I. Course Description
This course is designed to fulfill the behavioral science core requirement for students pursuing a Master’s degree in the School of Public Health. The course provides both depth and breadth in addressing social and behavioral science. The material covers basic theories and concepts of social and behavioral science and how they are applied in public health. The course will focus on four major approaches to public health problems:

- Psychosocial Theories
- Community Approaches
- Economics
• Policy and Political Science

The *psychosocial unit* will include exposure to multiple behavioral theories, application of theory in understanding etiology and planning interventions, and measurement issues.

The *community unit* will include a review of community change concepts and theories and exposure to community organizing techniques.

The *economic unit* will address such functions as supply and demand, opportunity costs, taxes and subsidies, economic evaluation of goods and services, and costs versus benefits and effectiveness in examining the role of economics in decision-making about public health.

The *policy unit* will address the structure of government, institutional behavior and theories, and administrative, judicial and legislative processes.

**Acknowledgments**

PubH 6020 was developed with the contributions of numerous instructors. Drs. Nelson, Moscovice and Feldman, the current instructors, have been involved with the majority of recent content and modifications. Former faculty/instructors, including Drs. Finnegan, Blewett and Oberg, all had roles in either the conceptual development or actual content of the current course, and are acknowledged for their contributions.

**II. Course Prerequisites:** None

**III. Course Goals and Objectives**

After completion of this course, students will be able to:

• Describe how behavioral sciences can be used to understand and intervene upon current public health problems;
• Articulate how psychosocial and community theories are used to design, implement, and evaluate public health programs;
• Understand the application of economic theory to public health;
• Describe the major models and theories from political science and public policy that influence change;
• Communicate how public and private institutions create change in public health behaviors or the environment in which individual behavior responds; and
• Acquire skills in the application of behavioral science to current public health problems.

**IV. Methods of Instruction and Work Expectations**

The course website contains the syllabus with descriptions of the assignments and links to the readings, as well as links to other useful social and behavioral science sites. The course website is constructed in Moodle and can be accessed through MyU and the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities website.

**Lecture**

The course includes lectures (approximately 2/3 of the course) and activities (approximately 1/3 of the course). The course will be split into four units: (1) Psychosocial, (2) Community, (3) Economics, and (4) Policy & Politics.
Small Group Learning Activities
One of the major objectives of this course is to enable students to apply social and behavioral science concepts and theories to public health issues within their own discipline and specific field of practice. There will be five in-class small group learning activities in the course. Each small group activity will be graded and will be worth 3 points each. Students will work through each learning activity collaboratively and provide a brief report describing their group discussion back to class. Small groups are an opportunity for students to practice application of skills and concepts learned in lecture. Grading criteria for the learning activities will be discussed during the first small group session on Thursday September 17. Instructions for the small group learning activities will be given during the sessions.

Written Assignments
The written assignments will consist of:
• 20 brief reflection papers;
• 1 Topic Brief describing a health topic of your choice to write about in the Application Exercises and;
• 4 Application Exercises (one per unit).

Technical Details

For Reflection Papers and Application Exercises …
- Include your name.
- Include the date.
- Include the name of the assignment.
- Include page numbers.
- Double-space.
- Use one-inch margins.
- Use Times New Roman or Arial 12 point font.

The reflection paper is a short (1/2 - 1 page) writing exercise that is intended to help you organize your thoughts, raise questions, allow you to engage with the reading, and prepare for class discussion. It should not be a summary of the article, but rather should be your reactions to some aspects of the assigned readings. The reflection can include the major points that sparked your interest, what you agree or disagree with, and why. It can also include how the reading may (or may not) fit with your topic of interest, or be used to identify questions the readings raise for you. The reflection paper should be written using full sentences, and not bullet points. You are encouraged to use these papers to directly inform the four Application Exercises. Each reflection paper should be typed on a single sheet of paper. If your paper runs longer than a single page please print on both sides. Bring your paper to class and use it to guide questions and discussion points during class. You are encouraged to take handwritten notes on your paper during the class discussion and add to your thoughts based on class discussion. Turn in your reflection paper at the end of class. Each paper is worth 1 point. There are 25 opportunities to earn points for reflection papers. You can choose to write a reflection on the readings for the 21 lectures. The reflection papers for each lecture will be accepted up until class time on the day they are due. In addition there are 4 listening
exercises that can be completed any time during the semester. You can earn a total of 20 points for reflection papers.

