

School of Public Health

Syllabus and Course Information



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to DiscoverSM

PubH 3107

Global Public Health and the Environment

Fall 2015

Credits:	2
Meeting Days:	Tuesday
Meeting Time:	3:30-5:30
Meeting Place:	Jackson Hall 2-137
Instructor:	Bruce H. Alexander
Office Address:	1239 Mayo Building
Office Phone:	612-625-7934
E-mail:	balex@umn.edu
Office Hours:	Arranged

I. Course Description

This course in global public health focuses on the environmental determinants of the health and well being of people in different countries. The course is developed as a global impact course for the Public Health Minor. The course will provide a global perspective on the burden of environmentally related disease and injury, the interactions between people, animals, and ecosystems, agents and vectors of disease and injury, and the role of governmental and nongovernmental organizations. The course will emphasize how environmental determinants of health are influenced by human activity and globalization.

II. Course Prerequisites

This course is intended for students completing the Public Health Minor. All public health minor requirements need to be completed prior to entrance into this course. Students must have completed PubH 3202 OR PubH 3001 OR PubH 3004 AND PubH 3350 OR PubH 3106.

III. Course Goals and Objectives

At the completion of the course students will be able to:

- Describe the key concepts of global public health including population demographics, epidemiological transitions, and health status and disease burden indicators, with an emphasis on human and environment interactions.
- Discuss the influence of population change through, migration, conflict, and globalization on public health.
- Understand the primary environmental determinants of global environmental health, including air, water, food security, vectors, animals, chemical and physical exposures, and climate change.
- Describe how environments and environmental determinants contribute to the global burden of disease and the practices and policies required to reduce this burden.
- Understand the role of governmental, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations in addressing global environmental health problems.
- Summarize and communicate information about global environmental public health issues

IV. Methods of Instruction and Work Expectations

The main instruction methods for this course are: lecture, class discussion, and presentations. Guest speakers may be incorporated into the course.

The class will meet for two hours once a week. The first part of each session will be used to follow-up on the topic presented the previous week, review assignments, and discuss current events related to global environmental public health. Students are expected to have all assignments completed at the beginning of class so they can participate in the discussion. Discussions will include students being called upon to lead parts of the discussion based on the assignments. The second part of the session will be used to introduce the new topic.

Each week we will review current events related to global health. Students are asked to look for events being reported in newspapers, news programs or other media (online or print) and bring it to the attention of the class by posting on the course website. Some topics will be picked for class discussion. Be prepared to summarize.

A major part of the grade will be based on three activities focused on a term topic chosen by each student. The topic will be problems or controversies in global environmental public health. Students will prepare a concise and factual written summary of the problem, a letter to a decision maker, and a brief oral presentation to the class.

V. Course Text and Readings

Course readings will be selected from a variety of textbooks, journal articles, and published reports, available online through the University of Minnesota Library and other sources. A course website will provide links to these resources. The readings will be posted as we proceed through the semester.

VI. Course Outline/Weekly Schedule

Week	Date	Unit	Topic
1	9/8	Populations, the environment, and health	Public health indicators
2	9/15		Migration and Urbanization
3	9/22	One Health	Humans, animals, ecosystems: Interdisciplinary solutions
4	9/29	Determinants of environmental health	Air
5	10/6		Water and sanitation
6	10/13		Occupational environments
7	10/20		Injuries and violence
8	10/27	Midterm examination	
9	11/3		Vector borne diseases
10	11/10		Zoonotic Diseases
11	11/17		Food and food security
12	11/24		Climate Change
13	12/1	Student Presentations	Term papers and letters due
14	12/8	Student Presentations	
15	12/15	Student Presentations	
	12/22	Final Exam Section	1:30-3:30

VII. Evaluation and Grading

Grading will be based on completion of assignments, a midterm examination, a term topic that will include written and oral communication components, and a final exam.

Weekly assignments will be based on assigned readings in preparation for class and/or based on concepts presented in class. Students should be well enough prepared to participate in class discussions. Assignments will either be turned in during class or posted on the course website. There will be eight to ten assignments that will count toward the grade. Students will also be asked to report on current events related to global environmental public health. This will contribute to the participation grade.

Term topic: Each student will identify a topic on which to develop a short informative background piece, a letter to a decision maker on the topic requesting action, and give a 5 minute presentation to the class on the topic. The topic will be relevant to global environmental public health that represents a challenge for public health where there is some debate on the solution. It should also be a topic the student wants to learn more about. Attendance in class to listen to the presentations of fellow students is expected. Class feedback will factor into the grading of the oral presentation.

Exams: There will be a midterm and final examination. Exams will primarily be multiple choice or short answer.

Grading scale

This class must be taken for a letter grade (A/F option only) Final grades will be assigned as follows:

Points

	Percent of Final Grade
Weekly Assignments /Participation	25
Midterm	20
Term topic paper and letter	35
Final Exam	20

Grading Scale

Percent of total points available	Grade
93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
60-69	D
59 or below	F

Course Evaluation

Beginning in fall 2008, the SPH will collect student course evaluations electronically using a software system called CoursEval: www.sph.umn.edu/courseval. The system will send email notifications to students when they can access and complete their course evaluations. Students who complete their course evaluations promptly will be able to access their final grades just as soon as the faculty member renders the grade in SPHGrades: www.sph.umn.edu/grades. All students will have access to their final grades through OneStop two weeks after the last day of the semester regardless of whether they completed their course evaluation or not. Student feedback on course content and faculty teaching skills are an important means for improving our work. Please take the time to complete a course evaluation for each of the courses for which you are registered.

