

Environmental Health 596 / Nursing 580  
Current Issues in Occupational and Environmental Medicine  
Autumn Quarter, 2014  
Thursday 3:30-5:20 p.m. 4225 Roosevelt Way NE, Room 2228  
Instructor: Joel Kaufman, MD, MPH  
Office: 4225 Roosevelt Way NE Suite 302  
Phone: 616-3501  
E-mail: [joelk@u.washington.edu](mailto:joelk@u.washington.edu)

Course Description:

This course provides a weekly seminar setting for presentations and discussions regarding a wide range of occupational and environmental health topics. It emphasizes current issues and real world situations faced in the practice of environmental and occupational health. The course will feature critical reading of the literature.

The course is designed to meet the needs of occupational medicine, exposure sciences, occupational health nursing, occupational health services, and toxicology trainees, and meets Autumn, Winter, and Spring quarters. It is open to other students with permission of the instructor. Topics will be organized to achieve a core curriculum that does not repeat over a two-year period, so students may take multiple (up to six) quarters of the course. Format will include didactic presentations with discussion, student-led case/situation presentations followed by topical discussion, and journal club. Topics will include emerging occupational and environmental health issues and issues in administration of environmental/occupational health programs. An emphasis will be placed on issues which foster multi-disciplinary interaction between occupational/environmental health professionals (if students from multiple disciplines are enrolled). Student presentations will be made in inter-disciplinary teams when possible.

During this segment of the ENVH 596 / NURS 580 series, the Autumn 2014 quarter, we will focus on topics related to workplace population-based surveillance and management issues in occupational/environmental health.

Among other goals, this course is designed to ensure that, upon completion of the UW occupational medicine training program, trainees have received information and gained competence regarding a wide variety of topics important to the practice of environmental and occupational health. The course also emphasizes the ability to critically read the current literature. More than half of the sessions will be at least partly student-led. The course will provide an opportunity for students to develop and practice presentation skills, and demonstrate expertise in locating and using relevant information sources.

Students may register for 1-6 quarters for the course in any sequence; up to 12 credits can be earned for taking it. Students may register for the course on a graded or credit/no credit basis, though graded status is often required if you are taking this to fulfill a degree requirement. OEM MPH students and OEM fellows/residents typically attend and participate in six quarters of the seminar.

Email and Canvas announcements are used for communication regarding this course, and readings will typically be distributed via the Canvas system. Students are responsible for ensuring that their correct email address is on file and that they can access relevant electronic media

## Learning Objectives for Autumn 2014

At the end of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Critically review a scientific paper on a topic of interest, using a structured approach, to determine the validity of the work and to describe how it might affect the practice of occupational and environmental health.
2. Research an assigned topic, working in an interdisciplinary group, and demonstrate his or her expertise on that topic by professionally leading a portion of a class session on that topic.
3. Describe the essential elements of public health (epidemiological) surveillance activities for occupational and environmental health issues. The student should understand principles involved in monitoring and interpretation of health status indicators at the community level.
4. Determine regulatory requirements for workplace medical surveillance programs
5. Distinguish between surveillance activities conducted for general public health benefit and workplace medical surveillance programs.
6. Recognize the essential elements of mass psychogenic illness, and understand contributing factors in these events.
7. Summarize standard procedures and rationale concerning disaster (or mass casualty) preparedness and response in the occupational setting. In particular, the student should demonstrate knowledge of triage concepts, demonstrates basic knowledge of emergency preparedness programs, be able to apply an understanding of emergency preparedness programs, and be aware of resources required to develop and evaluate the medical portion of an emergency plan.
8. Describe the essential elements of workplace and environmental “cluster” investigations regarding health events
9. Describe predictors of community risk perception regarding environmental hazards, and methods to improve risk communication. Describe the principles involved in conveying sensitive/high-stakes health information to educate a community or group.

### Course format:

The course consists of 10 sessions this quarter (though one *might be* preempted by a highly relevant regional occupational health conference which I suspect several of you may attend). Sessions will be in one of several formats:

- Lecture/discussion/student presentations. These will consist of a focussed presentation on a subject of general interest in occupational and environmental health, followed by discussion. Some of these will be faculty-led (including guest faculty), and students will lead some. The formal portion of student presentations should generally be no more than 15 minutes per student in length, with discussion to follow.
- Case/situation presentation and discussion. Similar to lecture/discussion, but organized around a case or situation from a practice situation. The case presentation should be completed in 5 minutes or less, followed by 10 minutes of presenter- or instructor-directed discussion of salient points. The remaining time is left for either additional presentations or discussion.
- Journal club (once per month). These will consist of two or three articles. These may either be around a selected theme, or chosen from the most recent literature from selected journals. A student will lead the journal club (see Preparing A Student Presentation, below). The presentation should be limited to 15 minutes in length. Substantial resources on critical reading

of journal articles are provided on the course web site, and an outline to follow is provided at the first class session. The student should follow these instructions.

