UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
College of Health Science
Health Science Program
CRN 17534 - HSCI 3308 - Disease Characteristics, Prevention, and Control
Fall 2015
(Last revised: 08-23-2015)

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Office hours: Friday, 9:30 – 12:00
Class period: Wednesdays from 4:30 – 7:20 PM
Location: Education Building 319

PURPOSE:
This syllabus is considered a contract between you and the professor. It is an agreement that includes the "rules" to be observed during the course, both by students and the instructor. Although this syllabus can change, no changes will be made without a class discussion and agreement.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course will provide an introduction to the study of the nature, prevention, treatment and control of common communicable and non-communicable human diseases; examination of cultural, social, behavioral, biological, and environmental factors involved in promoting health and preventing disease. This course is offered as technologically enhanced course, meaning that additionally to traditional classroom face-to-face meetings, online-based learning using Blackboard Learning platform may take place during the semester. **Time commitment is essential to complete the course requirements.** You are expected to attend face-to-face classes and complete the remainder of time working with readings from your textbook; furthermore, students must complete with on online materials and assignments. You can access this parts of the course either in or off campus, thus you can work on your own. During classroom sessions the teaching method is based on Problem based learning (PBL), which can include, but not be limited to:

1. Introductory lectures
2. Problem solving group work
3. Student discussions, presentations and exercises
4. Movies and other visual media materials
5. Possible guest lecturers (to be announced)

For some this could be convenient since you can access the course off campus, thus you can work on your own. However, if this is the first time you are considering enrolling in a course that involves online learning, it is recommend that first you visit and review UTEP’s Instructional Support Services’ “Prospective Online Students” 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](http://www.ion.uillinois.edu/resources/tutorials/pedagogy/selfEval.asp), before making a decision.
Even though this is a *technology enhanced* course, learning techniques will emphasize a critical thinking approach to learning. With this approach, students will apply the gained knowledge to solve common and practical problems related to the research process. A critical thinking approach takes the view that a student's knowledge is not passively absorbed from the instructor. In contrast, critical thinking assumes students will create knowledge in their own mind by actively thinking about the material. It is going to be crucial that you prepare for each lesson, reading and reviewing the material before engaging in lessons and assignments. **The course is designed to challenge you intellectually, and you may be required to cover additional materials and tasks.** Not necessarily lessons and teachings will come straight out of the textbook. Instead, additional readings and assignments will be used as a springboard for activities and discussions. Additional course material, test, quizzes readings, etc. will be made available through UTEP’s Blackboard learning management system. All course materials are testable.

**RESTRICTIONS:**
Students wanting to enroll in this course must complete first BIOL 2313 (mandatory prerequisite). No exemptions.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**
1. Identify major theories of disease causation (past and present)
2. Describe disease agents involved in the pathology of infectious and chronic disease and conditions.
3. Discuss the role of immune response in human health and illness.
4. Identify biologic, physical, and social factors in the environment that influence the occurrence of disease.
5. Explain the classic and advanced epidemiologic triangle of disease.
6. Define the chain of transmission and its relevance with respect to disease prevention and control.
7. Identify the characteristics, transmission, symptoms, treatment, prevention, and control for infectious and chronic illnesses of public health importance and according to the national objectives of Healthy People 2020.
8. Explain the importance of vaccination in maintaining adequate herd immunity in human populations.
9. Discuss the positive and negative effects that lifestyle behaviors have on an individual’s susceptibility to illness.
10. Describe the disease processes present in chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, stroke, cancer, and arthritis.
11. Identify major modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors associated with infectious and chronic conditions.
12. Effectively communicate health information to lay and professional audiences in oral and written form.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**
You will need the following required textbook:

**Disease: Identification, Prevention and Control**
by Hamann, B. (2007)
McGraw-Hill; 3rd Edition

All chapters will be covered, and students will be required to complete read all of them; additionally, students will be required to go over all posted materials.

Group work will be an integral part of the course. Groups will be formed during the first week of the course. During this time period 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, the instructor will assign the student at random to a group. More details on group work can be found in the **Grading Criteria** section.