Incomplete Contracts

A grade of incomplete "I" shall be assigned at the discretion of the instructor when, due to extraordinary circumstances (e.g., documented illness or hospitalization, death in family, etc.), the student was prevented from completing the work of the course on time. The assignment of an "I" requires that a contract be initiated and completed by the student before the last official day of class, and signed by both the student and instructor. If an incomplete is deemed appropriate by the instructor, the student in consultation with the instructor, will specify the time and manner in which the student will complete course requirements. Extension for completion of the work will not exceed one year (or earlier if designated by the student's college). For more information and to initiate an incomplete contract, students should go to SPHGrades at: www.sph.umn.edu/grades.

University of Minnesota Uniform Grading and Transcript Policy - A link to the policy can be found at onestop.umn.edu.

VIII. Other Course Information and Policies

Grade Option Change (if applicable)

For full-semester courses, students may change their grade option, if applicable, through the second week of the semester. Grade option change deadlines for other terms (i.e. summer and half-semester courses) can be found at onestop.umn.edu.

Course Withdrawal

Students should refer to the Refund and Drop/Add Deadlines for the particular term at onestop.umn.edu for information and deadlines for withdrawing from a course. As a courtesy, students should notify their instructor and, if applicable, advisor of their intent to withdraw.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course after the noted final deadline for a particular term must contact the School of Public Health Office of Admissions and Student Resources at sph-ssc@umn.edu for further information.

Student Conduct Code

The University seeks an environment that promotes academic achievement and integrity, that is protective of free inquiry, and that serves the educational mission of the University. Similarly, the University seeks a community that is free from violence, threats, and intimidation; that is respectful of the rights, opportunities, and welfare of students, faculty, staff, and guests of the University; and that does not threaten the physical or mental health or safety of members of the University community.

As a student at the University you are expected adhere to Board of Regents Policy: *Student Conduct Code*. To review the Student Conduct Code, please see: http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf.

Note that the conduct code specifically addresses disruptive classroom conduct, which means "engaging in behavior that substantially or repeatedly interrupts either the instructor's ability to teach or student learning. The classroom extends to any setting where a student is engaged in work toward academic credit or satisfaction of program-based requirements or related activities."

Use of Personal Electronic Devices in the Classroom

Using personal electronic devices in the classroom setting can hinder instruction and learning, not only for the student using the device but also for other students in the class. To this end, the University establishes the right of each faculty member to determine if and how personal electronic devices are allowed to be used in the classroom. For complete information, please reference: <http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/STUDENTRESP.html>.

Scholastic Dishonesty

You are expected to do your own academic work and cite sources as necessary. Failing to do so is scholastic dishonesty. Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis. (Student Conduct Code: http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf) If it is determined that a student has cheated, he or she may be given an "F" or an "N" for the course, and may face additional sanctions from the University. For additional information, please see: <http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/INSTRUCTORRESP.html>.

The Office for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity has compiled a useful list of Frequently Asked Questions pertaining to scholastic dishonesty: <http://www1.umn.edu/oscai/integrity/student/index.html>. If you have additional questions, please clarify with your instructor for the course. Your instructor can respond to your specific questions regarding what would constitute scholastic dishonesty in the context of a particular class-e.g., whether collaboration on assignments is permitted, requirements and methods for citing sources, if electronic aids are permitted or prohibited during an exam.

Makeup Work for Legitimate Absences

Students will not be penalized for absence during the semester due to unavoidable or legitimate circumstances. Such circumstances include verified illness, participation in intercollegiate athletic events, subpoenas, jury duty, military service, bereavement, and religious observances. Such circumstances do not include voting in local, state, or national elections. For complete information, please see: <http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/MAKEUPWORK.html>.

Appropriate Student Use of Class Notes and Course Materials

Taking notes is a means of recording information but more importantly of personally absorbing and integrating the educational experience. However, broadly disseminating class notes beyond the classroom community or accepting compensation for taking and distributing classroom notes undermines instructor interests in their intellectual work product while not substantially furthering instructor and student interests in effective learning. Such actions violate shared norms and standards of the academic community. For additional information, please see: <http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/STUDENTRESP.html>.

Sexual Harassment

"Sexual harassment" means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and/or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment in any University activity or program. Such behavior is not acceptable in the University setting. For additional information, please consult Board of Regents Policy:

<http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/SexHarassment.pdf>

Equity, Diversity, Equal Opportunity, and Affirmative Action

The University will provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs and facilities, without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. For more information, please consult Board of Regents Policy:

http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Equity_Diversity_EO_AA.pdf.

Disability Accommodations

The University of Minnesota is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. Disability Services (DS) is the campus office that collaborates with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g., mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical), please contact DS at 612-626-1333 to arrange a confidential discussion regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations.

If you are registered with DS and have a current letter requesting reasonable accommodations, please contact your instructor as early in the semester as possible to discuss how the accommodations will be applied in the course.

For more information, please see the DS website, <https://diversity.umn.edu/disability/>.

Mental Health and Stress Management

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance and may reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. University of Minnesota services are available to assist you. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Student Mental Health Website: <http://www.mentalhealth.umn.edu>.

Academic Freedom and Responsibility: *for courses that do not involve students in research*

Academic freedom is a cornerstone of the University. Within the scope and content of the course as defined by the instructor, it includes the freedom to discuss relevant matters in the classroom. Along with this freedom comes responsibility. Students are encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgment and to engage in a sustained and independent search for truth. Students are free to take reasoned exception to the views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled.*

Reports of concerns about academic freedom are taken seriously, and there are individuals and offices available for help. Contact the instructor, the Department Chair, your adviser, the associate dean of the college, or the Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs in the Office of the Provost. *[Customize with names and contact information as appropriate for the course/college/campus.]*

** Language adapted from the American Association of University Professors "Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students".*

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