The listening exercises are available at the following web links:


The four Application Exercises are designed to help you synthesize your learning in each of the four course units and directly inform a topic area within public health that is of interest to you.

A Topic Brief outlining your chosen public health topic will be the basis for your subsequent papers.

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**Writing Resources for Students**

Center for Writing: Student Writing Support offers free writing instruction for all University of Minnesota students—graduate and undergraduate—at all stages of the writing process. In face-to-face and online collaborative consultations, Student Writing Support consultants help students develop productive writing habits and revisions strategies.

Consulting is available by appointment online and in Nicholson Hall, and on a walk-in basis in Appleby Hall. For more information, go to [http://writing.umn.edu/sws](http://writing.umn.edu/sws) or call 612.625.1893.

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**Instructions for the Topic Brief**

Due: September 17

For this assignment, please write a Topic Brief identifying a public health topic that is of interest to you. In the Topic Brief please describe why the topic is of interest to you, identify the population affected and discuss the topic's public health significance. You should briefly identify your chosen public health topic area, provide details on the significance of your topic, and describe the known etiology. This description should include information about the populations affected by your public health topic. The Brief should be approximately 200-400 words.
You will use the topic in assignments applying the four major areas of the course, i.e., psychosocial approaches, community engagement, economics and public policy. *Be as specific as possible about your topic.* For example, “obesity” is very broad and can be narrowed down to focus on physical activity or nutrition, obesity among youth, obesity among adults, etc. Select one aspect of your topic, or a particular population affected by your topic, to focus on for your Application Exercises.

Good resources for the background and significance section are:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - [http://www.cdc.gov/](http://www.cdc.gov/)
- The Institute of Medicine - [http://www.iom.edu/](http://www.iom.edu/)
- Minnesota Department of Health - [http://www.health.state.mn.us/](http://www.health.state.mn.us/)

If you have trouble identifying a public health topic (or narrowing one down), please talk to the Primary Instructor or the TA in advance of the due date and we will provide assistance.

**Instructions for the Application Exercises**

**Unit 1 Application Exercise: Applying Psychosocial Theories**

*Due: October 6*

Select one of the theories listed below:

- Health Belief Model
- Theory of Planned Behavior
- Theory of Reasoned Action
- Trans-theoretical model
- Social Cognitive Theory

In a short answer format:

- Identify the health topic you selected.
- Identify a population impacted by the health topic you selected.
- Identify the theory you selected and define all of the main constructs (3 points)
- Include a conceptual model (figure) of how the constructs are related (1 point)
- Provide an example of each of the main constructs of the theory you selected within your chosen health topic (5 points)
- Describe how you would apply those constructs to develop an intervention to promote change in the health topic you have selected (4 points)
- Identify the limitations of the theory in general and with respect to your proposed intervention specifically (2 points)

**Unit 2 Application Exercise: Community Engagement**

*Due: October 27*

In a short answer format:
• Identify the health topic you selected.
• Identify and describe a community that is impacted by your selected health topic (1 point).
• Describe how the community is impacted by the health topic you have selected and why engaging that community can advance change (2 points).
• Describe how you would assess the needs of your chosen population (2 points).
• Describe an intervention to improve health on the topic and in the community you have selected. Your intervention may include: objectives, segmentation, program elements, channels using Diffusion of Innovations and/or Social Marketing (6 points).
• Identify specific partners within your selected community and describe why they would be good partners to advance change within the community (2 points).
• Describe how you would develop those community partnerships and how you would engage the community using the lessons on community approaches and/or organizing (2 points).

