

Health Impact Assessment (305.684)
4th term, Tuesdays 1:30-3:20; Hampton House 901
Course Syllabus
(Revised 4/1/13)

Instructor:

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Course Description:

The authoring committee of the National Research Council of the National Academies Improving Health in the United States: The Role of Health Impact Assessment defined health impact assessment (HIA) as:

"...a systematic process that uses an array of data sources and analytic methods and considers input from stakeholders to determine the potential effects of a proposed policy, plan, program, or project on the health of a population and the distribution of those effects within the population. HIA provides recommendations on monitoring and managing those effects."

Internationally, HIA is widely recognized as one way to explore the social, economic, and political determinants of health. In the U.S., the use of HIA is gaining momentum; however its use for policymaking has been limited. This course provides an introduction to HIA, with specific instruction on the application of HIA to public policy. Students will consider the rationale for conducting HIAs, review a range of methods used to conduct HIAs, analyze cases from international and domestic settings, and walk through the steps of how to conduct a HIA.

This course is open to students who have completed Health Policy II: Public Health Policy Formulation (300.712), or a policy course covering similar content. Permission from the instructor is required.

Course Learning Objectives:

By the time students complete the course they should be able to:

- Describe the development and state of HIA practice in the U.S., and internationally.
- Demonstrate the core steps and methods needed to conduct HIA.
- Critique completed HIAs and provide suggestions for improvement.
- Analyze the application of HIA to the policymaking process.

Class Format:

Instruction will consist of weekly lectures and interactive discussions. Assigned readings, and in class and out of class exercises, will provide theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience with the steps of the HIA process.

Methods of Student Evaluation:

Students will receive a letter grade based on the following criteria:

- Attendance and participation: 10%
- HIA critique: 25%
- Participation in group HIA project: 25%
- Group presentation: 10%
- Individual reflection paper: 30%

Guest Lecturers:

- Keith Davis, HIA Coordinator, Baltimore City Department of Health
- Kevin Frick, PhD, Professor, Department of Health Policy and Management
- Marjory Givens, PhD, Officer, Health Impact Project.
- Martin Birley, MSc, DIC, PhD, BirleyHIA, Consultants in Health Impact Assessment

CoursePlus:

CoursePlus will be used in this class. To access CoursePlus go to <https://ares.library.jhu.edu/welch1/> and enter your e-learning username and password. If you have not registered for CoursePlus, follow instructions below the sign-in tab. Students who are not registered for this course will not have access to the materials online. The readings for the course are available on e-reserves. A link is available through CoursePlus. The password for e-reserves is **305684sph**.

Overview of Course Sessions

Dates	Topics	Lecturer
3/26	Overview of HIA, State of the field in the U.S. Screening Introduction to course project	Pollack Davis
4/2	Scoping Example: Federal Level HIA	Pollack Givens
4/9	Assessment Economic Tools for HIA	Pollack Frick
4/16	Stakeholder Engagement Recommendations, Reporting, Monitoring Evaluation	Pollack
4/23	HIA in an International Context HIA critique due	Birley
4/30	Review HIA critique In-class time to work on project	Kercher
5/7	HIA and Public Policy In-class time to work on project	Pollack
5/14	Group presentations Final paper due	Students

Readings for Class

March 26: Overview of HIA, State of the field in the U.S.

- Improving Health in the United States: The role of health impact assessment. Report in Brief. National Academy of Sciences, 2011.
- Dannenberg AL, Bhatia R, Cole BL, et al. Use of health impact assessment in the U.S.: 27 case studies, 1999-2007. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 2008; 34(3):241-56.
- Dannenberg AL, Bhatia R, Cole BL, et al. Growing the field of health impact assessment in the United States: An agenda for research and practice. *American Journal of Public Health* 2006; 96(2):262-70.
- Bhatia R, Wernham A. Integrating human health into environmental impact assessment: An unrealized opportunity for environmental health and justice. *Environmental Health Perspectives*. 2008; 116(8):991-1000. Available at: <http://ehp03.niehs.nih.gov/article/info:doi/10.1289/ehp.11132>.
- (*Take a brief look at this as a FYI*) National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). 1969. Public Law 91-190, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347. Available at: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/nepatxt.htm>.

April 2: Scoping

- Example: <http://www.humanimpact.org/component/jdownloads/finish/13/4>
- Example: <http://www.humanimpact.org/component/jdownloads/finish/13/82>

April 9: Assessment, Economic tools for HIA

- Cole BL, Shimkhada R, Fielding J, et al. Methodologies for realizing the potential of health impact assessment. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 2005; 28(4):382–89.

April 16: Stakeholder Engagement, Recommendations, Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation

- Kearney M. Walking the walk? Community participation in HIA. A qualitative interview study. *Environmental Impact Review* 2004; 24:217-29.
- Quigley RJ, Taylor LC. Evaluating health impact assessment. *Public Health* 2004; 118(8); 544-52.
- Bhatia R, Coburn J. Lessons from San Francisco: Health impact assessments have advanced political conditions for improving population health. *Health Affairs* 2011;30(12):2410-18.

April 23: HIA in an International Context

- Optional Readings from www.birleyhia.co.uk
 - o Birley M.H. "A fault analysis for health impact assessment: procurement, competence, expectations, and jurisdictions". *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal*, 25, 4. December 2007. DOI: 10.3152/146155107X246297.
 - o Birley M.H. "Health impact assessment in multinationals: A case study of the Royal Dutch/Shell Group". *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, 25(7-8), 702-13.

