HPP 525 - Ethical Issues in Public Health: C. Everett Koop, former Surgeon General of the United States famously once said "Anything we can do to stop smoking is good." The course explores the meaning of this "anything" in public health practice. A guiding question will be "what are the ethical limits in protecting the public's health?" While we won't be solving all the ethical issues that confront practitioners, we will raise questions about ethical public health practice. This course explores these questions through the methods and principles of contemporary bioethics and the differences between public health ethics and medical ethics will be stressed. Some issues include the use of the State's police power; the meaning of ethical research; the limits of health promotion, including an ethical analysis of manipulation and coercion in the name of the public's health. We will also address the ethics of public health emergencies; ethical questions in public health genetics; and public health concerns with social justice. A foundation of ethical theory will aid our explorations of ethical public health practice. Critical reading, philosophical analysis and group discussion is emphasized.

HPP 639 - Health Disparities: This course is a graduate introduction to social injustice and inequality issues which create conditions that lead to unconscionable health disparities according to race, ethnicity, childhood experiences, gender, income, nationality, and other factors. This course explores the multi-faceted origins of health disparities clearly essential to effective and humane programs, policies, and systems. The course will also continuously examine how to translate theory into practice.
REQUIRED COURSE DESCRIPTIONS, CONTINUED:

HPP 780 - Public Health Law: Constitutional and social bases for public health law. Development of statutes and regulations and their effects on social problems, including review of court decisions and preparation of administrative regulations.

HPP 696 - Independent Study: Students choose a topic to research on their own under the guidance of a faculty advisor who will then grade the final written report.

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS (CHOOSE 2):

HPP 524 - Introduction to Health Policy and Politics: Examines the determinants of health politics and policy in the U.S., including decisions and non-decisions made by institutional and political actors at all levels of government and by private sector actors.

HPP 602 - Community Development and Health Education: Latest approaches in community development and community organizing strategies. Exploratory readings, field assignments; emphasis on leadership development, capacity building, and coordinated community action.

HPP 632 - Social Justice and Public Health: Social justice is an integral part of public health but what exactly is social justice and how can the public health professional bring this concept into daily practice? This course is about the intersection of public health and social justice. We will concentrate on the meaning of social justice and how it is applicable to the public health professional. First, we will look at the philosophical underpinnings of social justice using classical and contemporary theorists. Second, we will see how social injustice affects various populations. Public Health is concerned with populations, but different population groups may be affected differently and we look at the elderly, minorities, the poor, and other groups through a social justice perspective. We will also address topic-based areas such as nutrition, violence, and infectious diseases. Third, we will investigate a theory of social justice as a foundation for public health practice. Critical reading, philosophical analysis and group discussion is emphasized.

HPP 753 - Current Topics in Public Health Practice: What does ethical research looks like? All scientists should grapple with this question. How do we know we are doing the right thing? What are the lines that should not be crossed and where are they? This course is about developing research ethics capacity. Explore the history of research ethics and assess the fundamental concepts that guide our understanding of ethics, also investigate the obstacles that hinder ethical reflection in the pursuit of the public's health. This course will provide the knowledge and skills necessary to raise questions about interplay of ethics, research, health and justice. Bringing ethical concepts into focus will guide the semester.