



THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Course: **PUBH7022 New Directions in Environmental Health: an Ecosystem Approach**

Course coordinator: **Professor Philip Weinstein**

Mode: **Block Workshop – Five days**

Course Introduction:

Environmental health is a major new strength in the School of Population Health. This course is to be offered by Professor Philip Weinstein a leading international authority on the ecological approach to environmental health.

Course Aims:

Although the traditional ‘blowflies and drains’ approach to environmental health has contributed immeasurably to improving population health during the last century, new approaches are required to deal with the emerging environmental health issues of the new century: Safe drinking water can no longer be taken for granted even in the presence of state-of-the-art technology; mosquito borne disease is at an all time global high; and climate change is altering the dynamics of even the best understood environmental health issues. To address these problems it is necessary to better understand the nature of the relationship between ecosystem health and human health, and thereby make more effective and sustainable recommendations for public health intervention. The course explores this relationship from an applied perspective that includes examples such as water quality and birth defects; soil quality and vector borne disease; and air quality and asthma. Students will have the opportunity to apply their learning to a current environmental health issue, and present their work for immediate feedback. Multidisciplinary collaboration is emphasized as a problem solving approach that facilitates evidence-based policy generation both for now and for the future.

Course Content:

Students will apply an ecosystem approach to solving emerging and re-emerging environmental health problems such as safe drinking water, mosquito borne disease, and heavy metal exposure. They will explore the relationship between ecosystem health and human health, and learn to make effective and sustainable recommendations for public health intervention based on ecological principles.

Method of Assessment: Group presentation 20%, Examination 40%, Essay 40%

Recommended Resources: To be announced

An online Blackboard site provides an interactive environment for students and teachers. Reliable and regular access to the Internet is essential.

Further details are provided in the Course Profile

http://www.uq.edu.au/study/course.html?course_code=PUBH7022