Instructor: Amy Abruzzi, PhD, MPH  
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Email: abruzzi@rci.rutgers.edu and abruzzi@alypso.net  
Stay in touch after the class ends: I’m on LinkedIn  
Office Hours: Email me as often as needed. I generally respond the same day. If you need additional help, we can figure out a time to talk on the phone or through Google Talk, Facetime or Skype.  
Course Web Site: http://eCollege.Rutgers.edu  
Technical problems: eCollege tech support, available 24/7  
Email help@ecollege.rutgers.edu or call: 877-778-8437  
**Note to Mac users: students have sometimes reported problems using Safari as their internet browser. Please call the eCollege tech support as soon as possible to see if there are any reported problems with the version of your browser. Be sure to download and test a substitute such as Firefox well in advance of any quizzes or exam deadlines.**

Course Description:

Urban areas are complex environments, differing in size, diversity, and density from one another. According to the World Health Organization more than half of the world’s population currently lives in an urban area, with the greatest growth projected to occur in upcoming decades in emerging economies such as China, India, and Brazil. Important patterns of disease and disability have been noted in urban populations that require the adaptation of traditional public health practices and methods. This course is designed to help students identify those patterns, understand the factors contributing to them, and the policies intended to reduce the burden of disease. Some of the key factors include traffic, noise, pollution, crowding, poverty, violence, family structure, and racial bias. Related to this, the policy issues we will focus on include air quality, water quality, food security and nutrition, health disparities, mental health and substance abuse, disaster preparedness, social capital, and environmental justice. Course work includes a group gallery presentation of a health issue currently facing a major global city.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Discuss current issues facing urban populations, both in the U.S. and globally;
- Understand the intellectual foundation of both historic and current theories on the relationship between the urban environment and public health;
- Critically evaluate the evidence for urban environment-health relationships, and the context of other factors that may influence health;
- Evaluate the relationship between health issues and the policies intended to reduce them;
- Develop recommendations for urban-environment-based intervention that promote public health, such as those intended to reduce pollution from mobile sources (i.e., cars, trucks) or reduce obesity and promote walking;
Course Material

*Required Text:* This book provides a useful introduction to the core concepts and will enhance your understanding of the lectures. You will also be responsible for the content on the exams.


*Supplementary materials:*

Whenever possible, I’ve tried to locate video or audio clips and other web link that will enhance your understanding of the material and post them on our eCollege course site. There are also a number of links within the slides that I encourage you to explore.

*Course Materials on eCollege (access with your Rutgers NetID account):*

♦ The syllabus, including a calendar of class lectures topics, weekly assignments and examination dates.
♦ Lecture notes and related materials
♦ Untimed quizzes on the lecture notes and textbook reading (homework)
♦ Reading Room forum readings, such as newspaper and journal articles
♦ Exams (timed) and short response questions
♦ Links to helpful web sites, video links, podcasts or other interesting materials when appropriate

*Grading:*

The course is based on a total of 400 points arranged over 15 weeks:

♦ Two timed exams, each worth 13 points = 276 points total
♦ Six untimed quizzes, each worth 9 points = 54 points total
♦ Six Reading Room forum responses, up to 5 points each = 30 points total
♦ Group presentation in the gallery and brief comparison paper, 20 points each = 40 points total

Grading is based on the timely and correct submission of all assignments, and online participation.

*Final Grade cut-points:*

Your final grade for this class will be assigned using this system:

- A: 360 to 400 points (90 - 100%)
- B+: 344 to 359.9 points (86 – 89.9 %)
- B: 320 to 343.9 points (80 - 85.9 %)
- C+: 304 to 319.9 points (76 - 79.9 %)
- C: 280 to 303.9 points (70 - 75.9 %)
- D: 240 to 279.9 points (60 – 69.9%)
- F: 239.9 or less points (59.9% or lower)

I automatically round up to the next grade when you are within 0.5 points of the next cut-point. So, an average of 343.5 = 344 points = B+. Please note this refers to the point count, not the percent average.
Guidelines for Assignments and Projects

Students are expected to work independently on all timed exams and take-home essays. Failure to do so will be considered a violation of Rutgers’ Academic Integrity Policy. (See below for details).

The class is divided into two parts, each covering six lectures with an untimed quiz (homework) and Reading Room response due every other week. There are two timed exams, each covering the lectures and concepts from that portion of the course, which are each accompanied by a set of “take-home” short-response questions. The second exam is cumulative in nature, but emphasizes material from the second half of the course.

Timed Exams (2 @ 138 points, 276 points total)

Two **timed** exams will be given online and need to be completed within the time window assigned. The first exams focus on the lecture notes and text books readings from the first portion of the course. The second exam is cumulative in nature, but focuses more on lectures and textbook readings from the second half of the course. **Unlike the quizzes, each student’s exam is a random mix of questions that are presented to you one at a time.** While you are able to page through and answer unfinished questions, there is not adequate time for you to look up answers while the exam is in progress. **Prepare for it as you would any in class exam and use your time wisely.** As you will see on the schedule, you can determine when you take the exams within a multi-day period. **Pausing a timed exam once in progress is not possible.** Questions on the exams that are skipped or left blank will register as a zero towards the score you receive. Finally, **make-up exams are only given under extreme situations including technical failure and may carry up to a 10% penalty.** Make sure you have a stable internet connection and your browser is compatible. If you have any doubts about your browser, please contact the eCollege help desk PRIOR to starting the exam.

