

## **PubH 6100-Topics in Environmental Health: Science, Politics, and Policy Spring 2018**

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<b>Credits:</b>	4
<b>Meeting Days:</b>	Tuesdays and Thursdays
<b>Meeting Time:</b>	<b>5:30 pm - 7:20 pm</b>
<b>Meeting Place:</b>	<b>TBN</b>
<b>Instructor:</b>	Pat McGovern, PhD, MPH, RN, Bond Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health Policy
<b>Office Address:</b>	1112 Mayo
<b>Office Phone:</b>	612-625-7429
<b>E-mail:</b>	pmcg@umn.edu
<b>Instructor:</b>	Elizabeth Wattenberg, PhD, Associate Professor, Division of Environmental Health Sciences
<b>Office Address:</b>	1110 Mayo
<b>Office Phone:</b>	612-626-0184
<b>E-mail:</b>	watte004@umn.edu
<b>Office Hours:</b>	By appointment

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### **I. Course Description**

This course is designed for students who are interested in public health and environmental issues. We live with various hazards, ranging from chemical and physical to social and behavioral hazards. This course focuses on how assessment of exposure to hazards and the adverse health effects they may cause is used to evaluate environmental health risk, and how environmental policy is developed to protect public health. Students will explore the forces and strategies that contribute to the development of environmental health policy, including the roles of scientific evidence, strategic decision-making, and the political process.

### **II. Course Prerequisites**

PubH 6102 Issues in Environmental Health, PubH 6101 Environmental Health, or permission of instructors.

### III. Course Goals and Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- Recognize hazards present in various environments
- Identify mechanisms and pathways of exposure to environmental hazards
- Recognize how psychosocial factors interact with and influence the effects of environmental exposures
- Analyze risk by integrating exposure and health effects data with particular attention to diverse and vulnerable populations
- Develop and evaluate risk management strategies and interventions using education, policy, and technology
- Communicate effectively with public health stakeholders

### IV. Methods of Instruction and Work Expectations

This class consists of lectures and interactive learning including class discussions, small group interactions and group projects. The main objectives of the course will be achieved through lectures and assigned readings to develop the subject in a logical sequence. It is expected that students will read assigned articles before class to facilitate active and informed class discussions.

Student performance will be based on the following criteria:

- Web postings; three postings (15%)
- Participation in in-class activities (10%)
- Policy debate topic paper (15%)
- Composition of a letter or email to a legislator on an environmental health issue (10%)
- Team presentations and debates (35 %)
- Policy briefs to support debates (15%)

#### **Grading of class participation will be based on percent completion of in-class activities:**

Full credit: 80 – 100% satisfactory completion of assignments

70% credit: 70 – 79% satisfactory completion of assignments

50% credit: 60 – 69% satisfactory completion of assignments

30% credit: 50 – 59% satisfactory completion of assignments

0 credit: less than 50% satisfactory completion of assignments

### V. Course Text and Readings

B.S. Levy and J.A. Patz, Editors. *Climate Change and Public Health*. New York, N.Y: Oxford University Press, 2015. ISBN 978-0-19-020245-3.

WA Rosenbaum. *Environmental Politics and Policy*. (10<sup>th</sup> edition) Thousand Oaks, CA., Sage Publications and CQ Press, 2017. ISBN 978-1-4522-3996-5.

A variety of journal articles and book chapters are assigned as readings to complete before the designated class. There will also be websites to review. Additional readings from the primary literature and other sources may be added during the course.

## VI. Course Outline/Weekly Schedule

### Week 1

Tuesday, January 16

Course Introduction: Pat McGovern, Elizabeth Wattenberg

Mechanisms and Pathways of Exposure to Environmental Hazards: Jesse Berman

**Readings:** To be announced.

Thursday, January 18

Environmental Measurements: Susan Arnold and Kim Anderson

Readings: To be announced

**Assignment:** Web posting 1 due

### Week 2

Tuesday, January 23

Biomonitoring: Jean Johnson, Minnesota Department of Health

**Readings:** JN Garcia and HK Koh, Promoting Environmental Justice, American Journal of Public Health, Supplement 1, Vol. 101: S14 – S15, 2011.

S. Goodman, Human Testing at Heart of Debate Over U.S. Toxics Law. New York Times, February 15, 2010.

WA Rosenbaum. Environmental Politics and Policy. (10<sup>th</sup> edition) Chapter 4. *Common Policy Challenges: Risk Assessment and Environmental Justice* (pp:127-162) Thousand Oaks, CA., Sage Publications and CQ Press, 2017. ISBN 978-1-4522-3996-5.

