UCL SUMMER SCHOOL

POPULATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Key Information

Module code: ISSU0012
Taught during: Session One: Monday 1 July - Friday 19 July 2019
Module workload: 45 teaching hours plus approximately 100 study hours
Module leader: Professor Hynek Pikhart and Dr Anne Peasey
Department: Epidemiology and Health Care, Faculty of Population Health Sciences
Credit: 15 UCL credits, 7.5 ECTS, 4 US
Level: Level 1, first year Undergraduate
Pre-requisites: Standard entry requirements
Assessment: Presentation (40%)

Module Overview

The module will introduce students to definitions, basic theories and conceptual frameworks on influences having impact on individual as well as population health. Students will be introduced to the history of population health. Finally, it will also introduce basic measurements of outcomes and risk factors used in population and public health.

Week One

- General definitions used in population and public health
- Conceptual frameworks linking major determinants of health with range of individual and population health outcomes and health inequalities
- Brief history of population health including major milestones in population health

Week Two

- Role of London in public and population health
- London as global centre of population health
- Measuring population health
- Sources of data used in population and public health

Week Three

- Social determinants of health and health inequalities
- Interpretation of evidence, principles of critical evaluation of evidence
- Student presentations and group discussion

Please note that this module description is indicative and may be subject to change.
Module Aims
The module will introduce students to definitions used in population and public health, basic theories and conceptual frameworks linking major determinants of health with range of individual and population health outcomes. Students will be introduced to the history of population health. We will describe the role of London in public health research and show London as global centre of population health. Finally, this module will also introduce basic measurements of outcomes and risk factors used in population and public health and sources of data used in population health.

Teaching Methods
One hour lecture per day, followed by 2-3 hours of class/seminar/small group tutorials. One half-day guided trip in weeks one and two. Special evening lectures by senior Faculty and visiting speaker in week one (linked to other Departmental activities).
The teaching styles will be interactive and informal. Students will be encouraged to challenge tutors, and to develop a critical understanding of public health and differing policy approaches, e.g. individual responsibility and structural changes as means to improve population health.
The UCL Moodle environment will be used to share teaching materials, readings and to act as a platform for discussion.

Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this module, students will:

- Understand terminology used in population health, epidemiology and public health including major types of study design and their advantages and disadvantages
- Understand basic measures used in population and public health
- Discuss theories concerning the causes of health inequalities and links between major determinants of health and range of health outcomes
- Outline the nature of health inequalities, by socioeconomic status, ethnic group and gender, globally and within countries including the UK
- Summarize examples of evidence, from birth and across the life course supporting differing theories of health inequalities

Assessment Methods
- 20-minute group presentation (40%)
- 2,000-word essay (60%)
Key Texts
Bonita R, Beaglehole R, Kjellstrom T. Basic Epidemiology
Hennekens CH and Buring JE. Epidemiology in medicine. ISBN 0316356360
Starfield B. Basic concepts in population health and health care. J Epidemiol Community Health 2001;55:452-454 doi:10.1136/jech.55.7.452

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