



**College of Health Sciences
Department of Public Health Sciences
Environmental Health Syllabus**

Course name:	<i>Environmental Health</i>
Course no.:	HSCI 3306
Course CRN:	13405
Semester/year	Summer 2021 June 7th through July 30th, 2021
Undergraduate credit hours:	3
Class location:	Online
Class meeting time:	Virtual office as needed
Class instructors:	Dr. Gabriel Ibarra-Mejia
Contact method:	E-mail or scheduled video conference through Microsoft TEAMS or Zoom
E-mail:	gabmejia@utep.edu (preferred)
Teaching Assistant (TA):	TBD
Course description:	Environmental Health (3-0) Examination of the environment and its relationships to disease causation. Discussions on the physical, chemical, biological, and behavioral-sociological factors of man's environment. Emphasizes the principles and concepts of environmental health and environmental health hazards.
Course pre-requisites:	There are no prerequisites to take this course. However, you need to e-mail the instructor to get authorization to register for the course. For authorization, send an e-mail with your name, e-mail, and student ID number to: gabmejia@utep.edu .
Required textbooks:	Essentials of Environmental Health (w/out Access Code), 3rd edition , by A.J. Friis. (2014). ISBN: 978-1-284-12397-5
Supplemental reading:	Understanding environmental health: how we live in the world. 2nd Edition by Maxwell, N. I. (2014).
Course format:	<p>The course is offered as a full, online course on the Blackboard Learn platform and requires online attendance. There are no face-to-face meetings. There will be lectures, discussion board topics, case study reviews, book and outside material reading, individual and final group projects, quizzes, midterm, and final exam. All interactions between the instructor and students will be carried by e-mail or in the Blackboard Learn platform; in some extreme cases, a phone or video conference meeting will be set up. Class materials and assignments will be released weekly, and the students will have the opportunity to complete all assignments at their own pace to meet the deadlines. All class materials and assignments will comply with ADA standards.</p> <p>NOTE: GRADUATE LEVEL STUDENTS REQUIRE COMPLETION OF ADDITIONAL COURSE WORK. Graduate students are held to a higher standard than undergraduate students in this course for grading purposes. Graduate students registered for this course must develop and carry out a research protocol based on a literature review to be granted appropriate credit. Check with the instructor for further details.</p>

<p>Course requirements:</p>	<p>Each student is expected to have the required technical tools and support to take the online course, including computer, internet service access, microphone, web camera, word software, and Blackboard. If you do not own a computer, check your institution resources and campus library to use a computer. Also, each student should have the knowledge and skills to use word processing, spreadsheet, visual media software, and the capacity to open pdf-type files. If you are not familiar with Blackboard Learn or other required programs, you may contact UTEP’s Technology Support for available training and specific questions at 915- 747-4357 or helpdesk@utep.edu. Students are responsible for maintaining internet connectivity at all times while working on Blackboard Learn. Students will not be allowed to re-submit an assignment or quiz because of internet connectivity issues.</p> <p>Time commitment is essential to complete the course requirements; you must complete all online materials and assignments. This format can be convenient since you can access the course either in or off-campus; thus, you can work independently. However, if this is the first time you are considering enrolling in an online course, we recommend before deciding that first you visit and review UTEP’s Instructional Support Service’s “Prospective Online Student’s” website and complete the “Self-Evaluation for Potential Online Students” survey which is also directly available at: http://www.ion.uillinois.edu/resources/tutorials/pedagogy/selfEval.asp</p> <p><u>I STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT YOU COMPLETE THIS SELF-TEST ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS</u>, before deciding to continue with the course. You do not need to submit the results; they are for you to evaluate and consider.</p> <p>Even though this is an online course, learning techniques will emphasize a critical thinking approach to learning. A critical thinking approach considers that a student’s knowledge is not passively absorbed from the instructor. In contrast with other learning techniques, critical thinking assumes students will create knowledge in their minds by actively thinking about the material. It will be crucial that you prepare for each lesson, reading and reviewing the material before engaging in lessons and assignments. Still not entirely sure about what critical thinking is? Visit then the “The Critical Thinking Community,” their website is available at: http://www.criticalthinking.org/pages/defining-critical-thinking/766</p> <p>Using this, students will apply the gained knowledge to solve common and practical problems related to the research process. Because the course is designed to challenge you intellectually, you may be required to cover additional materials and conduct activities to complete assessments and assignments. Additional readings and assignments will be used as a springboard for all activities and discussions, and ALL course materials are testable. Additional but not all resources, course material, readings, etc., will be made available through UTEP’s Blackboard Learn management system.</p>
