

SEXUAL HEALTH (1804)

ORGANISERS: Martine Collumbien, Professor Kaye Wellings

TIMETABLE SLOT: Term 2 - D2

AIM

To acquaint students with the theoretical and empirical aspects of the study of sexual health, and their application to public health practice.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the module students should be able to:

- (i) demonstrate understanding of social influences on sexual behaviour and their implications;
- (ii) take account of specific issues relating for the classification and measurement of sexual attitudes and behaviour, including political, ethical and research issues;
- (iii) appraise a range of interventions designed to improve sexual health, including broad spectrum and community based approaches.

CONSTITUENCY

This module is intended to introduce students to issues involved in working in the area of sexual health, whether as researchers, practitioners or evaluators.

CONCEPTUAL OUTLINE

1. The nature of sexual behaviour: theoretical and empirical issues: definitions of normal, diversity and conformity, and implications for sexual health. The regulation of sexual conduct.
2. Historical and anthropological approaches to the study of sexual behaviour (i.e. variations through time and across societies). Trends in sexual mores and their implications for public health. Influences on sexual attitudes and lifestyles - psychological, biological, cultural, religious, political, technological, etc.
3. Political aspects of sexual health; treatment of sexual issues in society, implications of stigma, sensitivities and taboos for practice of sexual health medicine and provision of services. Communication about sexual matters. Gender issues in sexual health.
4. Researching sexual behaviour: pitfalls and possibilities; appropriate and inappropriate methodologies; examples of qualitative and quantitative research.
5. Public health priorities in sexual health. Designing, executing and assessing sexual health interventions.

TEACHING STRATEGY

Formal lectures will be interspersed with practical group work.

LEARNING TIME

Total learning time is 100 hours, composed of contact time = 30 hours; reading time = 40 hours; assignment time = 30 hours.

ASSESSMENT

Formal assessment will be by a timed essay at the end of the module, and covering the main topics.