

Public Health Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health

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Public Health Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health is a graduate seminar that focuses on the history, methodology, theoretical approaches, and substantive findings of surveillance and intervention research concerning sexual and reproductive health. Seminar topics to be covered include the epidemiology of sexual and reproductive health risk and preventive behaviors, STI/HIV epidemiology, STI/HIV prevention intervention approaches, and STI/HIV prevention intervention politics; theoretical models of sexual and reproductive health behavior change; sexual wellness; sexual orientation, gender identity, and physical and mental health; sex education as a public health intervention; contraceptive methods and utilization, sexual harassment and sexual assault epidemiology and public health approaches to prevention, and pornography as a potential public health concern. Special emphasis on sexual and reproductive health promotion intervention and evaluation research is a feature of this seminar. Lectures and dedicated classroom discussions will provide students with theoretical and empirical foundations in these areas and required readings will acquaint students with a small portion of seminal and/or controversial research in these domains.

Please Note: This course concentrates on sexual and reproductive health behavior and involves explicit discussion and depiction of diverse sexual behaviors and topics that include abortion, sexual assault, and other sensitive topics.

Instructor: William A. Fisher, PhD, is Distinguished Professor in the Department of Psychology and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Western University in London, Ontario, Canada. Dr. Fisher was co-founder of the Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention at the University of Connecticut, he has been a National Health Scientist of Health Canada, his work has been supported by the US National Institutes of Health for the past 25 years, and he has published over 250 peer reviewed papers in his areas of specialty, as well as serving in senior editorial capacities for a number of academic journals in this public health domain. He can be reached at fisher@uwo.ca.

Readings: Daily assigned readings will be distributed via email. As this is an intensive four day course, students are required to read the assigned materials *in advance* of class and to turn in questions related to the readings (see below).

Evaluation: Evaluation of student performance will be based on student submission of one question for discussion concerning each assigned reading for each class day, turned in in advance of each class (50% of student's final mark) and evaluation of student's active and informed class participation (50% of student's final mark).

Class Schedule: Class will be held from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, with a one hour break for lunch at noon, from Sunday June 26, 2016 to Wednesday, June 29, 2016, inclusive, in Eshkol Building Room 5051.

Public Health Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health

Class no. 1:

9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.

An Introduction to Sexual and Reproductive Health Behavior

Participant Introductions:

Names, Backgrounds, Public Health Interests, Course Aims

Participant Discussion:

What is sexual and reproductive health risk and preventive behavior?

Case Study: US College Campus: “Hook Up Culture,” “Rape Culture”

Case Study: South Africa: Gender, Age, Poverty, and HIV/AIDS Infection

Case Study: Sexual Behavior and Sexual Consent: Contradictory Trends?

Case Study: Public Health Interventions and the Law of Unintended Consequences:

LARC, Contraceptive Efficacy, and STI/HIV Risk

Case Study: Female Genital Cutting/Mutilation: Culture, Health, and Controversy

Anonymous Questions: “Everything you’ve ever wanted to ask...but were afraid to...”

10:00 a.m.-10:50 a.m.

An Introduction to the Scientific Study of Sexual and Reproductive Health

History of the scientific study of sex: What’s a nice scientist like you doing in a place like this?

Justifications for the scientific health study of sex: Risk reduction and health promotion

11:00 am – 12:00 noon

Methodology and Ethics of the Scientific Study of Sexual and Reproductive Health

Methodology, reliability, and validity of assessment of sexual behavior

Ethical issues in the scientific study of sexual behavior

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:00 p.m.-1:50 p.m.

Politics, Values, and Public Health Practice in Sexual and Reproductive Health

Do Good Values Make Bad Public Health Science: “Delisting” Female Sexual Desire

2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Challenges of Sexual and Reproductive Health Research

The movie “Kinsey” and discussion of challenges of sexual and reproductive health research
(Time permitting!!)

Required Readings for Sunday June 26, 2016 (to be distributed via email)

Fisher, W. A., & Fisher, J. D. (1999). Understanding and promoting sexual and reproductive health

behavior (pp. 39-76). In R. Rosen, C. Davis, & H. Ruppel (Eds.), *Annual Review of Sex Research*, Volume IX; Mason City, IA: Society for the Scientific Study of Sex.

Fisher, W.A. (1997). Do no harm: On the ethics of testosterone replacement therapy for HIV-positive persons, and reactions to commentary. *Journal of Sex Research*, 34, 35-38, and responses by Teifer and Wagner et al. on pages 37-38,

Fisher, W. A., Singh, S. S., Shuper, P. A., Carey, M., Otchet, F., MacLean-Birne, D., Dal Bello, D., & Gunter, J. (2005). Characteristics of women undergoing repeat therapeutic abortion. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 172, 637-641.

Class no.2:

9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.

