



The University of Texas at El Paso

College of Health Sciences

Department of Public Health Sciences

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE:	HSCI 4308 Independent Study CRN: 35505 cross-listed with: WS 3390 Women’s Studies: Special Topics CRN: 36106 Course subtitle: <i>Border and Global Community Engaged Experiential Learning</i>	
SEMESTER/YEAR:	Maymester 2023 Dates: May 15 – May 26	
PREREQUISITES:	<i>No required</i>	
CREDIT HOURS:	Three (3) credit hours	
COURSE FORMAT:	Virtual Sessions and International Community Engaged Learning Experience	
SCHEDULE:	Monday thru Fridays 8:00 – 5:00 PM	
FACULTY INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Maria Duarte-Gardea, PhD, RDN, LD	
	<i>Office number:</i>	HSN 403
	<i>Telephone number:</i>	(915) 747-7252
	<i>E-mail:</i>	moduarte@utep.edu
	<i>Office hours:</i>	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:00 – 5:00 PM, HSN 403
COURSE DESCRIPTION:	This course includes high impact activities provided through the Virtual Center for Border and Global Engagement. Students participating in Center activities will have the opportunity to develop UTEP edge skills such as communication, confidence, critical thinking, entrepreneurship, global awareness, leadership, problem-solving, social responsibility, and teamwork. Student learning will be enhanced through a series of international community engaged experiences on analysis of issues faced in border and global communities. Community engaged activities will be coordinated by faculty members at Universidad de Costa Rica, San Jose campus. These learning experiences will be highlighted through the development of a series of poster boards and health and social disparities projects as informed by community-based projects at the international site. Learning experiences will be complemented by community engaged leadership opportunities for each student.	
COURSE OBJECTIVES:	Upon completion of this course, students should be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Learn about Hispanic Health Disparities and Social Disparities in United States and in Latin American countries. 2. Develop valuable, transferrable professional skills. 3. Build a greater sense of connection and belonging to an interconnected world. 4. Establish new relationships with faculty and students from Latin America universities. 5. Create a network of colleagues, peers, and professionals from Latin America and around the world through community engagement. 6. Develop/enhance UTEP EDGE skills 	
REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:	Various scientific articles to be assigned	
RECOMMENDED TEXTS:	<i>As assigned, posted on course Blackboard platform</i>	
TEACHING & LEARNING METHODS:	A combination of scientific research and community engaged learning experience at an international setting will comprise all the material for this class. Reading materials will be assigned throughout the course. Emphasis will be placed on learning and understanding course topics by classic lecture-based note taking. Interactive activities and reviews will be used to encourage thoughtful discussions and respectful debates.	
PREPARATION AND NOTE TAKING:	Readings will be assigned, and students are required to take careful notes during all course activities.	

GRADING:	Final grades will be based on the following rubric, which will be used at the end of the semester to determine your grade after all available points have been earned. Percentages are not used to determine final grades, only the rubric below.		
	<i>Task</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Rubric</i>
	Narrative 1	50	470 – 500 points: A
	Narrative 2	50	340 – 469 points: B
	Narrative 3	50	368 – 239 points: C
	Narrative 4	50	238 – 367 points: D
	Narrative 5	50	
	Narrative 6	50	
	Narrative 7	50	
Community Engaged Experiential Learning and Final Presentation	150		
TOTAL POINTS	500		
INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY:	Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances students have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to the instructor immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, a contract between the instructor and the student will be drafted that includes a statement of work to be completed with deadlines. Upon successful completion of the contract terms within the stated deadlines the incomplete grade (I) be changed to the newly earned letter grade. If the contract terms and/or deadlines are not met, the "I" grade will be changed to the letter grade consistent with the points earned throughout the regular semester.		
COURSE DROP POLICY:	According to UTEP Curriculum and Classroom Policies, <i>"When, in the judgment of the instructor, a student has been absent to such a degree as to impair his or her status relative to credit for the course, the instructor may drop the student from the class with a grade of 'W' before the course drop deadline and with a grade of 'F' after the course drop deadline."</i> Therefore, if a student fails to complete enough exams, quizzes, and or assignments to allow for a passing grade prior to the course drop deadline, the instructor will drop the student from the course. The instructor will provide 24 hours advance notice via email before dropping a student.		
POLICIES ON EXAMINATIONS:	<i>The final exam will consist of an Oral Presentation at the Conclusion of the International Experience</i>		
COURSE COMMUNICATION:	<p>There are several ways to maintain open communication channels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office Hours: Office hours can be held on Blackboard Collaborate, Zoom, or Microsoft Teams during the hours stated above. • Email: UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact the instructor, who will make every attempt to respond to e-mails within 48 hours of receipt. When e-mailing, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name and your university identification number. • BlackBoard Discussion Board: If you have a question that you believe other students may also have, please post it in the Help Board of the discussion boards inside of Blackboard. Please respond to other students' questions if you have a helpful response. • Announcements: Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages. 		
TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS:	Some 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		