<p>Major learning objectives (must be numbered)¹ :</p>	<p>By the end of this course, the student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand the history and basics of environmental health and its importance in our day-to-day lives. 2. Understand the scope and nature of environmental health, the reasons for promoting, maintaining, and sustaining healthy environments. 3. Understand how addressing environmental health issues creates opportunities for populations to achieve health equity. 4. Recognize the terminology and explain the principles of basic disciplines (biological, chemical, or physical) of environmental health.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Describe environmental health indicators. 6. Describe vulnerable populations that are at risk for adverse health effects from environmental exposures. 7. Describe current monitoring, regulations, policies, and interventions to maintain or improve water, air, soil, and food quality. 8. Describe pathways of environmental issues and how it impacts our health. 9. Understand the concept of environmental health hazards and explain the methods by which risk factors for health-related events are identified. 10. Recognize major research and analytical methods used in basic environmental health science and define environmental health problems and relevant variables. 11. Know about the national, state, and regional policy regulations and internal bodies of environmental health regulation and the benefits of regulation. 12. List alternative policy options and summarize the fiscal, legal, social, administrative, and overall public health implications for a selected environmental health problem/issue. 13. Retrieve information related to environmental health from governmental agencies. 14. Describe how science informs policies around environmental health issues. 15. Assess critically the strengths and limitations of current technologies and policies that protect human health from the environment. 16. Describe environmental health issues that pertain in our region and access solutions critically to address them. 17. Practice his/her ability to review research-based materials related to environmental health critically. 18. Practice and increase his/her technical and scientific writing skills necessary for future health care professionals. 19. Practice his/her ability to communicate environmental health science to inform decisions and community planning.
<p>Course outcomes:/ competencies lined with NCHCEC Health Education Specialist:</p>	<p>After completing the course, the student will demonstrate the following learning outcomes/competencies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess existing information and data related to health (1.2). 2. Analyze relationships among behavioral, environmental, and other factors that influence health (1.4). 3. Determine needs for health education/promotion based on assessment findings (1.7). 4. Select or design strategies/interventions to address environmental health issues (2.3). 5. Develop a plan for the delivery of health education/promotion (2.4). 6. Obtain and disseminate health-related information (6.1). 7. Influence policy and/or systems change to promote health and health education (7.3).
<p>Assessment strategies: (must be numbered)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Weekly text Lesson and supplemental article readings: Summary of assigned readings following summary template and discussion board postings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation and feedback by instructor and classmates. 2. Case study questions and other problem-solving homework exercises. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation and feedback by instructor and classmates. 3. Quizzes from text Lesson and discussion board postings and additional materials. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open-ended questions, multiple-choice, and extra credit questions graded by the instructor.

	<p>4. Active participation demonstrated by leadership initiatives and facilitation of group assignments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written evaluation and feedback from the rest of the group members. <p>5. Midterm exam.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pathway diagram with health indicators and outcomes of an environmental topic. <p>6. Final exam.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive exam based on reading materials, assignments, and discussions.