Unit 3 Application Exercise: Economic Implications 
Due: November 17

In a short answer format:

• Identify the health topic you selected.
• Identify and describe a population that is impacted by your selected health topic.
• Describe how economics can impact the health topic and population you selected (1 point).
• Describe an economic intervention to improve the health of the population you selected and argue why you think this intervention will be effective using economic concepts (3 points).
• Describe the economic concepts of supply and demand and provide specific examples from your health topic or proposed intervention (2 points).
• Describe the economic concepts of costs and benefits and provide specific examples from your health topic or proposed intervention (3 points).
• Identify who will cover the costs and who will experience the benefits of your intervention and describe why that is defensible (3 points).
• Describe the economic concepts of positive and negative externalities and provide specific examples from your health topic (3 points).

Unit 4 Application Exercise: A Policy Approach 
Due: December 15

In a short answer format:

• Identify the health topic you selected.
• Identify and describe a population that is impacted by your selected health topic
• Identify and describe a policy you think should be implemented to address your public health topic (1 point).
• Describe the strengths and limitations of your policy proposal (4 points).
• Identify one or more key interest groups that would be helpful for passing your proposal and why they can be helpful. Identify one or more interest groups that would oppose your proposal. Describe why they would oppose your proposal and strategies to overcome that opposition. (4 points).
• Identify and describe Gostin’s conditions and use them to justify the role of government in enacting your policy. If implementing a government policy, make sure to identify the level of government that your policy affects (local, state or federal) and what governmental agency should implement your proposal. If you are implementing another type of policy (i.e. school or worksite) make sure to discuss why your policy is appropriate for that venue (6 points).

*Using the Grading Rubric*

The description for each Application Exercise provides a grading rubric that identifies how points will be distributed for grading purposes. You will earn full points in each section for writing that is accurate, structured, complete, and appropriately applied to your topic.

*Course Expectations*

All students are expected to:
• attend all class sessions, arriving prior to the scheduled start of class so class can begin in a timely fashion and remaining in class for the scheduled time;
• complete all assigned readings and written assignments on time according to the schedule printed in the course outline (below);
• regularly read and respond to any email related to the course using their University assigned email address;
• behave in a professional and courteous manner in all course-related activities; and
• contact the TA or the Primary Instructor with any questions or concerns about the course content, evaluations or satisfactory progress in the course.

*Expected Effort*

University of Minnesota policy states that work expectations per credit hour are fixed at a ratio of 1:3. That is, a single credit course assumes three hours of work per week including class attendance. PubH 6020 is a three-credit course. The course has been designed with the expectation that you will work an average of nine hours per week including about 2.5 hours spent on lectures, and 7.5 hours in outside study. However, this is an average. Some weeks may require more time, other weeks less.

*Deadlines*

Due dates for all the learning activities and written assignments are available on the schedule printed in the course outline (below). If you anticipate any difficulty meeting a deadline (due to a family emergency, documented illness, or attendance at a professional conference), arrangements must be made with the Primary Instructor in advance of the actual due date to receive credit for the assignment. Late assignments will not be accepted without prior arrangement, except in the most extreme circumstances.

*Questions about Course Material and Assignments*

This course has one primary instructor, two secondary instructors, several guest lecturers and one Teaching Assistant. Please do not hesitate to call or email the Primary Instructor or TA if you have questions. If you wish to seek an in-person meeting, please call or email to set up an appointment to meet.
V. Course Text and Readings
Students are expected to complete the assigned readings for all classes prior to the lesson in which they will be covered.

Course readings are available on the course website, as class handouts or through the University of Minnesota library. You can search using PubMed, Google Scholar or ISI Web of Knowledge and locate the articles using the FindIt@U of M Twin Cities link.


This text is not required. However, it does provide excellent background for many of the course topics and content in Units 1 and 2. The text also can serve as an excellent resource for future careers in public health. Students are encouraged to purchase and use the text as a resource during the course. Recommended readings from the text are noted below in the summary for each class session.

