CHS 231: Maternal and child nutrition
Syllabus, Fall 2012
Course # 840-186-201

LECTURE
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-10:50 a.m., Room 41-268

INSTRUCTORS
Marion Taylor Baer, PhD, RD
Office: 26-078B CHS
Office Hours: 1-2 Mondays, 11-12 Tuesdays, and by appointment
(signup sheet outside office suite)
Phone: (310) 825-8196
E-mail: mtbaer@ucla.edu

Gail Harrison, PhD
Office: 21-125 CHS
Office Hours: Thursdays 11 am – noon and by appointment (see signup sheet)
E-mail: gailh@ucla.edu

Nelida Duran, MS, RD (PhD expected 2013)
Office: 26-078B CHS
Office Hours: by appointment
Phone: (626) 375-2404
E-mail: nduran@ucla.edu

LEARNING OBJECTIVES and PUBLIC HEALTH COMPETENCIES ADDRESSED
(Note: The numbered competencies refer to those published by the Association of Schools of Public Health, and available on their website.)

This course is intended to enable students to:

1) Learn about the main nutritional problems of families, with emphasis on women and children in less technically developed countries and disadvantaged populations in industrialized countries and their impact on the individual and

2) Understand the underlying factors and those amenable to change.
   (Competencies E2,3,4,6,8)

3) Learn about and devise appropriate preventive and intervention programs and policies.
   (Competencies D8, D9, G10, J10, J11)

This course can be taken separately or as the first course of a series of nutrition courses in CHS. These courses cover topics such as community nutrition assessment; nutrition policy and programs; food security; diet and chronic disease; and social determinants of nutrition and health.
PREREQUISITES
The course is intended primarily for graduate students in public health, or relevant disciplines, with some bioscience courses in their backgrounds. Students without knowledge of basic nutrition are welcome in the class but may need to make an extra effort to familiarize themselves with basic nutrition concepts. We have selected a text that provides such information as required reading for the course (see below). For those of you who would like a more in-depth treatment of the subject matter, we have ordered a second text, which will be available in the Student Store, and also placed on reserve in the Biomedical library: Nutrition through the Life Cycle, 4th edition, 2011 by JE Brown et al (see below). Certain class topics will have recommended readings from this book as additional background for those who are interested.

REQUIRED READINGS

2) Supplementary texts: There will be required readings from the following supplementary texts which will be available at the Biomedical Library.

3) Required articles for certain sessions will be made available ahead of class via attachments to email messages sent through the instructor version of the MyUCLA website. (Make sure you have a current email address registered with the UCLA system). The required articles include selected articles and readings from journals, reports, and reviews.

RECOMMENDED READINGS FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION (some required readings will be from the books in bold)

All the above books should be on reserve in the Biomedical Library. In addition, Dr. Baer has copies of most and they can be “borrowed” for short periods.
ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

Readings: Appropriate reading should be completed before each class.

Midterm: There will be a 2/3-term examination (short-answer), based on class material and readings, on Thursday, November 15, 2012.

Group Project (See Instructions for the Final Report – a separate document): By the 2nd class (Oct. 4th), after the orientation and discussion of the current threats to, and negative impacts on, maternal and child nutrition worldwide, students will be asked to divide themselves into 6 groups of 5, but no more than 6, people (depending on the final enrollment), including one first year student in each group. The group will select a specific area within a WHO Region of interest. WHO Regions include 1. Africa, 2. Americas, 3. Eastern Mediterranean, 4. Europe, 5. South-East Asia and 6. Western Pacific (Students enrolled, or on the wait list for this class should have received prior notice of this and begun thinking about the problems). These groups will remain together for the entire quarter and submit the Final Report as a group.

Final group presentation: Groups will also be required to present a brief summary of their Final Report and an example of the End Product that supports the recommendations outlined in their Final Report. These presentations will be held on the scheduled final date.

Group/individual assignments: The class time will be divided into two 50-minute segments. The first will consist of a lecture on the topic of the day; the second will include individual student presentations (2) relating the topic of the lecture to their Region of interest followed by a general class discussion that encourages classmates to share information on the other 4 Regions of interest. Each student will make one presentation.

1) For each class, beginning with the 4th class (Oct. 9th) the groups will identify at least two readings related to the topic of the lecture that illustrate the situation among mothers and children in their Region of interest, and be prepared to present their findings during the discussion period. These readings will be submitted as an annotated bibliography to the instructors and posted on the class website for the benefit of the other students.

2) For each class, beginning with the 4th class (Oct. 9th), 2 students from 2 different groups will make a 10 minute class presentation that builds on the group findings with regard to their Region and then lead a class discussion which will include findings in the other 4 Regions A sign-up sheet will be circulated at the 2nd meeting of the class (Oct. 4th).

Grades: Course grades will be approximately based on:

1) Class participation (20%)
   a. Discussion = 5%
   b. Weekly group bibliography = 5%
   c. Class presentation = 10%

2) Midterm examination (30%)

3) Final (50%)
   a. Final presentation = 12%
   b. Portfolio = 30%
   c. Group member evaluation = 8%