	<p>technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.</p> <p>You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, scanner, 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 the instructor to assist you!</p>
ATTENDANCE AND COMPLETION POLICIES:	Students are required to be present and actively engaged in all academic activities planned by Universidad de Costa Rica, San Jose campus.
DEADLINES, LATE WORK, AND MAKEUP WORK POLICIES:	Deadlines are established for a reason and no makeup work will be graded for any reason whatsoever. If a student fails to complete an online assignment during the course the grade entered will be 0. Part of life and learning is not receiving credit for something that is late, regardless of the reason why.
ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SUBMITTING WORK IN CASE OF TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES:	Students are strongly encouraged to submit their work with plenty of time to spare if technical difficulties are experienced, including issues with the course website, network, and/or a computer. Likewise, students are strongly encouraged to save all projects in a separate Word document as a back-up. This will provide evidence that the student completed the work and may not lose credit. If a student is experiencing difficulties submitting work through the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. Students are always welcome/encouraged to communicate with the instructor.
STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:	Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline .
PLAGIARISM DETECTING SOFTWARE:	Student's written work and assessments will be submitted to SafeAssign, which is a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used to review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.
CLASS RECORDINGS:	The use of recordings will enable you to have access to class lectures, group discussions, and so on in the event you miss a synchronous or in-person class meeting due to illness or other extenuating circumstance. Our use of such technology is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and UTEP's acceptable-use policy. A recording of class sessions will be kept and stored by UTEP, in accordance with FERPA and UTEP policies. Your instructor will not share the recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, teaching assistants, or graduate assistants, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners with

	whom we may engage during a class session. You may not share recordings outside of this course. Doing so may result in disciplinary action.
COPYRIGHT STATEMENT FOR COURSE MATERIALS:	All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.
GENERAL ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY:	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 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. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at cass@utep.edu , or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal .
COVID-19 ACCOMMODATIONS:	<p>Students are not permitted on campus when they have a positive COVID-19 test, exposure or symptoms. If you are not permitted on campus, you should contact the instructor as soon as possible so we can arrange necessary and appropriate accommodations.</p> <p>Students who are considered high risk according to CDC guidelines and/or those who live with individuals who are considered high risk may contact Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) to discuss temporary accommodations for on-campus courses and activities.</p>
RESOURCES (Where you can go for assistance):	<p><i>Technology Resources:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help Desk: Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus. <p><i>Academic Resources:</i></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. • 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. • RefWorks: A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide. <p><i>Individual Resources:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military Student Success Center: Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals. • Center for Accommodations and Support Services: Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships. • Counseling and Psychological Services: Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

COMMUNICATION ETIQUETTE:	<p>As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It is possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what someone else means given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these etiquette guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always consider the audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other’s ideas. • Courtesy and respect will be provided to classmates, instructors, and guests always. No harassment or inappropriate communication will be tolerated. • When reacting to someone else’s message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation. • It is required that students are present and engaged during all academic activities therefore the use of cell phones and other electronic equipment during the course time is not permitted unless otherwise approved in advance by the instructor. <p>Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted in these online spaces is intended for classmates and instructor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.</p>
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Program of Work

Week	Date	Assignments
1	15 – 16 May	Narrative 1: Description of Healthcare System in Costa Rica
	17 – May	Narrative 2: Description of Social Determinants of Health
	18 – 19 May	Narrative 3: Literature review on the topic assigned by international mentor
	20 – May	Narrative 4. United Nations - Description of Sustainable Development Goals
	22 - 23 – May	Narrative 5. Reflection Paper: How does your community engaged international experience aligns with your field of study
	24 May	Narrative 6: Reflection paper: Describe community engaged activities in the context of UTEP Edge advantages
	25 – 26	Community Engaged Experiential Learning Completed and Documented in a Final Spanish/English Power Point Presentation

NOTE: The course instructor reserves the right to modify the course schedule, topics, and/or assignments before or during the semester to meet the needs of enrolled students.