

Course Syllabus

Adjunct Professor : Peter Baxter

Course	Occupational Health		
Credit	1	Method of Teaching	Lecture
<p>Objective</p> <p>An introduction to occupational and environmental medicine for health professionals with the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide a background to the history and recent developments in occupational diseases and work-related illness • To learn the principles of health risk assessment in workplaces • Gain an understanding of interactions between technological hazards and environmental health • Learn to identify and manage the most common occupational and work-related illnesses • Know how to undertake health surveillance and exposure assessment in workers exposed to toxic substances and common allergens • Appreciate the issues surrounding the assessment of fitness to work and the effects of illness on work • Learn about the importance of occupational health in the Health Sector 			
<p>Outline</p> <p>Occupational health practice in advanced economic nations has transformed in recent years as technological changes have made heavy industrial processes safer and less polluting, whilst creating new challenges in service industries and office environments. At the same time, the global recession has focused attention on the adverse health effects of unemployment. This course reviews the most important traditional and novel hazards in occupational health, the strategies for their prevention in modern workplaces, and their significance in countries undergoing rapid industrialization.</p>			
<p>Class Schedule (90 minutes each)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction: the changing face of occupational diseases and preventive measures (17 Jan Thu 17:00-18:30) 2. Risk assessment in the workplace: exposure assessment and attribution of disease (17 Jan Thu 19:00-20:30) 3. Technological hazards and public health (18 Jan Fri 17:00-18:30) 4. Respiratory hazards: occupational asthma, silicosis, asbestosis (18 Jan Fri 19:00-20:30) 5. Toxic chemicals, including heavy metals - lead, mercury. Occupational cancer (19 Jan Sat 13:00-14:30) 			

6. Mental health, stress, musculo-skeletal disorders, hand-arm vibration syndrome (19 Jan Sat 15:00-16:30)

7. Health care industry, the sick doctor. Occupational infections (20 Jan Sun 9:00-10:30)

8. Fitness to work: the effects of health on work, including the older worker (20 Jan Sun 11:00-12:30)

We add seminars by Japanese teachers for each to assist students with difficulty in language/background knowledge

Text

Speaker's Handouts

Related readings

Hunter's Diseases of Occupations. 10th Edition.

Editors: Peter J Baxter, Tar-Ching Aw, Anne Cockroft, Paul Durrington, J Malcolm Harrington. London: Hodder Arnold
2010

Achievement evaluation

There will be a written final exam after the completion of the course.