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Grading scale & criteria	<p>Successful completion of the course will require that the student fulfills the following:</p> <p>Grading scale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A (585 points and above) • B (520-584 points) • C (455-519 points) • D (390-454 points) • F (389 points or less) <p>Grading components:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Type</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Point Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Quizzes (13 at 10 points max each)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0-130</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Discussions posts (11 at 10 points max each)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0-110</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assignments (7 at 10 points max each)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0-70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Midterm Project</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0-100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Final examination</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0-100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Final Project: Reflective paper based on literature review</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0-100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Course Evaluations (2 at 20 points each)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Extra Credit Assignments: (5 at 10 points max each)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0-50</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total Points Possible (w/o extra credit):</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0-650</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra Credit: You can earn up to 50 points as extra credit during the course. The instructor will provide details about extra credit activities. • Active participation is measured across all grading components, including but not limited to attendance, leadership, and turning in assignments on time. 	Type	Point Value	Quizzes (13 at 10 points max each)	0-130	Discussions posts (11 at 10 points max each)	0-110	Assignments (7 at 10 points max each)	0-70	Midterm Project	0-100	Final examination	0-100	Final Project: Reflective paper based on literature review	0-100	Course Evaluations (2 at 20 points each)	40	Extra Credit Assignments: (5 at 10 points max each)	0-50	Total Points Possible (w/o extra credit):	0-650
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Dropping the course, withdrawals, and incomplete:	<p>Students may drop individual courses or completely withdraw from the University, and grades are based on when the actions are taken. Refer to the online Academic Calendar at www.utep.edu/calendar.</p>
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Grading policies for dropping the course, withdrawals, and incomplete:	<p>a) Student-initiated Drops</p> <p>It is the student’s responsibility to officially drop a course that she/he no longer wishes to take. Failure to do so may result in a grade of “F” on the student’s academic record. Athletes must receive permission from the Miner Athletic Advising Center before dropping a course. International students with F or J visas must receive permission from the Office of International Programs before dropping a course.</p> <p>b) Administration Drops</p> <p>During registration periods for upcoming semesters, students will be dropped from registered courses for failure to meet prerequisites or co-requisites after final grades have</p>
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	<p>been posted for the current semester and before the beginning of late registration for next semester. A student may petition the department chair of the course in question for a prerequisite or co-requisite waiver.</p> <p>At the instructor's discretion, a student may be dropped from a course because of excessive absences or lack of effort. Students may also be administratively withdrawn from a course during the semester for other reasons, with the concurrence of the academic dean or department chair. A grade of "W" will be assigned before the course drop deadline and a grade of "F" after the course drop deadline. A grade of "F" received due to the University's disciplinary action overrides a grade of "W" received through a student-initiated or faculty drop. Students will be notified of their drop through their UTEP e-mail account.</p> <p>c) Grade Assignment for Drops and Withdrawals</p> <p>Grades will be assigned as follows when a student drops a course or completely withdraws from the University:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If a student drops a course before the official census date of a semester, neither the course nor a grade will appear on the student's academic record. 2. If a student drops from a course after the census date, but before the student-initiated course drop deadline listed in the Class Schedule, a grade of "W" will be assigned. 3. If the student drops after the student-initiated course drop deadline, instructors will determine a "W" or "F" grade for each course. A grade of "W" is considered only under exceptional circumstances and must be approved by the instructor and department chair for the course. A student may petition for a grade of "W" in writing with the necessary supporting documentation. <p>d) Incomplete coursework</p> <p>An "I" (incomplete grade) can only be considered <u>only if the student requests it in advance of the conclusion of the course</u> and only for <u>legitimate, documented</u> emergencies. Failure to request and negotiate the terms of an "Incomplete" grade before the conclusion of the course will result in denial except in the most extraordinary circumstances.</p>
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Course/Instructor & Institutional Policies

<p>Attendance:</p>	<p>Active student participation in this course is critical. Students must be prepared to log in to Blackboard Learn daily, answer discussion board questions, and participate in all course activities. Attendance and participation will be tracked by submitting assignments/activities and/or total time spent online per week through Blackboard. Completing each week's assignments, discussions, and quizzes will count attendance. If a student fails to complete all week's course work, it will count as an absence. If a student is absent for two weeks, he/she will be dropped out of the course.</p>
<p>Netiquette:</p>	<p>Please respect each other's opinions and allow for everyone in the class to have a chance to give their insight. Zero tolerance for foul language used in any way when interacting with other students and professors. Here are ten rules for netiquette https://www.utep.edu/extendeduniversity/utepconnect/blog/october-2017/10-rules-of-netiquette-for-students.html.</p>
<p>Communication and feedback plan:</p>	<p>E-mail is the best method to approach the instructor if you have any questions regarding the course materials (gabmejia@utep.edu). I usually reply within 24-48 hours. In your e-mail, please type in the subject line "Environmental Health Course," and in the message, explain the question or problem you may have in complete sentences. You may set up video conferencing as appointed if needed.</p>

	However, the nature of this class is online, and everything will be managed through either the Blackboard learning platform or em-mail.