Quizzes (homework) (6 @ 9 points each, worth 54 points total):

Six untimed, online quizzes will become available to you on our eCollege course site on the day it is assigned. Each quiz contains between 6 – 9 questions, which are worth a point or two each. Quizzes may be worked on for an unlimited amount of time before the due date and of course you are expected to use your notes and text. Do not skip questions as they will register as a zero towards your score. Your score and the correct answers to the quiz will be available in the gradebook approximately three days after the quiz closes (I need a chance to review them first). There is a penalty (up to 10%) for taking a Quiz past the scheduled closing date and this must be arranged with me prior to the closing date of the Quiz. **It is not possible to take a quiz after the answers are released to the class** and there are no make-ups for missed quizzes, **but you will be allowed to drop your lowest quiz score.**

Reading Room forum responses (6 @ 5 points, worth 30 points total):

I offer a variety of readings for you to pick from in each Reading Room. You are required to do the **two readings** that interest you most per forum (not including your text book) and use them to respond to one of the questions posted in the reading room forum. In your replies, you must explicitly reference which two readings you used. **There is no makeup for missed forums, so be sure to post your response during the time window assigned.**
Grading policy for Reading Room forum responses:

♦ 5 points (full credit): Responds thoughtfully and thoroughly to one question (about 2 good paragraphs) using examples from the two readings you selected to support statements; explicitly references which two readings were used; does not copy other student’s replies to that question (in other words, produces unique work).
♦ 1-4 points (partial credit): Makes general comments or simply states opinion without reference to specific readings; failure to identify readings used.
♦ 0 points (no credit): No participation and/or copying from other student’s replies.

Group gallery presentation (20 points) & individual short comparison paper (20 points total)

A Power Point presentation (about 12-15 slides) on a health issue in a contemporary global city is due at the end of Week 11 (Monday, April 14th). You will be able to work on this from home with your group using Google Documents. Your contribution to the presentation is worth 20 points. This grade includes points assigned through a confidential peer-participation evaluation. In addition, each student will submit a short (about 3 pages) comparison of your city with another featured in the gallery (also worth 20 points). This assignment will be due at the end of Week 13 (April 28th). Papers received within a week of the due date will receive up to a 10% point penalty (2 points) and must be arranged with me in advance. Sorry, no papers will be accepted after May 5th as I need ample time to grade them. More details will be provided on these assignments by week 3 of the course. I will also provide a city-sign up to facilitate the group-formation process.

Students with Disabilities:

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this with me as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made in advance of the first exam. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form.

Privacy statement:

This site may contain student information that is protected by the Family Educational Rights to Privacy Act (FERPA). Disclosure to unauthorized parties violates the federal privacy laws. Online courses such as this may make student names visible to other students in class (e.g., during online discussions or group email). Please remember that this information is protected by these federal privacy laws and must not be shared with anyone outside of class.

Academic Integrity:

Honesty and Integrity are an essential part of the educational experience. It is expected that students will complete all exams, and assignments in accordance with Rutgers University’s academic rules and regulations. See the current Rutgers University Academic Catalog for details. Any evidence of academic misconduct, including cheating, failure to cite sources, plagiarism, stealing ideas, or deliberately slanting research results will result in appropriate action as dictated by Rutgers
University. Please note that taking information from an Internet site and placing it into text without proper citation is plagiarism and students are subject to the same consequences as they would face for copying information from a text or journal article without proper citation. If you are unsure of the rules of citation, please ask. Rutgers provides a wealth of resources to help students understand proper citation format and coping with the pressures of academic life. For the most up-to-date policy information on Academic Integrity at Rutgers, see:

Academic Misconduct: A Bloustein School Perspective

Academic misconduct includes cheating, plagiarism, failure to cite sources, fabrication and falsification, stealing ideas, and deliberate slanting of research designs to achieve a pre-conceived result. We talk about misconduct and ethical behavior in classes and expectations are set forth in student handbooks and catalogues. We are not repeating that material here. Note, however, that penalties for misconduct can range from failing an assignment/exam or dismissal from the university. The Bloustein School is appending this memorandum to your course syllabus because we recently have detected obvious cases of plagiarism. We have found far fewer cases of other forms of academic misconduct, but we find several every year. It is imperative that you understand that unethical academic conduct is intolerable, and it is completely preventable.

Academic misconduct almost always happens for two reasons. One is ignorance of academic rules and practices. For example, in virtually every recent plagiarism case in the School, material has been taken from an Internet site and placed in text without appropriate note or attribution. You must learn the proper rules for attribution. If you are not sure, ask your instructor! If you do not know the rules that govern the use of data sets, attribution, analysis and reporting of these sets, the faculty will help you. There is no such thing as a stupid question regarding this subject.