Review: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2017, February 1) National Biomonitoring Program, retrieved 8/27/17 from <https://www.cdc.gov/biomonitoring/>

Thursday, January 25

Biomonitoring: Pat McGovern, Elizabeth Wattenberg (Possible guest speaker, Mageen Caines, Epidemiologist, City of Minneapolis)

**Readings:** R Pribble. (March 3, 2017) Northern Metals settles for \$2.5 million, will move shredder from Minneapolis. Retrieved 8/27/17 from <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/northern-metals-settles-25-million-will-move-shredder-minneapolis>

E Hoover, M Renauld, MR Edelstein, and P Brown. Social Science Collaboration with Environmental Health. Environmental Health Perspectives. 123 (11) 2015: Accessed: <https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/1409283/>

**Review:** Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (March 3, 2017) North Minneapolis Air Monitoring Project, accessed 8/27/17 from <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/north-minneapolis-air-monitoring-project>

### Week 3

Tuesday, January 30

Introduction to Exposure Modeling: Pete Raynor

**Readings:** to be announced.

Thursday, February 1

Introduction to Exposure Modeling: Pete Raynor

**Readings:** to be announced.

## Week 4

Tuesday, February 6

Introduction to Toxicology, Dose-response: Elizabeth Wattenberg

**Readings:** Review the slides shown on the website below under the section Toxicology Tutor I: Dose and Dose Response. Taking the quizzes included in this module is highly recommended.  
<http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/toxtutor/Tox1/amenu.htm>

Thursday, February 8

Toxicology Study Design, Safety Evaluation: Elizabeth Wattenberg

**Readings:** Review the slides shown on the website below under the section Toxicology Tutor I: Toxic Effects and Toxicity Testing Methods and Risk Assessment. Taking the quizzes included in this module is highly recommended.  
<http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/toxtutor/Tox1/amenu.htm>

**Assignment:** Web Posting 2 due

## Week 5

Tuesday, February 13

Environmental Health Risk Assessment: Elizabeth Wattenberg

**Readings:** Review the slides shown on the website below under the section Toxicology Tutor I: Risk Assessment. Taking the quizzes included in this module is highly recommended.  
<http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/toxtutor/Tox1/amenu.htm>

Review the Weight of Evidence classifications from USEPA and IARC posted on Moodle site

Watch the Risk Bites YouTube videos: *A New Way to Evaluate Chemical Safety - TOX21*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKhn1HRXgn8>

Hazard vs. Risk – Same Difference  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VF-8QksiU7c>

What does “Probably Cause Cancer” actually mean?  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbBkB81ySxQ>

Thursday, February 15

How Our Internal Environment Affects Our Response to Our External Environment: Elizabeth Wattenberg

**Readings:** Review the slides shown on the website below under the section Toxicology Tutor II: Introduction, Absorption, Distribution, Excretion and Biotransformation. Taking the quizzes included in this module is highly recommended.  
<http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/toxtutor/Tox2/amenu.htm>

## Week 6

Tuesday, February 20

Introduction to Environmental & Occupational Health Policy, Politics and Decision Making: Pat McGovern  
The Case of Wild Rice Protections

**Readings:** WA Rosenbaum. Chapter 1. *After Earth Day* (pp:1-29) and Chapter 3, *Making Policy: Institutions and Politics* (pp: 79-122). Additional readings to be announced.

Thursday, February 22

Introduction to the Legislative Process: Melissa Finnegan and Pat McGovern

**Readings:** WA Rosenbaum. Chapter 2. *Making Policy: the Process* (pp:33-73).  
Case-specific readings to be announced.

## Week 7

Tuesday, February 27

Environmental Regulations: Overview and Application: Pat McGovern

**Readings:** WA Rosenbaum. Chapter 5. *More Choice: The Battle over Regulatory Economics*. (pp:163-190) and Chapter 6. *Command and Control in Action. Air and Water Pollution Regulation*. (pp:195-236).

Thursday, March 1

Overview of the Clean Air Act, Foundations for Disparities in Exposure to Hazardous Substances: Pat McGovern and Greg Pratt

**Readings:** GC Pratt, ML Vadali, DL Kvale, KM Ellickson. Traffic, air pollution, minority and socio-economic status: addressing inequities in exposure and risk. *International Journal of Environmental Research in Public Health*. 2015; 12(5):5355-5372.