An additional recommended (not required) brief resource may be useful for Unit 1: Psychosocial Theories.


VI. Course Outline/Weekly Schedule

**Week 1**

**Tuesday, September 8**

Course Overview

**Thursday, September 10**

Lecture 1: Social Science, Distributions of Disease and Public Health (Toben Nelson)

**Required Reading**


**Exercise**

View the introduction video and explore 2-3 analyses of your own choosing using the Data Visualization tool.

**Recommended Reading**
- Glanz, Rimer & Viswanath (eds.) (2015) *Health Behavior: Theory, Research and Practice* (HBTRP), Ch 1

**WEEK 2**

**Tuesday, September 15**

**Lecture 2: What are theories & how they are applied (Toben Nelson)**

**Required Reading**

**Recommended Reading**
- HBTRP, Ch 2

**Thursday, September 17**

**Topic Brief Due**

**Small Group Learning Activity #1**

**What Causes the Childhood Obesity Epidemic?**

**WEEK 3**

**Tuesday, September 22**

**Lecture 3: Health Belief Model/Risk Perception (Toben Nelson)**

**Required Reading**

**Recommended Reading**
- HBTRP Ch 5

**Thursday, September 24**

**Lecture 4: Theory of Reasoned Action/Planned Behavior and Transtheoretical Model (Charles Rogers)**

**Required Reading**

**Recommended Readings**
- HBTRP Ch 6, 7
WEEK 4
Tuesday, September 29
Lecture 5: Social Cognitive Theory (Toben Nelson)

Required Reading

Recommended Readings
- HBTRP Ch 9

Thursday, October 1
Small Group Learning Activity #2
Psychosocial Approaches to Increase HIV Testing

WEEK 5
Tuesday, October 6

Application Exercise #1 Due
Lecture 6: Community Approaches to Public Health (Spruha Joshi)

Exercise:
1) Review the County Health Rankings Project page at:
   http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/
   Look up three counties you have lived in or visited.
2) Review the website on Designing Healthy Communities:
   http://designinghealthycommunities.org/
   Read at least 2 articles and view at least 5 videos

Required Reading

Recommended Readings
- HBTRP Ch 14

Thursday, October 8
Lecture 7: Principles of Community Organizing (Traci Toomey)

Required Reading
Course handouts (available in class Thursday October 1)
  - Chapter 2, The Fundamentals of Direct Action Organizing, pp. 5-26
  - Chapter 3, Developing a Strategy, pp. 29-43
  - Chapter 4, A Guide to Tactics, pp. 45-57
  - Chapter 1, What Is Community Organizing, pp. 11-28
  - Chapter 10, One-on-One Interviews, pp. 193-206
Recommended Readings
- HBTRP Ch 15, 17

WEEK 6
Tuesday, October 13
Lecture 8:
Diffusion of Innovation Theory (Toben Nelson)

Required Reading

Recommended Readings
- HBTRP Ch 14, 16

Recommended Video

Thursday, October 15
Lecture 9:
Social Networks & Social Support and Stress & Coping (Sonya Brady)

Required Reading

Recommended Readings
- HBTRP Ch 11, 12, 13

WEEK 7
Tuesday, October 20
Lecture 10: Social Marketing Theory (Toben Nelson)

Required Reading
  - Review CDCynergy http://www.orau.gov/cdcynergy/soc2web/default.htm
    - Introduction to Social Marketing
    - CDCynergy Social Marketing Edition (Phases 1-6)

Recommended Readings
- HBTRP Ch 21

Thursday, October 22
Week 8
Tuesday, October 27
Application Exercise #2 Due
Lecture 11: Economic Approach to Public Health Policy (Roger Feldman)

Required Reading

Thursday, October 29
Lecture 12: The Economics of the Obesity Epidemic (Roger Feldman)

Required Reading

Week 9
Tuesday, November 3
Lecture 13: Economics and Vaccines (Roger Feldman)

Required Reading
- Also see K Fiscella’s commentary that follows.

