



Department of Public Health Sciences
MPH Program Syllabus

Course name:	Environmental Health
Course no.:	HSCI 3306
Course CRN:	34340
Semester/year	Summer 2017
Graduate credit hours:	3
Class location:	100% online
Class meeting time:	
Class instructor:	Dr. Hsini Lin
Office location:	Biology Building Room 214
Phone:	
Email:	hlin@utep.edu
Office hours:	By appointment
Preferred contact method:	By e-mail
Course description:	This course provides students an overview of environmental health and its applications in everyday life. It will cover the major concerns of environmental health, risk factors, and the basic methodology to approach an environmental health problems
Course pre-requisites:	N/A
Required textbooks:	Essential of Environmental Health. Friss, Robert H. 2 nd Edition. Jones & Bartlett Publishers. Sudbury, Massachusetts
Supplemental reading:	
Course format:	
Major learning objectives (must be numbered):	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identify and describe how current and important environmental health issues influence our lives2. Describe different approaches used in epidemiology and toxicology to assess environmental exposures and hazards3. Identify the key environmental health agencies and organizations involved in the protection of environmental health and explain their basic responsibilities, programs and policies4. Describe the interactions between environmental hazards and biological systems5. Identify and discuss environmental hazards associated with water pollution, as well as the importance of water quality to public health6. Discuss health risks associated with air pollutions, methods of hazard control, and the concept of global warming7. Identify the major of foodborne illness, and discuss the importance of the protection of food sources8. Discuss the challenges of wastes management9. Discuss the significance of the occupational settings for health
Assessment strategies (must be numbered)	1). 3 Online examinations: 100 points per examination; 2). 11 Online quizzes: 10 points per quiz; 3). 11 Assignments: 10 points per assignment; 4). 11 Online discussions: 10 point per discussion

Program Competencies (core competency area must be identified & number according to that listed by the MPH program)	Learning objectives	Assessment strategies
This course meets the following MPH degree & graduate certificate in public health competencies		
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CORE COMPETENCIES	1	1, 3, 4, 5
1. Describe the direct and indirect human, ecological and safety effects of major environmental and occupational agents.	2; 3	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2. Describe genetic, physiologic and psychosocial factors that affect susceptibility to adverse health outcomes following exposure to environmental hazards.	5	1, 2, 4, 5
3. Describe federal and state regulatory programs, guidelines and authorities that control environmental health issues.	4	1, 2, 3, 5
4. Specify current environmental risk assessment methods.	2, 3, 4	1, 2, 3, 5
5. Specify approaches for assessing, preventing and controlling environmental hazards that pose risks to human health and safety.	2	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
6. Explain the general mechanisms of toxicity in eliciting a toxic response to various environmental exposures.	3, 4, 5, 6	2, 3, 5
7. Discuss various risk management and risk communication approaches in relation to issues of environmental justice and equity.	2, 3, 4	1, 2
BIOSTATISTICS CORE COMPETENCIES		
9. Interpret the results of statistical analyses found in public health studies	5	2, 3, 4
EPIDEMIOLOGY CORE COMPETENCIES		
9. Draw appropriate inferences from epidemiologic data	5	2, 3, 4

Grading scale & criteria	Grading scale: A=90-100%; B=80-89%; C=70-79%; D=60-69%; F is <60%. 3 exams = 300 points; 40% of the final grade 11 assignments = 110 points; 20 % of the final grade 11 quizzes = 110 points; 20% of the final grade 11 discussion topics = 110 points; 20% of the final grade
Incomplete policy:	An "I" (incomplete grade) can only be considered only <u>if requested by the student 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 a denial except in the most extraordinary circumstances.
Course/Instructor & Institutional Policies	
Attendance:	It is UTEP policy that all students attend all scheduled classes. When a student registers for a course, it is assumed that she/he has made arrangements to avoid such conflicts. Students are responsible for any information or activities presented in class discussions, lectures, assignments, and/or readings. If you are unable to attend class, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor before the respective class session. Students may be administratively withdrawn for excessive unexcused absences (2 or more classes). Compliance to due dates, in class presentations, homework, exams and other activities is mandatory. All emergency-related absences must be verified.
Reading assignments:	All assigned readings need to be completed prior to coming to the next scheduled class session. Example: the reading assignments for week 2 need to be completed prior to coming to the week 2 class session.

Writing standards	Effective public health leaders and practitioners are also effective written as well as oral communicators. Written communication is a critical element of the communication process. Our MPH graduate program both recognizes and expects good writing to be the norm for course work. Please feel free to seek out assistance from the UTEP Writing Center. It is free and they are very helpful.
Policy for late assignments	Due dates for homework, exams, presentations and other assignments are designed for fairness to all students. No exceptions to those dates will be made excepting in cases of university-designated closures. All assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the due date. Five (5) points will be deducted for each day an assignment is late (including weekend days).
Permission to record lectures & discussions	Not permitted without express permission of the instructor

Cellphone/electronic tablet/ use policies:	Please note that all cellular telephones, pagers, headphones, iPods, iPads, mp3 players, earpieces, laptops, and other forms of communication and entertainment technology equipment must be powered off and put away during the class period. If a situation should arise which necessitates a student to be contacted by a physician or family member, the instructor shall be notified and cell phone can be set to "vibrate." Please be advised that students who use unauthorized technology during class time will be dismissed from that week's class session.
Field trip policies:	N/A
Class participation:	Active student participation in this course is very important. Students must be prepared to come to class to discuss, answer questions, and participate in all class activities.
Special accommodations:	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 .
MPH handbook:	http://chs.utep.edu/publichealthsciences/pdf/MPH%20STUDENT%20%20HANDBOOK%202013-2014.pdf
Student conduct:	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 unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." <u>Regent's Rules and Regulations</u> , Part One, Chapter 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 policy of university 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 unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts". Examples of "cheating" include:

- 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 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;
- 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.

“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.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE*

Dates	Topics	Homework Assignments
Unit 1 07/03 ~ 07/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting ready for the course • Introduction: The Environment at Risk • Environmental Epidemiology • Environmental Toxicology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: EEH CH1 ~ CH4 • 4 quizzes • 4 study questions • 4 discussion topics • 1 exam
Unit 2 07/20 ~ 08/05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toxic Metals and Elements • Pesticides and Other Organic Chemicals • Water Quality • Air Quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: EEH CH6, 7, 9 10 • 4 quizzes • 4 study questions • 4 discussion topics • 1 exam
Unit 3 08/06 ~ 08/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Safety • Solids and Liquid Waste • Injuries with a Focus on Unintentional Injuries and Disease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: EEH CH11, 12, 14 • 3 quizzes • 3 study questions • 3 discussion topics • 1 comprehensive final exam

* Note: The course syllabus is a general tentative plan for the course. Any changes will be announced to the class in advance by the instructor.