

Women, the Environment, and Physician Activism (OB GYN 170.01A)

Course Syllabus & Schedule

Fall 2017

Tuesday 12:10-1p Room S-157

Course Coordinators: Carolyn Rennels, Gabriela Weigel

1-unit P/NP

Course Director: Bob Gould, MD

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Resources

If there are relevant readings or materials, they will be made available each week through e-mail updates to a Google doc.

Course Goals: Students will learn how environmental toxins and climate change disproportionately affect women's health while also harming population health and perpetuating health inequality. Topics will include prenatal counseling about environmental hazards, impacts of these hazards throughout the lifespan, health effects of agricultural policy, and examples of provider environmental activism. Students will leave the course with knowledge of how environmental hazards disproportionately affect women and other vulnerable populations and ideas to advocate for a safer, cleaner, and healthier environment as future health care providers.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this elective, students will be able to:

- Name several environmental risk factors and explain how they disproportionately endanger women's health
- Understand how prenatal caregivers talk to their patients about environmental hazards
- Understand how the environment can affect a woman's health during her pregnancy as well as the health of her child in the future
- Understand the effects of current American agricultural practices, which can be wasteful and unhealthy and can exacerbate health disparities
- Recognize the work of other health professionals as environmental advocates in their communities
- Name individual and systemic changes for health care providers to reduce environmental hazards, including climate change, in order to pursue health and environmental justice

Attendance:

1. Students are required to attend 8 sessions and fill out a short survey at the end of each class to provide feedback and answer a few questions to receive a PASS
2. Students may complete a make-up assignment (1-2 page review of relevant article) if at risk of receiving a NO PASS. We will have one movie night that may be applied to class attendance.

Grading:

This is a pass/fail course. To receive full credit for the course, students are required to complete the following:

- a. Fill-out a pre-course survey and a post-course survey that will be emailed to students (different than the weekly surveys)
- b. Meet attendance requirements as described above

