School of Pharmacy

Elective Course Syllabus
Spring
Course PHAR 6190: Public Health Assessment: Application to Human Health Risk from Exposure to Chemicals
January 21, 2025 — May 8, 2025

Course Faculty

Hsini Lin, ScD.
Email: hlin@utep.edu

Office Hours

Office hours are by appointment only the course coordinator will accommodate students as time permits. Students may request an appointment with the coordinator in person or via e-mail at least 48 business hours in advance. The course coordinator is available for grading questions or problems. Individual faculty lecturers should not be contacted unless the faculty lecturer or course coordinator has given permission to do so

---

Course Description

This course provides an overview of the core concepts of public health risk assessment, including hazard identification, dose-resposne evaluation, exposure assessment, and risk characterizations. Students will learn to identify, characterize and predict public health risk due to environmental exposures. It will cover legislative and regulatory options and risk communication techniques.

Pharmacists' Patient Care Process: This course will introduce students to effective skills to communicate with customers of diverse background and knowledge to appropriately communications for patient care. Student will use data, background information, and the concepts of toxicology to address public health concerns, which is in line with the scope of PPCP.

https://www.pharmacist.com/sites/default/files/files/PatientCareProcess.pdf

---

Course Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, students shall be expected to:

1. Identify health hazard and understand the methodology and types of data generated by public health studies
2. Predict potential public health risks using the risk assessment framework
3. Preform a public health risk assessment
4. Identify uncertainty and limitations of risk predictions
5. Define Effectively communicate environmental and public health risks and prevention strategies to potentially affected communities including culturally diverse populations
6. Describe common, regulated, and emerging environmental contaminants

---

Detailed Course Meetings & Locations

Online Platform/Blackboard:
Accessing Course Content on Blackboard: All course material will be in Blackboard. Log into My.UTEP.edu and click on the Blackboard link to access PHAR 6710. The course is individualized, and students may access material as it is made available by each course instructor.

Online Assessment Requirements:
All assessments will be administered via ExamSoft®, unless noted otherwise. You must install and maintain a current version of ExamSoft's application on any laptop that will be used during an exam. It is the student's responsibility to maintain access to a reliable internet connection (with the rare exception of when UTEP's systems are down).

Expectations of Students During Course

Time commitment: Taking courses online enables you to attend graduate school while continuing to work and fulfill the other responsibilities in your life. For you to be successful in your studies it is essential that you plan your schedule to include 2-3 hours per week of schoolwork for every credit in which you are enrolled. While the times of day and specific days of the week in which you do this work are flexible, for you to be successful in your classes and to fulfill your responsibilities as a member of your class learning community, you must participate actively and regularly in online discussions. This means setting aside specific time in your schedule every few days, each week.

Methods of Instruction/Learning

The learning outcomes in this course will be achieved via:

1. Outside Preparation: Homework
2. Participation: Discussions Board
3. Quizzes and Exams

It is the responsibility of the student to monitor his/her progress during the course. Students should seek advice and assistance from the course facilitator as soon as he/she encounters any difficulty in the course.

Required Course Technology/Tools/Needs

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, a webcam, and a microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about Microsoft Office 365 and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP Help Desk as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

Evaluation and Grading Policy

- Quizzes & Exams: 30%
- Assignment: 30%
- Discussion: 30%
- Attendance: 10%

Missed Exams Policy

The course coordinator MUST be notified on the day of the exam for the student to be excused from that exam. Do not assume you can miss an exam for vacation or other personal conflicts. Any unexcused absence from an exam will result in a grade of zero for that exam. Any excused absence from an exam for health reasons must be documented with a note from an appropriate health professional. A make-up exam will be given within 5 business days of the students return to school. The make-up exam may involve oral or written questions. Failure to take the make-up exam will result in a grade of zero for that exam. Failure to take the final exam will result in a grade of F for the course.

Remediation Policies

Please refer to the Student Handbook for end-of-course remediation policies and timelines (see ***Table of Contents for End of Course Remediation***).

Technical Assistance

Checking computer requirements and ensuring that all software up to date is essential for students to access course content. **Supported browsers include** – 1) For a PC: Firefox, Internet Explorer (Do NOT use IE7), and Chrome, 2) For a Mac: Safari, Firefox, and Chrome. To enhance browser performance, students should clear the browser cache and allow pop-ups. In addition to testing the web browser, check to ensure that the computer has an updated version of Java (go to http://java.com, click on "Do I have Java", click on "Verify Java Version," update Java if needed). Additional browser plug-ins may also be needed to view some content that your instructor may share on the learning management system. Common plug-ins include Adobe Reader, Flash Player, Windows Media Player, QuickTime. When creating documents, slide presentations, spreadsheets, etc., be sure to use Microsoft Office or a compatible program (see 10 Free MS Word Alternatives). The UTEP Technology Support Services (3rd floor, UTEP Library) can also provide students with any applications, compatibility packs, patches, and updates that may be needed.

