

# POPLHLTH 753

## Tobacco Control: Principles and Practices 15 Points

Semester 2, 2012

### Course Prescription

An overview of research and theory developed within public health and epidemiological contexts that are related to tobacco control. Students will review major theoretical issues and will consider current trends and future challenges to Tobacco Control. Topics covered will relate to three main themes (1) Reducing initiation, (2) Interventions to reduce smoking related harm, and (3), Smoking cessation and treatment of nicotine dependency.

### Goals of the Course

- To provide an overview of the Tobacco Control sector, locally and globally.
- To promote a critical appreciation of major theoretical debates in the field.
- To provide an introduction to nicotine dependency research.
- To encourage students to develop a stance, and act as critic and conscience for issues in Tobacco Control.
- To foster graduate student interest, knowledge and possible ongoing commitment to research and practice in Tobacco Control.

### Learning Outcomes

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

- Demonstrate an understanding of the burden of disease in NZ and globally due to tobacco use
- Demonstrate an understanding of the main assumptions and conceptual models used to respond to harm associated with tobacco use
- Relate theory and practice to individual contexts and problems
- Critically use research literature in developing an intervention plan or new policy or to critique an existing policy.

### Content Outline

The following themes and topics will be explored:

Intervention to reduce smoking related harm

- Patterns and history of tobacco use in New Zealand,
- Health promotion and social marketing
- The role of the Tobacco Industry
- Legislation, regulation, taxation & advocacy

Reducing initiation

- Risk factors for smoking
- Cultural differences in attitudes to smoking and child uptake
- Interventions to reduce uptake

Smoking cessation and treatment of nicotine dependency

- Effectiveness of treatment interventions,
- Specific interventions: pharmacotherapy, PREPs, behavioural support
- Effects of dependency on the family,
- Co-existent drug and mental health problems.
- Special needs populations: e.g. pregnant women who smoke, Maori, Pacific peoples

New Zealand smokefree by 2025

- The Māori Af fairs Select Committee recommendations
- The Government's response
- Current innovative research

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## Learning and Teaching

The course will utilise a combination of teaching session, discussions, and workshops relating to specific assessment tasks. Clinicians and researchers in the School of Population Health and from the Auckland region will deliver topic areas requiring specialist knowledge. The assigned readings will focus both on a general knowledge of the field and the development of specialist interests. Teaching assumes a large component of self-directed learning and students will be encouraged to develop their own perspectives and interests and to relate these to their work environment. Students are encouraged to participate actively in discussions and to clearly communicate both consenting and dissenting viewpoints.

## Teaching Staff

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## Programme Administrator

Kashmira Irani, Level 2, School of Population Health, k.irani@auckland.ac.nz Phone (09) 373 7599 ext 86549

## Campus Teaching Dates in 2012

The course is held at Tāmaki Campus on **Thursdays and Fridays 9am-5pm August 16-17, September 20-21**. Please see your timetable on SSO or Building 730 Reception noticeboard on the day for the room details.

## Learning Resources

Selected articles are provided at the first class of the course.

## Assessment

Assignment 1 (20%) which comprises:

A piece of reflective writing on student's exposure to and/or use of tobacco and use/availability of tobacco in New Zealand; a scrapbook/journal on news items; and a letter to the editor, written in reaction to arising news on relevant topic.

Assignment 2 (40%) which comprises:

A literature review on an aspect of tobacco control. The literature review will inform a briefing paper, for the Minister of Health, that will propose an intervention or development/modification of policy to rapidly reduce tobacco related morbidity and mortality.

Final exam (40%)

A two hour exam will require students to answer questions related to question based on material presented throughout the course.

**The semester two examination period is Thursday 25 October - Monday 12 November. Note that the examination timetables are not finalised and available to students until 6-8 weeks into the semester.**

## Programme and Course Advice

This course would suit a wide variety of students interested in developing a framework for thinking about and processing ideas on tobacco smoking, nicotine dependency and other addictions. It would be suitable for students pursuing careers in health research, primary health and specialist practice in Maori health, mental health, alcohol and other drug services.