Epidemiology of Sexual and Reproductive Health Risk Behavior

Adolescent sexuality: A case study in behaviorally driven reproductive health risk

10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

Theories of Sexual and Reproductive Health Promotion: I

Sociobiology of Sexuality and Reproduction

Health Belief Model

Transtheoretical Model

Theory of Reasoned Action

11:00 a.m. – Noon

Theories of Sexual and Reproductive Health Promotion: II

The Information—Motivation—Behavioral Skills Model

Noon – 1:00 pm Lunch Break

1:00 p.m.- 1:50 p.m.

Sexual Orientation and Gender Dysphoria as Public Health Issues

Sexual orientation, minority stress, and physical and mental health

Gender dysphoria, and the North American politics of gender dysphoria

2:00p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Minority Stress and Resilience

“Harvey Milk” movie and discussion of sexual minority stress and resilience (Time permitting!!)

Required Readings for Monday June 27, 2016 (to be distributed via email)

Meyer, I.H. 92003) Prejudice, social stress, and mental health in the L.G.B.T. population: Conceptual issues and research evidence. *Psychological Bulletin*, 2003, 129, 5, 674-697.

Fisher, J. D., & Fisher, W. A. (2000). Theoretical approaches to individual level change in HIV risk behavior (pp. 3-55). In J. Peteson, & R. DiClemente (Eds.), *Handbook of HIV prevention*. New York: Plenum.

Class no. 3:

9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.

An Introduction to Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI)

Characteristics of Bacterial and Viral STIs from Individual and Public Health Perspective

10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

The HIV/AIDS Epidemic: North and South

Public health history of the HIV/AIDS epidemic

Public health politics of the HIV/AIDS epidemic

11:00 a.m. – Noon

Public Health Practice of HIV/AIDS Prevention Intervention

Safer Sex: Inner City USA

Safer Sex: KwaZulu Natal, South Africa

HIV Antiretroviral Adherence: An eHealth Approach

Noon – 1:00 pm Lunch Break

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Sex Education as a Public Health Intervention: Effective and Ineffective Approaches

2:00 p.m. – 4: p.m.

Showing and Discussion of IMB Model-Based HIV Prevention Intervention Videos

“People Like Us,” “Sex Condoms, and Videotape,” “Stakes are High” (Time Permitting!!)

Required Readings for Tuesday June 28, 2016 (to be distributed via email)

Fisher, J. D., Cornman, D. H., Shuper, P.A., Christie, S., Pillay, S., MacDonald, S., Ngcomo, N., Amico, K. ., Lalloo, U., Friendland, G., & Fisher, W. A. (2014) HIV prevention counseling intervention delivered during routine clinical care reduces HIV transmission risk behavior in HIV-infected South Africans receiving antiretroviral therapy: Results of the IZINDLELAZOKUPHILA/Options for Health randomized trial. *Journal of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome*, 67(5), 499-507.

Fisher, W. A., Fisher, J. D., & Kohut, T. (2009) AIDS exceptionalism? The social psychology of HIV prevention research. *Social Issues and Policy Review*, 3, 45-77.

Kirby, D. (2007) Abstinence, sex, and STD/HIV education programs for teens: Their impact on sexual behavior, pregnancy, and sexually transmitted disease. In *Annual Review of Sex Research*, Vol XVIII (143-177), D.L Rowland & C. Davis (Eds). Mason City, Iowa: Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality.

Class no. 4:

9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.

Sexual harassment and Sexual Assault

Epidemiology of sexual harassment and sexual assault

Approaches to the assessment and prevention of sexual harassment and sexual assault

10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

Pornography as a Public Health Threat: I Struggling With the Research Evidence

Pornography *Is* a Public Health Problem: Research Evidence

11:00 a.m. – Noon

Pornography as a Public Health Threat II: Struggling With the Research Evidence

Pornography *Is Not* a Public Health Problem: Research Evidence

Noon – 1:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Public Health of Birth Planning: Contraceptive Options

Contraception and Birth Planning

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Bystander Intervention and Sexual Assault Prevention

Showing of bystander video intervention approach to prevention of sexual assault and discussion.

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

End of Seminar Roundup and Free-for-All Discussion

Short Daily End of Class Test (10 item multiple choice test on assigned readings)

Required Readings for Wednesday June 29, 2016 (to be distributed via email)

Rind, B., Tromovich, P., & Bauserman, R. (1998) A meta-analytic examination of assumed properties of child sexual abuse using college samples. *Psychological Bulletin*, 124, 22-53.

Senn, C.Y., Eliasziw, M., Barata, P.C., Thurston, W.E., Newby-Clark, I.R., Radtke, H.L., Hobden, K.L. (2015). Efficacy of a sexual assault resistance program for university women. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 372(24), 2326-2335.

Fisher, W. A., & Black, A. (2007). Contraception in Canada: A review of method choices, characteristics, adherence and approaches to counseling. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 176(7), 953-961., 26, 646-656.