

School of Public Health

Syllabus and Course Information



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to DiscoverSM

PubH 6102, Sections 200, 320
Issues in Environmental and Occupational Health
Fall Semester 2015 (updated 9/3/15)

Welcome to PubH 6102.

Continue scrolling below to get information regarding the **Course Description, Prerequisites, Goals and Learning Objectives, Methods of Instruction and Work Expectations, Course Text and Readings, Outline/Weekly Schedule, Evaluation and Grading, Course Evaluation, Incomplete Contracts, and Other Course Information and Policies Grade Option Change**

Credits:	2
Meeting Dates:	9/8/15 - 12/16/15
Meeting Time and Place:	Online at http://moodle.umn.edu
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I. Course Description

This course is an introduction to the field of Environmental and Occupational Health (EOH), the impact of environmental and occupational hazards on individuals and communities, both domestic and global, the approaches taken to address EOH issues at the community level, and the domestic and global challenges that must be overcome to ensure success in dealing with EOH issues. Students will be able to identify issues that fall under the caption of "Environmental Health", the role we as humans play in negatively modifying our environment, the challenges we face in undoing some of our imprints on the environment and that each one has a role in keeping planet earth a little better than we found it.

Students will review scientific literature to learn about interventions for environmental health problems, and practice identifying environmental health problems and

interventions in their communities. The focus of this course will be on the interaction between humans and the environment and how this interaction affects **human health**.

II. Course Prerequisites

Public health [MPH or MHA or certificate] student or health journalism MA major or nursing MS student or instr consent. NO CREDIT granted for ENV HEALTH major students or non-majors who have taken 6101.

III. Course Goals and Learning Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate basic concepts in environmental health and public health, and convey an understanding of their value and importance to the public, policy makers, and other interested parties;
2. Identify major sources of environmental and occupational hazards, the ways in which humans are exposed to them, and the major human health effects from exposure to these hazards;
3. Describe the impact of environmental and occupational hazards on human population, in both developed and developing countries.
4. Discuss how intervention strategies such as education, engineering and enforcement may be implemented to prevent or minimize environmental and occupational hazards;
5. Discuss how various countries are addressing some of the major environmental and occupational health challenges.
6. Discuss local history, community demographics, cultural, political, and administrative issues, and their impact on environmental or occupational health issues and solutions;
7. Examine and evaluate the programs that are in place to address environmental and occupational health problems at the local (community or individual organization) level;
8. Analyze the nature of environmental and occupational health problems in broader context through systematic research using scientific literature, press sources, and consultations with key persons, organizations, and agencies.

IV. Methods of Instruction and Work Expectations

Students are expected to complete assignments and ask questions and seek clarifications when topics or concepts are unclear. Students will be randomly assigned to online work groups. If a module requires Group Activity, this will be detailed in the module in the course website. Students may email the course instructor or the teaching assistants. **All email correspondence between students and instructor about the course must be through the official University of Minnesota email system.** In addition, ***students must***:

1. Check the Course Outline/Weekly Schedule for due dates of assignments and online discussions;
2. While it may be necessary occasionally to work ahead or go back in order to catch up on a module (e.g. if a module is missed during an emergency), it is crucial that all students work on the same module at the same time so that the conversations and lessons learnt receive the widest audience among the enrolled students, i.e. it must be a simultaneously shared experience.
3. Work on their own 24-7 but follow the Course Outline/Weekly Schedule to ensure that all coursework is completed by the end of the semester; and
4. Participate in online group discussion **no later than 11:55 pm (Central time) on Sunday of the assigned week.**

The TA will participate in the online discussions during the week that the discussion is due, and will document completion of assigned work.

We will monitor your progress online throughout the semester.

Approximately 135 hours of student effort, on average, will be required for a student to achieve an average grade. Students will spend time reading online content and completing online activities (55 hours), reviewing online resources, and completing offline assignments (80 hours). The due dates of assignments will be indicated on the Course Outline/Weekly Schedule. It is the student's responsibility to check the Course Outline/Weekly Schedule and stay on schedule. **No individual notices will be sent to students regarding assignment due dates.**

V. Course Text and Readings

The recommended text below can provide supplemental material to the learning modules. The text is not required, but is a valuable resource. The text can be obtained through online booksellers such as [Amazon](#) or [Barnes and Noble](#). All other learning materials will be available online, through the course Moodle site.

- **Our Global Environment: A Health Perspective**, by Anne Nadakavukaren. The book is published by: Waveland Press, Inc. PO Box 400, Prospect Heights, Illinois 60070. 6th edition (2000) ISBN 1-57766-402-7. 7th edition (2011), ISBN 1-57766-686-8

VI. Course Outline/Weekly Schedule

NOTE: Assignments are due by 11:55 pm (central time) on the due dates listed.