Student progress:	Grades and feedback will be available through Blackboard Learn Grade Center; additional feedback may be sent from the instructor by e-mail.
Reading assignments:	All assigned readings need to be completed before coming to the next scheduled learning activity. For example, the reading assignments for week 2 need to be completed before coming to the week 2 class session.
Online midterm and final examinations:	<p>One (1) midterm project and one (1) final comprehensive examination will be given for Fall's 2020 Semester. Examinations will consist of a combination of multiple-choice, true/false, and matching columns. The exams are conceptual; they are designed to test your ability to think about the material, not your memory. Each examination is worth 100 points.</p> <p>Exams availability is limited. Exams will open at 8:00 am (Mountain Standard Time) on the scheduled day and close on the same day at 11:59 pm (Mountain Standard Time).</p> <p>The exams are timed, and you will have three (3) hours to complete the exam. Once you start the exam, you need to finish in one sitting. If the exam accidentally closes once you start, you will not be able to attempt it again and would get a zero (0) for your grade. No exceptions! Hence, please have the requisite block of time and internet connectivity scheduled during the exam period to attempt the online exams.</p> <p>No rescheduling or re-taking of examinations will be allowed without a University-approved excuse.</p>
Online quizzes:	<p>Quizzes will be scheduled during this course. Each quiz is worth 0-10 points, for a maximum of 130 points. All quizzes will be available through the Blackboard Learn platform on the scheduled dates (see course schedule). You will usually be given a limited time (not to exceed 60 minutes) to complete them, depending on the number and type of questions. Scores will be automatically posted on Blackboard Learn Grade Center once graded.</p> <p>Quiz's availability is limited. Quizzes will open on Monday at 12:00 am (Mountain Standard Time) and are due on Sunday at 5:00 pm (Mountain Standard Time)</p> <p>No rescheduling or re-taking of quizzes will be allowed without a University-approved excuse.</p>
Discussion board posts:	Discussion topics are open on Monday at 12:00 am (Mountain Standard Time). Your initial post is due on Wednesday at 11:59 pm (Mountain Standard Time), and you must reply to two other students by Friday at 11:59 pm (Mountain Standard Time). Each student's post must be 350 words or more. Required replies to at least two peers must be 150 words or more.
Final project:	You will be required to complete and submit a reflection paper based on a literature review report, which will be worth 0-100 points. The report is mandatory, and it cannot be substituted. Students, individually (only valid for Graduate Students taking this course) or in a group, will be required to complete a review paper based on at least (10) peer-reviewed journal articles on an Environmental Health topic of importance to the U.S.-Mexico border regions and included in Healthy People 2020 objectives (http://healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/overview.aspx?topicid=30).

	<p>Students will search from resources available at UTEP’s library or other valid academic resources to complete it. Selected research articles should have been published after 2016. Take note that a reflective paper is not a summary of the papers you have read.</p> <p>Please refer to Appendix “Writing Assignment #1: Reflection Paper Based on Literature Review” for further instructions.</p> <p>More information regarding this reflective paper will be provided during the semester.</p>
Group work:	<p>Nowadays, collaboration is a highly regarded skill. Groups will be formed during the first week of the course. During this time, students will be given the option of freely assembling and joining one until a set deadline; however, if a student does not join a group by the set date, it will be interpreted as a decision to work independently and thus assigned as a single-member group. Single-member groups are expected to comply with the same amount and level of work as a group with more than one person. The maximum number of members allowed in each group is three (3). Blackboard’s group sign-in section is set not to allow going over this number.</p> <p>Although group work should be equally distributed, each group will appoint a “Group Leader” who will be the liaison between the group and other groups and the instructor. This appointment does not apply to single-member groups. When completing a group assessment, the score will be the same for all members; however, at the end of the course, each group member may complete a peer evaluation in which students will evaluate and rank member’s participation to receive proper merit in the form of extra credit points. Changing groups, dropping, or joining others are allowed only until the end of the second week of the course.</p>
Writing standards:	<p>Please check your work for misspelling, grammar, and sentence structure before submitting assignments. References in written reports should follow the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA Style) 7th ed. Washington DC: 2019.</p> <p>All written documents should be double spaced, 1-inch margins, and font size 12. Please feel free to seek out assistance from the UTEP Writing Center or other writing support. The UTEP Writing Center is free, and they are very helpful.</p>
Late assignments:	<p>Due dates for homework, quizzes, exams, presentations, and other assignments are designed for fairness to all students. No exceptions to those dates will be made except in cases of university-designated closures. All assignments are due on the due date. Five (5) points will be deducted for each day an assignment is late (including weekend days).</p>
Permission to record lectures & discussions:	<p>Not permitted without the express permission of the instructor.</p>
