UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
Spring 2010  
PH 5613, Critical Cinema for Public Health

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| **Instructor & TA Information (for each Faculty and TA)** | Nuria Homedes and Beatrice Selwyn  
Nuria.Homedes@uth.tmc.edu  Beatrice.J.selwyn@uth.tmc.edu  
Phone number for Dr. Homedes 915 585 6450  
Phone number for Dr. Selwyn 713 500 9272  
Dr. Homedes is in El Paso, room 110 A  
Dr. Selwyn is in room E913  
E-mail is the best way to communicate with both instructors |
| **Course Description** |  
• PH 5613 Critical Cinema for Public Health  
• Fall and Spring  
• 2 credit hours  
• Format: _X_ ITV ___Online_ _X_ Face-to-face___Hybrid  
• A series of documentaries and films revolving around public health topics will be presented on Thursday nights. The use of visual media provides a dramatic insight into the multifaceted nature of public health problems, the complex circumstances giving rise to them and to societal responses to them. The range of topics presented will include environmental health themes, globalization, behavioral sciences, ethics, nutrition, public health law, research methods and epidemiology. We will explore how the different themes are affected by the social, economic and political factors; how different problems affect different population groups, and societal responses at local and global level. All movie presentations will be followed by a class discussion.  
• All movie shows are open to the community and to all students. Students who elect to take this course for credit must register, attend all showings, participate in all discussions, and complete the required assignment. The course will be graded as a Pass/Fail.  
| **Textbook and Materials** |  
• There is no textbook  
• All the readings will be posted in blackboard  
| **Course Learning Objectives** |  
• Explore a wide range of public health topics that have had an impact on health conditions and on public health policy.  
• Assess the multiple aspects that contribute to the generation of the problems and the search for sustainable solutions, and feel the emotional aspects that surround most public health challenges.  
• Discuss the appropriateness and accuracy of the public health challenges as presented by media producers.  

Revised April 2009
### Learning Activities
- Students are expected to attend all showings of movies or documentaries and participate in class discussions.
- Each student is expected to lead one class discussion alone or working with other students/faculty.
- There may be some assigned readings to be completed before class.
- All students will have to submit an essay on a new movie/documentary suitable for the class, and four additional titles.
- Some classes may require follow-up discussion via blackboard.

### Student Assessment and Grading Criteria
- Class participation (70%)
- Class assignments (30%)
- Each student is expected to lead one class discussion alone or working with other students/faculty.
- There may be some assigned readings to be completed before class.
- All students will have to submit an essay on a new movie/documentary suitable for the class, and four additional titles.
- Some classes may require follow-up discussion via blackboard.
- If the student misses a class he/she is expected to write a short essay on the movie/documentary shown in class.

### Prerequisites and/or Technical Requirements
- No prerequisites, no need to use technology

### Policies and Procedures
Regular attendance and participation are important parts of the course. All class absences must be notified to instructors.

Cheating and/or plagiarism of any kind will result in a failing grade for the course.

If you have a learning disability, sensory, or physical disability or other impairment, or if English is your second language and you may need special assistance in lecture, reading assignments, and/or testing, please contact the instructor.

Information about withdrawal dates, incomplete grades, academic dishonesty and other policies are listed in the SPH catalog.

For help with learning objectives, see [http://www.sph.uth.tmc.edu/oid/default.aspx?id=9224](http://www.sph.uth.tmc.edu/oid/default.aspx?id=9224)