commitment: 8–12 hours study time per week
Semester: 1 or 2
Prerequisites:
Minimum of 4 subjects including:
505-940 Linear Models (LMR)
505-108 Data Management and Statistical Computing (DMC)
Description: The student will provide evidence of having met this goal by presenting a portfolio or minor dissertation made up of a preface and project reports. An outline of the options for the structure of this subject, including supervision and assessment requirements, is available at:
www.bca.edu.au/student_info.htm
(see Workplace Project Portfolio (WPP) Guidelines)
Please note: Adequate supervisory arrangements must be in place before students commence this subject. Students wishing to complete the Masters degree should discuss options for WPP with the course coordinator.
Subject Objective: The aim of this subject is that the student gains practical experience, usually in a workplace setting, in the application of knowledge and skills learnt during the coursework of the Master of Biostatistics program, under supervision of an experienced biostatistician.
Assessment: Portfolio or minor dissertation (approximately 10,000 words) to be marked by two examiners, at least one of whom will be internal to the University of Melbourne.
Comments: This subject is not available in the Master of Public Health.

WORKPLACE PROJECT PORTFOLIO-S

Subject Number: 505-976
Credit Points: 12.5
Teaching Centre or Unit: Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia
Subject Coordinator: Prof John Carlin (8344 0733/8344 9339)
Mode of Delivery: Independent study with supervision
Time Commitment: 8–12 hours study time per week
Semester: 1 or 2
Prerequisites:
Minimum of 4 subjects including:
505-940 Linear Models (LMR)
505-108 Data Management and Statistical Computing (DMC)
Description: The student will provide evidence of having met this goal by presenting a portfolio or minor dissertation made up of a preface and project reports. An outline of the options for the structure of this subject, including supervision and assessment requirements, is available at:
www.bca.edu.au/student_info.htm
(see Workplace Project Portfolio (WPP) Guidelines)
Please note: Adequate supervisory arrangements must be in place before students commence this subject. Students wishing to complete the Masters degree should discuss options for WPP with the course coordinator.
Subject Objective: The aim of this subject is that the student gains practical experience, usually in a workplace setting, in the application of knowledge and skills learnt during the coursework of the Master of Biostatistics program, under supervision of an experienced biostatistician.
Assessment: Portfolio or minor dissertation (approximately 10,000 words) to be marked by two examiners, at least one of whom will be internal to the University of Melbourne.
Comments: This subject is not available in the Master of Public Health.

WORKPLACE PROJECT PORTFOLIO-L

(formerly known as Work Placement/Minor Dissertation)
Subject Number: 505-945
Credit Points: 25
Teaching Centre or Unit: Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia
Subject Coordinator: Prof John Carlin (8344 0733/8344 9339)
Mode of Delivery: Independent study with supervision
Time Commitment: 8–12 hours study time/wk, over 2 semesters
Semester: 1 & 2
Prerequisites:
Minimum of 4 subjects including:
505-940 Linear Models (LMR)
505-108 Data Management and Statistical Computing (DMC)
Description: The student will provide evidence of having met this goal by presenting a portfolio or minor dissertation made up of a preface and project reports. An outline of the options for the structure of this subject, including supervision and assessment requirements, is available at:
www.bca.edu.au/student_info.htm
(see Workplace Project Portfolio (WPP) Guidelines)
Please note: Adequate supervisory arrangements must be in place before students commence this subject. Students wishing to complete the Masters degree should discuss options for WPP with the course coordinator.