Pressure is the second common reason for academic misconduct. Students, faculty, every one of us is subject to deadline, financial, self-worth, peer, and other pressures. If you are potentially allowing pressure to drive you to misconduct, please step back and resist that urge. You can cope with pressure in a positive way by reaching out to friends, counselors, and faculty members. Within the Bloustein School community, you will find understanding people and positive direction.

The Bloustein School plays an important role in the planning and public policy agenda. Our work and our students must be above reproach. Updated 2/8/05
## Calendar of Lectures Topics, Readings, Quiz/Problem Sets, and Exam Dates in 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Starting on Tuesday</th>
<th>Lecture &amp; Exam schedule</th>
<th>Required from you this week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Materials will be posted to eCollege prior to the week you are responsible for the information. Lopez = readings in your textbook</em></td>
<td>Unless otherwise indicated, all work must be submitted by <strong>11:59 PM on</strong> the dates you see below</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Week 1 | Tuesday 1/21 | Review syllabus | • **Introduce yourself!**  
• **Get your textbook! Read ahead!!**  
• Complete your work by 11:59 PM on Monday 1/27 |
| Week 2 | Tuesday 1/28 | Lecture 1: Introduction and global perspectives on urban health  
*Lopez: Chapter 1* | • **Response in Reading Room forum**  
• Complete your work by 11:59 PM on Monday 2/3 |
| Week 3 | Tuesday 2/4 | Lecture 2: History and design of cities  
*Lopez: Chapters 2 & 3* | • **Quiz on lectures 1 & 2 and Lopez**  
• Complete your work by 11:59 PM on Monday 2/10 |
| Week 4 | Tuesday 2/11 | Lecture 3: Transportation and housing  
*Lopez: Chapter 4 & 5  
Information on Group Presentation* | • **Response in Reading Room forum**  
• Complete your work by 11:59 PM on Monday 2/17 |
| Week 5 | Tuesday 2/18 | Lecture 4: Infrastructure and Natural Disasters  
*Lopez: Chapter 6* | • **Quiz on lectures 3 & 4 and Lopez**  
• Complete your work by 11:59 PM on Monday 2/24 |
| Week 6 | Tuesday 2/25 | Lecture 5: Air quality  
*Lopez: Chapter 7* | • **Response in Reading Room forum**  
• Complete your work by 11:59 PM on Monday 3/3 |
| Week 7 | Tuesday 3/4 | Lecture 6: Water quality  
*Lopez: Chapter 8* | • **Quiz on lectures 5 & 6 and Lopez**  
• Complete your work by 11:59 PM on Monday 3/10 |
| Week 8 | Tuesday 3/11 | Timed EXAM and Short Response questions on Weeks 1-7 lectures and *Lopez* readings | • **Take the exam and submit your answers to the questions by 11:59 PM on Monday 3/17** |
|       |                     |                         | **Rutgers Spring Break 3/17 - 3/21** | **No Class- Enjoy it!** |
| Week 9 | Tuesday 3/25 | Lecture 7: Food, nutrition and health  
*Lopez: Chapter 9* | • **Response in Reading Room forum**  
• Complete your work by 11:59 PM on Monday 3/30 |
| Week 10 | Tuesday 4/1 | Lecture 8: Urban demographics and Vulnerable populations (children, elderly, immigrants, disabled)  
_Lopez_ Chapter 10 | • **Quiz on lectures 7 & 8 and Lopez**  
• Complete your work by 11:59 PM on Monday 4/7 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Week 11** | Tuesday 4/8 | Lecture 9: Mental health and health care  
_Lopez_ Chapter 11 | • **Response in Reading Room forum**  
• **Group gallery presentation due!**  
• Complete your work by 11:59 PM on Monday 4/14 |
| Week 12 | Tuesday 4/15 | Lecture 10: Social capital and the economic determinants of health  
_Lopez_ Chapters 12 | • **Quiz on lectures 9 & 10 and Lopez**  
• Complete your work by 11:59 PM on Monday 4/21 |
| **Week 13** | Tuesday 4/22 | Lecture 11: Environmental Justice  
_Lopez_ Chapter 13 | • **Reading Room forum response**  
• **Short comparison paper due!**  
• Complete your work by 11:59 PM on Monday 4/28 |
| Week 14 | Tuesday 4/29 | Lecture 12: Health policy and Sustainability  
_Lopez_ Chapters 14-16 | • **Quiz on lectures 11 & 12 and Lopez**  
• Complete your work by 11:59 PM on Monday 5/5 |
| **Week 15** | Tuesday 5/6 | **Timed EXAM and Short Response questions.** This is exam is **cumulative**, but focuses on Weeks 9-14 lectures and _Lopez_ readings | • **Take the exam and submit your answers to the questions by 11:59 PM on Monday 5/12** |

*For Add Drop dates, see the Office of Academic Services: [http://sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/academics/registration/index.html](http://sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/academics/registration/index.html)  
The Academic Calendar is available from the Registrar at: [http://scheduling.rutgers.edu/calendar.shtml](http://scheduling.rutgers.edu/calendar.shtml)