### Course Requirements:

1. Class presentations. Each student will play a principal role in class presentations once or twice each quarter. The type of presentation will depend on the subject matter, and the number of presentations depends on enrollment. More detail on these presentations is provided below. If class registration is of sufficient magnitude, student groups will conduct these presentations.
2. Class attendance and participation. Students should come to the seminar prepared, and participate in the discussion. If readings are assigned for a session, these assignments should be read in advance and students should be able to discuss the material.
3. Examination. There will be no examination.

### Basis for Grading:

Class Presentations	70%
Judged on quality of: student preparation; presentation materials; presentation style; quality of resource list or other handouts; and evidence of professionalism and interdisciplinary cooperation, if relevant.	
Class Participation	30%
Judged on class attendance and participation in discussions.	

This course is offered on both a graded (A section) and credit/no credit (B section) basis. The expected student contribution to the course is identical whichever grading status is chosen.

### Preparing a student presentation

*Choose a topic.* We will balance between topics that need to get covered and topics of special interest to the class (because they are timely or related to a student's own interest or background). Because we have a long list of topics that must be covered in a two-year cycle, we need to cover several prescribed topics this quarter, as seen in the course schedule. A few of the topics may be changed, with instructor permission.

*Meet with the instructor.* The student or student group must meet with the instructor at least two, and preferable three or more weeks, prior to the presentation. At this meeting, the topic will be clarified, resource material and faculty identified, and a presentation format chosen. The student and instructor will agree on the scope of the presentation and best approach to preparation and presentation. If the session will be a journal club or other session requiring advance preparation by the other students in the seminar, these materials will be selected at this meeting.

*Distribute materials in advance (if necessary).* Materials for other students should be distributed at least one week in advance. This is especially important for journal club formats. Reading material will be distributed electronically via the Canvas site when possible.

<p><b>IMPORTANT:</b> For all student presentations covering a topic area (i.e., other than just discussing a brand new article), students should prepare a <i>resource list</i> that provides a list of excellent sources of information on the topic (e.g., high quality web-sites, recent review articles, seminal research articles, or book chapters). <b>This should be distributed as a one-page sheet to the class.</b> If a group presentation, one collective resource list can be prepared for the student group.</p>
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**ENVH 596 / NURS 580**  
**Course Schedule**  
**Autumn 2014**

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Student or Guest Speaker</u>
1	10/2	Course Introduction / Introduction to Topics	
2	10/9	<i>Critical Reading of the Literature; Journal Club</i> Estimating the Magnitude of Occupational Health Problems	Students:
3	10/16	Workplace Medical Surveillance	
4	10/23	<i>Journal Club</i> State-of-the-Art: Occupational Health Surveillance in Washington State	Students:
5	10/30	<i>Student Presentations</i> Medical Surveillance Standards	Students:
6	11/6	<i>Student Presentations</i> Disaster Preparedness and Response	Students:
7	11/13	<i>Journal Club</i> Cluster Investigations	Students:
8	11/20	<i>Student Presentations</i> Large scale workplace health events	Students:
	11/27	<i>No Class—Thanksgiving Holiday</i>	
9	12/4	<i>Journal Club</i> Risk Communication; Managing risk perception when the “experts” and workers/community have different opinions	Students:
	12/4	Puget Sound Occupational and Environmental Medicine Grand Rounds " <i>Mycobacteria in Work-related and Environmental Illness: From Stonecutters to Hot Tubs</i> " by Masa Narita, MD	
	12/13	<i>No class Finals Week</i>	

OEM Grand Rounds notices are provided for your information only. Attendance is not required for ENVH 596 / NURS 580, though attendance is encouraged.

**Disability Resources** for Students (DRS) offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and DRS. If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary or permanent disability that requires accommodations (this can include but not limited to; mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), you are welcome to contact DRS at 206-543-8924 or uwdrs@uw.edu or disability.uw.edu

**Academic Integrity**

Students at the University of Washington (UW) are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic conduct, professional honesty, and personal integrity.

The UW School of Public Health (SPH) is committed to upholding standards of academic integrity consistent with the academic and professional communities of which it is a part. Plagiarism, cheating, and other misconduct are serious violations of the University of Washington Student Conduct Code (WAC 478-120). We expect you to know and follow the university’s policies on cheating and plagiarism, and the SPH Academic Integrity Policy. Any suspected cases of academic misconduct will be handled according to University of Washington regulations. For more information, see the University of Washington Community Standards and Student Conduct website.