April 30: Review HIA critique and work on group project

May 7: HIA and Policy

- Cole BL, Fielding JE. Health impact assessment: a tool to help policy makers understand health beyond health care. *Annual Review of Public Health* 2007;28:393-412.
- Collins J, Koplan JP. Health impact assessment: a step toward health in all policies. *Journal of the American Medical Association* 2009; 302(3):315-17.
- Gottlieb LK, Fielding JE, Braveman PA. Health impact assessment: Necessary but not sufficient for healthy public policy. *Public Health Reports* 2012;127:156-62.
- Wernham A. Health impact assessments are needed in decision making about environmental and land-use policy. *Health Affairs* 2011;30(5):947-56.

May 14: Group presentations; final paper due

ASSIGNMENTS

1. HIA Critique

You will be asked to write a critique of a completed HIA. The document should be double-spaced, typed using 12 point font size, and no more than 4-5 pages. This critique should include a very brief description of the HIA topic (assume that we read the HIA report), HIA methods used, major findings and recommendations, and overall strengths and weaknesses. Please be prepared to participate in an in-class discussion on April 30th about the HIA that you chose. Additional instructions will be distributed soon. Please select one of the HIAs listed below.

1. Potential Health Effects of Casino Development in Southeast Kansas
http://media.khi.org/news/documents/2012/10/23/Complete_HIA_Report.pdf

2. HIA on Policies Reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled in Oregon Metropolitan Areas
<http://www.hiaguide.org/hia/policies-reducing-vehicle-miles-traveled-oregon-metropolitan-areas>

3. Proposed Liquor Restriction Extensions in North Dunedin (New Zealand) HIA.
<http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/health-impact-assessment/completed-nz-health-impact-assessments/proposed-liquor-restriction-extensions-north-dunedin-hia>

4. Jack London Gateway Rapid HIA.
<http://www.hiaguide.org/hia/jack-london-gateway-rapid-health-impact-assessment>

2. Group HIA Project

An essential aspect of this course is the ability to learn about HIA through hands-on experience. During the course, we will work on a HIA. Dr. Pollack is an advisor for a HIA grant that the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) received in 2011, and the HIA topic for the course will be one that the BCHD has chosen for year 2 of its grant. On the first day of the course, Mr. Keith Davis from the BCHD and Dr. Pollack will provide the topic for the HIA, which is Baltimore City's proposed aquatics plan. Since HIAs are rarely conducted by a single person, the HIA will involve group work and a group presentation on the final day of the course. Representatives from the BCHD will attend the presentations.

3. Individual Paper

Each person in the class will be asked to write a brief paper (5 pages maximum) reflecting on his/her experience working on the HIA, and thoughts on HIA and its potential for public health. Instructions will be provided at a later date.

Additional Resources:

- Health Impact Project. <http://www.healthimpactproject.org/>
- Human Impact Partners. <http://www.humanimpact.org/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Health Impact Assessment. <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/hia.htm>
- UCLA HIA-CLIC. <http://www.hiaguide.org>
- Society of Practitioners of HIA (SOPHIA). <http://www.hiasociety.org>

Select Guidelines to Conducting HIAs:

- North American HIA Practice Standards Working Group. Minimum elements and practice standards for health impact assessment (HIA). 2010. <http://www.humanimpact.org/doc-lib/finish/11/9>
- Human Impact Partners. A health impact assessment toolkit: a handbook to conducting HIA. 2010. <http://www.humanimpact.org/doc-lib/finish/11/81>.
- Health Scotland. Health impact assessment: a guide for local authorities. 2006. www.healthscotland.com/documents/1283.aspx.
- Institute of Public Health in Ireland. Health impact assessment guidance. 2009. www.publichealth.ie/publications/healthimpactsassessmentguidance2009.
- International Health Impact Assessment Consortium, Liverpool, UK. The Merseyside guidelines for health impact assessment. 2001. www.liv.ac.uk/ihia/IMPACT%20Reports/2001_merseyside_guidelines_31.pdf
- International Health Impact Assessment Consortium, Liverpool, UK. European policy health impact assessment: a guide. 2004. www.liv.ac.uk/ihia/IMPACT%20Reports/EPHIA_A_Guide.pdf
- University of Minnesota, Design for Health. Rapid health impact assessment toolkit. 2008. www.designforhealth.net/pdfs/HIA/BCBS_Rapidassessment_011608.pdf
- *(And for comparing guidelines!)*: Hebert KA, Wendel AM, Kennedy SK, Dannenberg AL. Health impact assessment: a comparison of 45 local, national, and international guidelines. Environmental Impact Assessment Review 2012; 34:74-82.

Books about HIA:

- National Research Council. Improving Health in the United States: The Role of Health Impact Assessment. National Academies Press, 2011.
- Martin Birley. Health Impact Assessment: Principles and Practice. Earthscan, 2011.
- John Kemm, editor. Health Impact Assessment: Past Achievement, Current Understanding, and Future Progress. Oxford University Press, 2012.
- Monica O'Mullane, editor. Integrating Health Impact Assessment with the Policy Process: Lessons and Experiences from around the World. Oxford University Press. Expected publication: April 2013 (<http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/product/9780199639960.do>).
- Catherine Ross, Marla Orenstein, Nisha Botchwey. Health Impact Assessments in the USA. Springer. Expected publication: late 2013/early 2014.