Instructors and course evaluation:	<p>The instructor will provide more details on how the course will be evaluated. There is an internal evaluation and a University standard online evaluation in which you will have the opportunity to rate the instructor’s performance and the course content. It is recommended that you complete these evaluations so that we continue improving the course.</p>
Accommodations for individuals with disability:	<p>The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services, and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the</p>

	<p>Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University.</p> <p>Learn more here: UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services</p> <p>If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by e-mail to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass.</p>
Field trips:	Virtual field trips may be required in this course.
Copyright and fair use requirements:	The University requires all members of its community to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you on or assume any responsibility for a student's violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies.
Student conduct and scholastic dishonesty:	<p>Students are expected to be above reproach in all scholastic activities. Students who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and dismissal from the University. "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another student, any act designed to give an unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." <u>Regent's Rules and Regulations</u>, Part One, Lesson VI, Section 3.2, Subdivision 3.22. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. From the UTEP Dean of Student Affairs (http://studentaffairs.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=4386), "It is an official university policy that all suspected cases or acts of alleged scholastic dishonesty must be referred to the Dean of Students for investigation and appropriate disposition. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give an unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts".</p> <p>Examples of "cheating" include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copying from the homework, in-class work or exam paper of another student, engaging in written, oral, or any other means of communication with another student during an exam or homework assignment, or giving aid to or seeking aid from another student during a test; • Possession and/or use during an exam or home test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes, books, or specifically designed "crib notes"; • Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of the non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program; using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters but which will be used again either in whole or in part without permission of the instructor, or accessing a test bank without instructor permission; • Collaborating with or seeking aid from another student for an assignment without authority;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one's self, to take a test; • Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit. <p>“Plagiarism” means the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own academic work offered for credit or using work in a paper or assignment for which the student had received credit in another course without direct permission of all involved instructors. NOTE: This includes cutting-and-pasting and photocopying from online and other material.</p> <p>“Collusion” means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.</p>
Student resources:	<p>UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Familiarize yourself with the bookmarks on the right-hand side of the Blackboard student portal (visible before entering into a course) as well as the resources below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UTEP Library: Access a wide range of resources, including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks, plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students. • RefWorks: A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide. • University Writing Center (UWC): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources. • Math Tutoring Center (MaRCS): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources. • History Tutoring Center (HTC): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS	<p>Students are not permitted on campus when they have a positive COVID-19 test, exposure, or symptoms. You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. Reports should be made at screening.utep.edu. If you know of anyone who should report any of these three criteria, you should encourage them to report. If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an e-mail to COVIDaction@utep.edu.</p> <p>For each day that you attend campus—for any reason—you must complete the questions on the UTEP screening website (screening.utep.edu) before arriving on campus. The website will verify if you are permitted to come to campus. Under no circumstances should anyone come to class when feeling ill or exhibiting any known COVID-19 symptoms. If you feel unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. Students are advised to minimize the number of encounters with others to avoid infection.</p> <p>Wear face coverings when in common areas of campus or when others are present. Students who refuse to wear a face covering and follow preventive COVID-19 guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action according to Section 1.2.3 Health and Safety and Section 1.2.2.5 Disruptions in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures.</p> <p>(Classes with on-campus meetings) Please note that if COVID-19 conditions deteriorate in the City of El Paso, all course and lab activities may be transitioned to remote delivery.</p>