Additionally, all students are required to:

- Have access to a computer that connects to the Internet and a working e-mail account (miners.edu account). Other e-mail systems should not be used for this course. If you do not own a computer, you can make use of several computer labs on campus.
- Have access to a broadband internet connection with a “speed” that is capable accessing, downloading, playing, etc. several types of programs and files. Follow this URL to tests your system’s speed capability: [http://www.speedtest.net/](http://www.speedtest.net/)
- Be able and have the means of accessing the online course by way of Blackboard. The course is only accessible online by logging in to your “My UTEP” portal at [http://my.utep.edu](http://my.utep.edu) and accessing the Blackboard tab that will show your entire course list. For information on how to log in you can contact the UTEP Help Desk at (915) 747-5257, or check their information page at [http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=63402](http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=63402)
- Have some abilities in using a mouse and keyboarding, and how to use a Web browser to access the internet, email and Blackboard.
- Be able to perform Internet searches, use e-mail, chat, and discussion boards.
- Be able to study independently, be self-disciplined, and have good study and time management skills.
- Have knowledge of how to use word processing, spreadsheet, visual media software, as well as capability to open pdf-type files. Usually, on-campus computers will provide the necessary software and connectivity. However, if you plan not to work on campus, it is your responsibility to make sure you have the software and connectivity requirements.
- Have the means to store all assignments and if necessary turn them in electronically (disks, flash drives, etc.).

**GRADING CRITERIA:**
Completion of course will require that the student fulfills the following:

a) Attendance (see correspondent sections for details).

b) Group work: completing 2 case studies (see correspondent sections for details):

c) Written examinations: 2 partial examinations, and 1 final (comprehensive).

d) Active participation (Instructor’s prerogative points)

e) Extra credit assignment (s)
**Attendance**
The student must comply with a minimum of 80% attendance translated as weekly participation in asynchronous online discussion. Refer to the attendance criteria on “COURSE POLICIES” section for details.

**Examinations**
**Three in-class examinations** (25 points each for total of 50 points: see below for calculation method). These three non-cumulative exams will cover material from the class lectures, readings, case studies, videos, guest lectures and other activities and assignments. The lowest grade you attain from the three examinations will be automatically deleted when calculating your final score. This includes any “0’s” for a missed examination. For example, if you get a 95% (“A”) on the 1st exam, a 95% (“A”) on the second exam but do not show up for the 3rd exam or get a (“B”), your average grade will still be an “A”. Please note that this “insurance policy” should be used with caution. You get only that one chance to not perform well or miss one of exams/written reports since no make-up exams will be administered. The best advice is to do your best on all three exams since it is better to be safe than sorry!

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<tr>
<th>Examination Schedule</th>
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<tr>
<td>Examination type</td>
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<tr>
<td>First partial examination</td>
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<td>Second partial examination</td>
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<td>Final written examination</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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**Group Work**
Two case studies (20 points each): You will write up and present two case studies, one on a communicable disease and the other on a non-communicable disease. Your professor will hand out detailed written and oral instructions on this activity and your responsibilities later in the course. These are group activities. You must shoulder an equal share of the assignment preparation and presentation. There will be NO make-up excuses allowed for these activities. If you do not adequately work within your group and/or do not present with your group, you will receive an automatic “0” for your case study (unless you have a valid excuse, e.g., hospitalization, death in the immediate family) which will be personally checked on by your instructor.

Case study assignment: 1) fifteen minutes oral PowerPoint presentation (group effort) and 2) you must write a personal report which must include background information, description of the case study, comments and recommendations, and bibliography (scientific references only). The length of each report must be at least three pages but no longer than four pages (Times New Roman 11 or 12-font; paper, 1-inch margins on all sides, single-spaced).

**Active Participation**
Active participation discussions and other class activities (10 total possible points). Students should be prepared to come to class to discuss, answer questions, and participate in the cases and all other class activities. You, the student, are responsible for your own learning; your professor acts only as your guide. Thus, students are expected to ACTIVELY participate in their own learning process. This includes attentive listening. Students who are continuously talking during lectures, case study discussions, and other class activities are showing disrespect for their instructor and their classmates. Disruptive students will be asked to leave the class and may have points deducted from their grade. They will only be invited to return at the discretion of the instructor.