Week	Dates	Tasks	Assignments	Due Dates (Sundays by 11:55 pm, Central time)
1	9/8-13/15	*Read Syllabus and Getting Started and Finding Help *Familiarize yourself with the course and Moodle format *Introduction Module	Complete Class Album post. Please include a picture of yourself.	9/13
2	9/14-20/15	AIR module	AIR ACTIVITIES Quiz 1	9/20
3	9/21-27/15	WATER module	COMPLETE WATER ACTIVITIES Quiz 2	9/27
4	9/28-10/4/15	FOOD module	COMPLETE FOOD ACTIVITIES Quiz 3	10/4
5	10/5-11/15	EXAM 1	EXAM 1 (covers AIR, WATER AND FOOD modules)	10/11

6	10/12-18/15	Complete LAND module	COMPLETE LAND ACTIVITIES Quiz 4	10/18
7	10/19-25/15	Complete CLIMATE CHANGE module	COMPLETE CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVITIES Quiz 5	10/25
8	10/26-11/1/15	Complete HOUSING module	COMPLETE Housing ACTIVITIES Quiz 6	11/1
9	11/2-8/15	Complete WORKPLACE module	COMPLETE WORKPLACE ACTIVITIES Quiz 7	11/8
10	11/9-15/15	EXAM 2	EXAM 2 (covers LAND CLIMATE CHANGE, HOUSING and WORKPLACE modules)	11/15
11	11/16-22/15	Complete PESTS module	COMPLETE PESTS ACTIVITIES Quiz 8	11/22
12	11/23-29/15	Complete ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINANTS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES module	Workplace scope COMPLETE ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINANTS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACTIVITIES Quiz 9	11/29
13	11/30-12/6/15	ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINANTS OF CHRONIC DISEASES module NOTE: University Holiday 11/27-28	COMPLETE ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINANTS OF CHRONIC DISEASES ACTIVITIES Quiz 10	12/6
14	12/7-13/15	Current Issues	Post or respond to a current Issue. This can be done anytime throughout the Semester	12/13
15	12/14-20/15	FINAL EXAM	FINAL EXAM (covers PESTS, INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND CHRONIC DISEASES modules)	12/20

VII. Evaluation and Grading

Grades will be determined by the following:

Assignments and Quizzes	Points
Weekly activity/assignment (10 @ 6%)	60%
Weekly Quizzes (10 @ 1%)	10%
Exams (3 @ 10%)	30%
Current Issues Extra Credit (3 % possible)	3%
TOTAL	103%

In order to receive a passing grade (A, B, C, or S) all work must be completed and turned in no later than the due date assigned.

You are responsible for checking the Course Outline/Weekly Schedule for exact due dates and times. WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE LAST DAY OF THE SEMESTER except in extraordinary situations, and only with a prior written agreement between the instructor and the student! A letter grade will be determined based on total effort as follows:

		B+	87-89 points	C+	77-79 points		
A	95-100 points	B	83-86 points	C	73-76 points	D	60-69 points
A-	90-94 points	B-	80-82 points	C-	70-72 points	F	<60 points

S: Achievement that is satisfactory will be based on completion of all assignments and receiving a minimum of 70 points.

F (or N): Failure (or no credit) signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2), not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an “incomplete” grade.

Evaluation Criteria

You are required to complete an Introduction of yourself, complete the readings and quizzes activities for all 10 modules. In addition there will be three examinations which may be additional quizzes, activities or papers. See grids above.

Your online activity grades will be posted in the online grade book. Click on “**My Grades**” in the course tools section of the course home page to see your grades. **All quizzes, exams or activities must be turned in by due dates as listed above, except where PREVIOUS permission has been given for alternative postings.**

All assignments should be completed by 11:55 pm (Central time) on the Sunday of the week the module is assigned, as described in the Course Outline/Weekly Schedule.

Quizzes and Final Exam (quizzes 1. point each and three exams 10 points each)

The 10 quizzes and the three exams for the course will be online for approximately one week. *Specific dates are available in the course calendar.* after each module there is a short quiz, which will be worth 1 point each. Exam 1 is based on the Introduction, Air,

Water and Food modules. Exam 2 is based on the Land, Climate change and Housing modules, and Exam 3 (Final Exam) will cover Workplace, Pests, Environmental Determinants of Infectious diseases and Environmental Determinants of Chronic Diseases. The quizzes are multiple choice and short answer. The activities are mini researches or that allow you to use interactive maps, websites etc. to get deeper insights into each module. Some of these are fun activities that we hope will engage you while you learn. **The activities will be up for the entire week in which each is assigned.** You will have **45 minutes** to complete each quiz. **You will be allowed 90 minutes** to complete the final exam. However, you must complete the full quiz or final exam in one session; you cannot start the quiz or exam, stop, and restart at a later time.

Course Evaluation

The SPH will collect student course evaluations electronically using a software system called CourseEval: www.sph.umn.edu/courseeval. 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 DS at 612-626-1333 or ds@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>.

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>.

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.

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