**Thursday, November 5**  
**Lecture 14: The Economics of Gun Control (Roger Feldman)**

**Required Reading**


**WEEK 10**  
**Tuesday, November 10**

**Lecture 15: Public Health Frameworks (Toben Nelson)**

**Required Reading**


**Recommended Reading**

- HBTRP Ch 3

**Thursday, November 12**

**Small Group Learning Activity #4**

**Economic Approaches to Immunizations**

**WEEK 11**  
**Tuesday, November 17**

**Application Exercise #3 Due**

**Lecture 16: Applying Public Health Frameworks (Toben Nelson)**

**Required Reading**


**Thursday, November 19**

**Lecture 17: What Is Public Health Policy? (Ira Moscovice)**

**Required Reading**

**WEEK 12**  
**Tuesday, November 24**  
**Lecture 18: Public Health Law (Anne Barry)**  
**Required Reading**

**Thursday, November 26**  
Thanksgiving, no class

**WEEK 13**  
**Tuesday, December 1**  
**Lecture 19: Theories of Interest Groups (Ira Moscovice)**  
**Required Reading**

**Thursday, December 3**  
**Lecture 20: The Role of Policy Analysis (Ira Moscovice)**  
**Required Reading**

**WEEK 14**  
**Tuesday, December 8**  
**Lecture 21: Integrating Approaches: Pulling It All Together (Toben Nelson)**  
**Required Reading**

**Thursday, December 10**  
**Small Group Learning Activity #5**
Policy and Politics of Gun Control

WEEK 15
Tuesday, December 15
Application Exercise #4 Due
Wrap up

VII. Evaluation and Grading
Students will be evaluated through multiple methods. Final grade will be assessed on a 100-point scale.

Students must complete each of the assignments in order to pass the course. The primary course instructor and teaching assistant will be grading these assignments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reflection papers (1 point each; up to 20)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Group Learning Activities (3 points each)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

_Application Exercises_

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Topic Brief</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1 (Psychosocial)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 2 (Community)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 3 (Economic)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 4 (Policy)</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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Final course grades will be based on the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Pts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The S/N option is available for this course. A grade of B- or better is required for an S.
For Master’s of Public Health (MPH) students: This course is designated as part of the public health core requirement effective Fall 2005; MPH students must take this course for a letter grade (A-F). MPH students will be required to achieve no less than a B- grade in each of the public health core courses.

Course Evaluation
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. The Disability Resource Center Student Services 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 DRC at 612-626-1333 or drc@umn.edu 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](http://www.mentalhealth.umn.edu).

The Office of Student Affairs at the University of Minnesota:
The Office for Student Affairs provides services, programs, and facilities that advance student success, inspire students to make life-long positive contributions to society, promote an inclusive environment, and enrich the University of Minnesota community.

Units within the Office for Student Affairs include, the Aurora Center for Advocacy & Education, Boynton Health Service, Central Career Initiatives (CCE, CDes, CFANS), Leadership Education and Development – Undergraduate Programs (LEAD-UP), the Office for Fraternity and Sorority Life, the Office for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity, the Office for Student Engagement, the Parent Program, Recreational Sports, Student and Community Relations, the Student Conflict Resolution Center, the Student Parent HELP Center, Student Unions & Activities, University Counseling & Consulting Services, and University Student Legal Service.

For more information, please see the Office of Student Affairs at [http://www.osa.umn.edu/index.html](http://www.osa.umn.edu/index.html).

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, (Dr. Kristin Anderson, SPH Dean of Students) or the Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs in the Office of the Provost.

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

Student Academic Success Services (SASS): [http://www.sass.umn.edu](http://www.sass.umn.edu):
Students who wish to improve their academic performance may find assistance from Student Academic Support Services. While tutoring and advising are not offered, SASS provides resources such as individual consultations, workshops, and self-help materials.

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