Final grading
The total that can be earned taking on account the three examinations and group project in this course is greater than 100 points:

Total Grade Points. The translation of points to a letter grade for the course is as follows:

- ≥ 90 points          A
- 80-89                B
- 70-79                C
- 60-69                D
- < 60                 F

Student progress
Grades will be available through Blackboard’s Grade Center; feedback from the instructor may be sent by e-mail.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance
It is a university policy that all students attend ALL scheduled classes. Attendance will be taken at each class. Students who never miss a class will be rewarded with 3 extra points added to their final grade. Students who do not attend class regularly will find that they have difficulty fulfilling the requirements of this course. Class participation is a mandatory component of this course. Students are strongly discouraged from coming to class late or leaving class early since this is disruptive to the instructor and more importantly distracting to classmates. Please note that students who arrive later than 5 minutes after the start of class will not be admitted to the classroom.

When a student registers for a course, it is assumed that she/he has made arrangements to avoid such conflicts. Work, family, pets, early vacation plans, etc. are not excuses for continual lateness, absences or missed exams and assignments. It is the student’s responsibility to get any missed in-class or out-of-class assignments and/or class notes from class peers, NOT from the instructor. Not knowing about an exam or assignment due date because of a missed class is not a valid excuse.
Communication and Feedback Plan
This section includes how you and your students are expected to communicate during the course. When can students expect feedback from you? (I.e. within 24-48 hours) What tools can they use to contact you? UTEP email is the preferred method; send all emails to gabmejia@utep.edu; additionally emails can be sent to the courses’ appointed teaching assistant; his/her email will be provided later in the course. Occasionally, a Skype® session can be scheduled – if set up with previous time. Your instructors Skype® ID is gabboim61.

Class disruptions
Policy on Electronic Devices In Class. Use of personal laptops, cell phones, and other wireless devices (PDAs, MP3 players, SmartPhones etc.) is not permitted during this course. The necessity of classroom discussion and other interactions in this course negates the usefulness of laptops as a note-taking device. The use of cell phones, personal laptops and other electronic devices is also distracting to your classmates and instructor so do not bring these to class or turn them off before coming to class. Otherwise, you will be asked to leave by the instructor.

Policy on examinations
Exams will take place on the scheduled day, time and place only. You will not be able to start the exam, stop, and then re-start again. You will have a maximum 2-and-half hours to complete the each exam. No books, laptop computers, tablets, cell phones, or any other materials are allowed during examination. If a student misses a midterm or final examination, a make-up exam may be re-scheduled only if the student has informed the instructor of the absence prior to the beginning of the examination, and only if the absence is approved by the instructor. All re-take exams have a point deduction penalty of 20% of the value of the exam, which will not allow the student to score higher than 80% of the value of the assessment. Only in rare instances will a student be excused from the examination. Students that due to a University excused absence missed a quiz will be given the opportunity to complete it at the end of the semester, and before the scheduled date for final examination; however, a similar penalization will be applied also. All other reasons or justifications are not valid for re-taking a quiz. This is not negotiable.

Policy on late assignments
Homework and other assignments must be turned in when scheduled in order for graded score points to be awarded points. A 10% deduction on graded score will be applied for every 24 hours an assignment is overdue, including weekends. No assignments will be accepted if submitted more than 1 week after the due date.

Notice on dropping the course, withdrawals, and incomplete.
Students may drop individual courses or completely withdraw from the University as described below. Refer to the on-line Academic Calendar at www.utep.edu/calendar or to the Class Schedule to identify the dates during which adds, drops, withdrawals, and pass/fail registration changes may occur.

Student-initiated Drops
It is the student’s responsibility to officially drop a course that s/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.

**Administrative Drops**

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 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.

At the discretion of the instructor, 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 disciplinary action imposed by the University 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.

**Grade Assignment for Drops and Withdrawals**

Grades will be assigned as follows when a student drops a course or completely withdraws from the University:

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 grade of “W” or “F” 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.

**Incomplete course work**

If eligible, the student may receive a grade of Incomplete (I) that will appear on the academic transcript; an “I” (incomplete grade) can only be considered only if requested by the student in advance of the conclusion of the course and only for legitimate, documented emergencies. Failure to request and negotiate the terms of an “Incomplete” grade before the conclusion of the course will result in a denial except in the most extraordinary circumstances.