Review: Clean Air Act, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, accessed 8/27/17 at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/clean-air-act> and <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/air-we-breathe>

**Assignment:** Letter/email to an elected representative is due

## Week 8

Tuesday, March 6:

Overview of Climate Change, Politics and Policy: Pat McGovern

**Readings:** WA Rosenbaum. Chapter 10. *Climate Change, Domestic Politics and the Challenge of Global Policy Making* (pp:357-390) B.S. Levy and J.A. Patz, Editors. *Chapter 1 Applying a Public Health Context to Climate Change*. (pp: 3-28), Chapter 11. *Public health policies and actions* (pp:231-254).

Thursday, March 8

Climate Change, Adverse Health Consequences from Heat Impacts and Preventative Measures: Pat McGovern and Yang Liu

**Readings:** Chapter 4A Heat impacts on work, human performance and daily life (pp: 73-86) and Chapter 4B. Disorders related to heat. (pp:87-104).

Y Liu, B Hoppe, Convertino M. Threshold Evaluation of Emergency Risk Communication for Temperature Related Health Risks. (Manuscript in review)

## Week 9

Tuesday, March 13

Climate Change, Adverse Health Consequences and Preventative Measures from Vector-Borne Diseases: Rich Danila and Pat McGovern

**Readings:** B.S. Levy and J.A. Patz. Chapter 6, Vector-Borne Diseases (pp: 129-156)

Oussayef, N.L., Pillai, S.K., Honein, M.A. et al. (2016, January 6) Zika Virus —10 Public Health Achievements in 2016 and Future Priorities. *MMWR* 65(52);1482-1488.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources. (2016 December 12) CDC awards nearly \$184 million to continue the fight against Zika. Accessed 1/8/2017, <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2016/p1222-zika-funding.html>

Herszenhorn, D.M. (2016, June 29) Zika Bill Is Blocked by Senate Democrats Upset Over Provisions. *New York Times* (p.A12), accessed 1/8/17, [http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/29/us/politics/congress-zika-funding.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/29/us/politics/congress-zika-funding.html?_r=0)

**Assignment:** Web Posting 3 due

Thursday, March 15

Climate Change, Adverse Health Consequences and Preventative Measures associated with food and water insecurity: Pat McGovern and Guest Speaker (Possible guest instructor, Jessica Helman, Institute on the Environment (IonE)), and Overview of Policy Evaluation Framework: Pat McGovern

**Readings:** B.S. Levy and J.A. Patz. Chapter 7, Waterborne and Food Borne Diseases (pp: 157-172) and Chapter 8, Health Impacts related to Food and Nutrition Insecurity (pp: 173-193).

**Review:** U.S. EPA. Addressing Climate Change in the Water Sector. Retrieved 8/28/17 from <https://www.epa.gov/climate-change-water-sector>

## Spring Break

## Week 10

Tuesday, March 27

Clean Water Act and The Economic Value of Clean Water: (Possible guest instructor, Bonnie Keeler, IonE) Policy Evaluation Framework: Pat McGovern

**Readings** (review): WA Rosenbaum. Chapter 6, *Command and Control in Action. Air and Water Pollution Regulation*. (pp:195-236).

**Review:** Summary of the Clean Water Act. Retrieved 8/28/17 from <https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-clean-water-act>

**Assignment:** Policy proposal assignment

Thursday, March 29

Safe Drinking Water Act and the Case of Nitrates: Tannie Eshenar, Deanna Scher, Pat McGovern

**Readings:** JD Brender, PJ Weyer, PA Romitti et al. Prenatal Nitrate Intake from Drinking Water and Selected Birth Defects in Offspring of Participants in the National Birth Defects Prevention Study. *Environmental Health Perspectives*. 2013, 123 (9):1083-1089.

J Marcotty (2015, Sept. 19) Contaminated wells aren't just a rural problem – just ask homeowners in Washington County. *StarTribune*, accessed 1/8/17, <http://www.startribune.com/contaminated-wells-arent-just-a-rural-problem-just-ask-homeowners-in-washington-county/328382251/>

**Review:** US EPA. Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Retrieved 8/28/17 from <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa>

## Week 11

Tuesday, April 3

Risk Communication and Health Literacy: Tannie Eshenar, Deanna Scher, Pat McGovern

**Readings:** S Finn and L O'Fallon. The Emergence of Environmental Health Literacy—From Its Roots to Its Future Potential. *Environmental Health Perspectives*. 2017, 125 (4):495-501.

J Manuel. Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication: Lessons from the Elk River Spill. *Environmental Health Perspectives*. 2014, 122 (8):A215-A219.