Students working off campus may need to set up a Virtual Private Network (VPN) on their computer to access UTEP resources for this class (i.e., Library). The link below provides information in setting up a VPN connection depending on the operating system. Students may contact the Help Desk for assistance (See Technical Assistance information). http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=58534

If technical problems are experienced with the course, students should contact the UTEP Helpdesk during: Monday– Friday: 8AM – 5PM. If calling within UTEP: 915.747.4357. If calling from outside UTEP: 915.747.5257. For more information, please visit http://helpdesk.utep.edu. For help with Blackboard: http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=74094

In order for UTEP to provide a stable learning environment, Thursdays from 12:00-6:00am MST are reserved for minor preventive maintenance. This maintenance window is scheduled during the lowest usage time for the system. Blackboard may or may not be available during this time, depending on whether maintenance is necessary. Whenever possible, this time will be utilized to perform all minor maintenance. Unscheduled outages occur rarely, but they do happen. In the event of an unscheduled outage, Technology Support Services will confer with appropriate student and faculty networks to provide appropriate notifications to those affected.

Students can also visit an on-campus lab such as the ATLAS lab located within the Undergraduate Learning Center (UGLC building) for additional technical assistance. In addition to the various campus computer labs (ATLAS in UGLC or LACIT in Liberal Arts for example), Technology Support Services provides workstations for student use. To learn more, please visit http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=74174.

Attendance and Classroom Behavior Policy

The attendance policy for the School of Pharmacy is outlined in the Student Handbook. It is expected that students should demonstrate their commitment to the profession and respect for faculty, guest

speakers, and colleagues by attending all classes and arriving to class on time prepared for the day's lesson(s).

Academic Integrity Policy

Any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty is subject to discipline. The instructor is required to report all suspected academic dishonesty to the UTEP Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. Please refer to the Student Handbook for SOP guidance on academic integrity (*see **Table of Contents for Curriculum and Classroom Policies: Academic Integrity***).

Academic 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, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Proven violations of the detailed regulations, as printed in the Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP), and available in the Office of the Dean of Students and on the homepage of the Dean of Students at www.utep.edu/dos, may result in sanctions ranging from disciplinary probation to a failing grade on the work in question, to a failing grade in the course, to suspension or dismissal, among others. (For more information, see: http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/)

If a student has an excused absence, they should immediately notify the course coordinator(s) and instructor(s). To secure approval for an absence related to travel for professional meetings or for events that fall outside of the criteria outlined in the Student Handbook, please refer to the Handbook for more information regarding required documentation for submission to the Office of Student Affairs.

Professionalism and Professional Conduct Policy

While enrolled at the University, a student neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. Thus, UTEP and the SOP value professionalism and expect all students to not only acquire but also maintain the highest standards of professional attitudes and behaviors in their interactions with their fellow classmates, staff, faculty, colleagues and their patients, as described in the Student Handbook and as per UTEP's student conduct policies (see http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/student-conduct/ & http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=73922 for further information). Any student who engages in conduct that is prohibited by the Board of Regents' Rules and Regulations, University or SOP rules or by federal, state, or local law is subject to discipline whether such conduct takes place on or off campus or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct. Please refer to the Student Handbook for specific expectations regarding professional conduct in the SOP (*see **Table of Contents for Academic Progression: Good Standing: Professional***).

Special Accommodations (ADA)

If you have or believe you have a disability that may impact your ability to succeed in a class, whether it be online or face-to-face, you may wish to contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services

(CASS) to show documentation of a disability or to register for testing and services. Students who have been designated as disabled must reactivate their standing with the CASS yearly.

If you feel that you may have a disability requiring accommodations and/or modifications, contact CASS at 915-747-5148. You also can visit the CASS website at http://sa.utep.edu/cass/ or the CASS office in Room 108 East Union Building.

Additional Information

Campus Concealed Carry:
Effective August 1, 2016.
http://sa.utep.edu/campuscarry/

Student Support:
UTEP provides a variety of resources for those in need (e.g., if you feel overwhelmed, stressed or dealing with a crisis):

- UTEP's Counseling Center (free counseling to all students): 747-5302, which after-hours goes to a crisis line
- Mental Health Crisis Line: 779-1800
- National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255
- Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255
- NAMI (National Alliance Against Mental Illness) of El Paso: 534-5478
- http://caringeducators.tumblr.com/survival

Civility Statement:
You are expected to follow basic standards of courtesy (http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=73922) and may be dismissed from class for blatant or sustained disruptive behavior

Course Calendar

Unit	Wk	Date	Topics
1	1	01/21 — 01/24	Introduction
	2	01/27 — 01/31	Human exposure to chemicals
	3	02/03 — 02/07	Principles of risk assessment
	4	02/10 — 02/14	Principle elements of public health risk assessment
	5	02/17 — 02/21	Exam 1
2	6	02/24 — 02/28	Chemical hazard determination (1)
	7	03/03 — 03/07	Chemical hazard determination (2)

	8	03/10 — 03/14	SPRING BREAK
	9	03/17 — 03/21	Exposure Assessment (1)
	10	03/24 — 03/28	Exposure Assessment (2)
	11	03/31 — 04/04	Exam 2
	12	04/07 — 04/11	Risk Characterization
	13	04/14 — 04/18	Risk Communication
3	14	04/21 — 04/25	Emerging Challenges in Risk Assessment
	15	04/28 — 05/02	Case Study
	15	05/05 — 05/08	Exam 3