**Disabilities:** I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally before or after class in the first two weeks or make an appointment, to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email 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.
Notice of Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty is an assault upon the basic integrity and meaning of a University. Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is dishonest activities are serious acts which erode the University’s educational and research roles and cheapen the learning experience not only for the perpetrators, but also for the entire community. It is expected the UTEP students will understand and subscribe to the ideal of academic integrity and that they will be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work. Materials (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill academic requirements must represent a student’s own efforts. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

“Cheating” includes:
1. Copying from the test paper of another student, engaging in written, oral, or any other means of communication with another student during a test, or giving aid to or seeking aid from another student during a test;
2. Possession and/or use during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes, books, or specifically designed “crib notes”;
3. Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of 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;
4. Collaborating with or seeking aid from another student for an assignment without authority;
5. Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one's self, to take a test; and
6. Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit;

“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 \on-line and other material. “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.

American Disabilities Act
If you have or suspect a disability and need accommodations, you should contact the Disabled Student Support Services Office (DSSO) at (915) 747-5148. You can also email the office at: dss@utep.edu or go by Room 106 Union Building East. For additional information, visit the DSSO website at: www.utep.edu/dsso

COURSE ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT:
Course related: Your instructor is available to assist you online, by phone, and by blackboard email throughout the semester.

Technical support: Click on the “Help” hyperlink in Blackboard platform after logging in to your “My UTEP” portal at http://my.utep.edu. Furthermore, The University of Texas at El Paso offers complete technical information and help desk support at: http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=63402

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Classes begin: Aug. 24
- Labor Day (University Closed): Sep. 7
- Census Day: Sep. 9
- Course drop deadline: Oct. 30
- Thanksgiving holiday (University closed): Nov. 26-27
- Last day of classes: Dec. 3
- Final exams week: Dec. 7-11
- Final grades due to the Records Office: Dec. 16
- Final grades available online for students: Dec. 21
## TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE & ACTIVITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Weeks</th>
<th>Weekly Class Topics (Subject to change)</th>
<th>Reading (read before you come to class!) &amp; other Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. BACKGROUND</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 26</td>
<td>Class orientation; case study group formation</td>
<td>Text, chapters 1-2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>History of disease; Principles of disease occurrence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 2</td>
<td>Cells, aging &amp; the immune system</td>
<td>Text, chapter 3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2. INFECTIOUS DISEASE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 9</td>
<td>Bacterial diseases acquired through the respiratory route</td>
<td>Text, chapter 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 16</td>
<td>Bacterial diseases acquired through the alimentary route</td>
<td>Text, chapter 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 23</td>
<td>Bacterial infections acquired through skin, mucosa, and bloodstream from human &amp; endogenous sources</td>
<td>Text, chapter 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 30</td>
<td>Infectious disease case study presentations: groups 1-6</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>First examination (Classroom) Chapters 1-6</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bacterial infections acquired through skin &amp; mucosa from arthropod vectors, animal sources, and the soil</td>
<td>Text, chapter 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 7</td>
<td>Viral diseases acquired through the respiratory route</td>
<td>Text, chapter 8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Viral diseases acquired through the alimentary &amp; other routes</td>
<td>Text, chapter 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 14</td>
<td>Diseases caused by fungi</td>
<td>Text, chapter 10</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Disease caused by protozoa &amp; metazoan</td>
<td>Text, chapter 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 21</td>
<td>Infectious disease case study presentations: groups 7-15</td>
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<td><strong>3. CHRONIC DISEASE &amp; DISORDERS</strong></td>
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<td>Oct 28</td>
<td>Cardiovascular &amp; cerebrovascular disease</td>
<td>Text, chapter 12</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cancers</td>
<td>Text, chapters 13-14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 4</td>
<td><strong>Second examination (Classroom) Chapters 7-12</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chronic respiratory, digestive, &amp; excretory diseases</td>
<td>Text, chapter 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 11</td>
<td>Chronic skin &amp; musculoskeletal disorders</td>
<td>Text, chapter 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 18</td>
<td>Sensory, nervous &amp; endocrine disorders</td>
<td>Text, chapter 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 25</td>
<td>Genetic &amp; pediatric disorders</td>
<td>Text, chapter 18</td>
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<td>Chronic disease &amp; disorders: case study presentations: groups 1-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>Chronic disease &amp; disorders: case study presentations: groups 7-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 9</td>
<td><strong>Third examination (Classroom) Chapters 13-18</strong></td>
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