**American Medical Student Association**

**AMSA Academy**

**Public Health Scholars Program**

2019-2020

Tuesdays @ 6 PM EST

**Course Directors:** Kauthar Timimi and Stephanie Zawada

**Course E-mail:** [phsp@amsa.org](mailto:phsp@amsa.org)

**Grading:**  Pass/Fail (See below for completion requirements)

**I. Course Schedule: (May change to accommodate guest presenters needs)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Topic** |
| **Oct 1** | Reproductive Health - State and Federal Laws |
| **Oct 15** | Vaccine Marvels & Myths |
| **Oct 29** | Early Outreach to Combat the Opioid Crisis |
|  |  |
| **Nov 12** | Climate Change & Environmental Health |
| **Nov 12** | \*\*Project topics due\*\* |
| **Nov 26** | Women’s Health & the VA |
|  |  |
| **Jan 14** | Mental Health & Graduate Students |
| **Jan 28** | \*\*Goal/outlines due\*\* |
|  |  |
| **Feb 11** | Sustainable Food Systems for Population Growth |
| **Feb 25** | Climate Change & Public Health |
|  |  |
| **Mar 10** | \*\*Final projects due\*\* |
| **Mar 10** | The Role of Public Parks in Community Health |
| **Mar 24** | Rural Health & Telemedicine |

**II. Course Description**

Public health is the science of protecting and improving the health of families and communities through the promotion of healthy lifestyles, research on disease and injury prevention, and detection and control of infectious diseases. Overall, it is concerned with protecting the health of entire populations. These populations can be as small as a local neighborhood or as big as the global community.

Public health professionals try to prevent problems from happening or recurring by implementing educational programs, recommending policies, administering services, and conducting research. Public health officials work to limit health disparities. A large part of public health is promoting health care accessibility, equity, and quality.

The Public Health Scholars Program is designed and led by medical students and public health students. We will explore critical aspects of public health through guest speaker presentations, discussions, and individual projects. Each topic we examine will feature a webinar hosted by a public health expert. We hope to kindle your curiosity in the people who tirelessly work for the betterment of the public’s health -- let their journeys inspire you!

**III. Course Objectives**

We know you don’t have a lot of time, but you’re dedicated, determined to improve the health of communities around the globe, and trying to make the most of a few hours of extra time per month! We promise to:

* keep discussions relevant to present-day problems; AND
* help you think about the invisible forces that affect patient health.

By the end of this course, students will:

* be able to define and explain the function of public health;
* discuss cases and programs that are currently being implemented around the world;
* become more familiar with their local health departments; AND
* plan a peer-reviewed, public health intervention that can be referenced as a part of their professional portfolios.

**IV. Format and Procedures**

* Pre-Webinar Prep -- Participants will be provided with information 1 week before each webinar to gain context of the upcoming webinar topic, i.e. a Youtube video or article relevant to the discussion, as well as a bio of the speaker who is leading the webinar. Participants will submit questions for presenting speakers prior to attending the online seminars.
* Webinar -- Participants will join an online platform (Zoom) to attend webinars.
* Post-Webinar Quizzes -- Participants will complete a 5-question, multiple-choice quiz after each webinar to demonstrate their understanding and the transfer of knowledge. Completion is required for credit, but quiz performance will not affect the awarding of credit. Answers will be used for research purposes only.

* Final Project -- Students will interview a local public health expert for a report/podcast/other deliverable, design a local community public health initiative or launch a personal website focused on developing the scholar’s public health brand and showcasing expertise on a public health topic of interest.

**We invite you to share your final project at the AMSA conference!**

***Course Credit***

* Scholars may be able to receive elective credit from their home institution for this course. While AMSA unfortunately cannot grant elective credit at this time, we are happy to support you with documentation that will aid you as you seek elective credit.
* Each scholar that completes the requirements outlined in Section V below will be provided an official AMSA Academy Certificate of Completion.

**V. Expectations of Scholars**

* You are to attend, at a minimum, 8 out of the 10 online webinar sessions over the year. Each 1-hour webinar has 2 components:
  + Reading pre-webinar materials assigned by the presenting speaker (~ 10 minutes)
  + Drafting and submitting a question for the presenting speaker prior to the webinar (~2 minutes)
  + Completing a post-webinar quiz (~3 minutes)
* You are to complete 1 final project (~3 hours)

**VI. Completion Requirements for Certification:**

* Class Attendance
  + *Domestic Students & International Students in the Caribbean and Americas:*
    - Must read assigned course materials and submit pre-webinar questions for 80% of webinars
    - Must attend 80% of webinars
    - Complete quizzes following each webinar
    - Missed attendance: Can watch **up to three** recorded webinars and complete a reflection of the webinar to obtain make-up credit for attendance
  + *International Students in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia:*
    - Must watch 80% of recorded webinars 48 hours after the original session
    - Submit a SHORT reflection of the webinar to the Course Directors within 72 hours after the original session
    - Complete quizzes following each webinar
* Final Project

**\*\*\*ONLY ONE OF THE FINAL PROJECT OPTIONS IS REQUIRED\*\*\***

* Final Project Option 1 - Deadline: 3/10/2020
  + Interview someone who works in the public health field
    - Guidelines
      * Finished project can be submitted to the director in a doc, pdf, mp3, or mp4 form depending on the media you choose.
    - Ideas
      * Find someone who inspires you and works in the field of public health
      * Preferably, the person you interview will have an MPH
      * Sit down with this individual, and get to know their journey. What led them to public health? What are some challenges associated with their job? What are some of their accomplishments?
      * Compile the script of your conversation and either summarize it in a report or produce a podcast-like deliverable. Submissions in report format can be submitted to *The New Physician* AMSA magazine while submissions in the audio format may be passed on to the AMSA podcast “AMSA AdLib”!
* Final Project Option 2 - Deadline: 3/10/2020
  + Develop your own personal public health website
    - Guidelines
      * Finished project can be submitted as a website or blog link
    - Ideas
      * Write blog pieces and share commentary about current public health issues
      * Author news reports about public health initiatives in your city, school or neighborhood!
      * Develop a biography page and public health opinions portfolio for yourself as an emerging public health scholar that you can continue to grow after AMSA Academy graduation!
* Final Project Option 3 - Deadline: 3/10/2020
  + Design a local community public health initiative
    - Guidelines
      * Plan an intervention to address a public health issue.
      * Digital interventions count! How can you use technology to lower barriers to public health information and access?
      * Optional: DARE to carry it out!
      * Resource: AMSA Action Toolkit <http://www.amsa.org/advocacy/action-committees/grassroots-organizing/activism-toolbox/>
    - Ideas
      * Remember that your project does not have to be CITY-wide -- your target can be a group/community of any size, such as a classroom or a city block!
      * Publish your work! Record a PowerPoint presentation or create a YouTube video. Share your ideas with the world! This is advocacy in action!

**VII. Inclusivity Statement**

We understand that our members represent a rich variety of backgrounds and perspectives. The American Medical Student Association (AMSA) Scholars Program is committed to providing an atmosphere for learning that respects diversity. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

* share their unique experiences, values and beliefs;
* be open to the views of others;
* honor the uniqueness of their colleagues;
* appreciate the opportunity that we have to learn from each other in this community;
* value each other’s opinions and communicate in a respectful manner;
* keep confidential discussions that the community has of a personal (or professional) nature; AND
* use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and within the AMSA community.