*Policy proposal due for peer feedback*

## Thursday, April 5

Disaster Preparedness: MDH leadership, Katie Haugen and Pat McGovern

**Readings:** To be announced.

Review: Minnesota Department of Health. Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery. Accessed 8/28/17 from <http://www.health.state.mn.us/macros/topics/emergency.html>

**Assignment:** *Final policy proposal due to Instructor*

## Week 12

Tuesday, April 10

Mental Health Impacts

**Readings:** To be announced.

Review: Minnesota Department of Health. Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery. Accessed 8/28/17 from <http://www.health.state.mn.us/macros/topics/emergency.html>

Thursday, April 12

Resilient Communities: Minneapolis' Chief Resilience Officer (Kate Knuth)

**Readings:** To be announced.

*Policy debates teams developed & in-class meetings of groups (1)*

## Week 13

Tues, April 17

Overview to Occupational Health Policy and the Occupational Safety and Health Act: Pat McGovern

**Online Module.** Nanotechnology and Chemicals in the Workplace – Perspective on Oversight by Gurumurthy Ramachandra, PhD, Professor, Environmental Health and Engineering, Johns Hopkins University

**Readings:** Choi JY, Ramachandran G, and Kandlikar M. The Impact of toxicity testing costs on nanomaterial regulation. *Environmental Science and Technology*. 2009, 43 (9): 3030–3034. (Available on course website)

Ramachandran G, Wolf SM, Paradise J, et al. Recommendations for oversight of nanobiotechnology: dynamic oversight for complex and convergent technology. *J Nanopart Res*(2011; 13:1345–1371. (Available on course website)

**Required** *Policy debates teams developed & in-class meetings of groups (1)*

Thurs, April 19:

Overview to The Americans' with Disabilities Act and the Role of the Courts in Shaping Policy: Pat McGovern, David Cossi

Review: Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Disability Discrimination. Retrieved 1/11/17, <http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/types/disability.cfm>

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Facts about the Americans with Disabilities. Retrieved 1/11/17, <http://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/publications/fs-ada.cfm>

EEOC. Notice Concerning The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Amendments Act of 2008 Retrieved 1/11/17, [http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/statutes/adaaa\\_notice.cfm](http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/statutes/adaaa_notice.cfm)

Georgetown University Law Library (June, 2013). ADA Amendments Act of 2008. Retrieved 8/28/17 from <http://guides.ll.georgetown.edu/c.php?g=592919&p=4230126>

## Week 14

Tuesday, April 24: Overview to Occupational Health Policy and Workers Compensation: Pat McGovern and Bill Lohman

**Readings:** Boden LI, Barth PS, Leifer NT, Strouss DC, Spieler EA, Roche PA (2007). Legal Remedies. In B. S. Levy, D. H. Wegman, S.L. Baron, R.K. Sokas (Eds.) Occupational and Environmental Health, Recognizing and Preventing Disease and Injury (6th ed). Philadelphia, Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins (pp. 664-696). Available on the course website

Review Online Module; Overview to Workers Compensation and the Case of Mental Illness Coverage  
Policy debates teams have in-class meetings (2)

Thursday, April 26: students

Debates & Briefs

No assigned readings

## Week 15

Tuesday, May 1: students

Debates & Briefs

Thursday, May 3: students

Debates & Briefs

## VII. Evaluation and Grading

The University utilizes plus and minus grading on a 4.000 cumulative grade point scale in accordance with the following:

- A 4.000 - Represents achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements



- A- 3.667
- B+ 3.333
- B 3.000 - Represents achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements
- B- 2.667
- C+ 2.333
- C 2.000 - Represents achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect
- C- 1.667
- D+ 1.333
- D 1.000 - Represents achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements
- S Represents achievement that is satisfactory, which is equivalent to a C- or better.

**For additional information, please refer to:**

<http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/GRADINGTRANSCRIPTS.html>.

**Course Evaluation**

The SPH will collect student course evaluations electronically using a software system called CourseEval: [www.sph.umn.edu/courseeval](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://onestop.umn.edu).

**Course Withdrawal:**

Students should refer to the Refund and Drop/Add Deadlines for the particular term at [onestop.umn.edu](http://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](mailto: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](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](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](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](mailto: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>.

**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.\*

**OR:**

**Academic Freedom and Responsibility, for courses that 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 and conduct relevant research. 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.\* When conducting research, pertinent institutional approvals must be obtained and the research must be consistent with University policies.

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 Student Affairs), 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>:**

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.

*Template update 9/2014*