

Environmental Health Concepts in Public Health for HSA students

PHC 6313 Summer C 2008 E-Learning course, 2 credits

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Course description

This course is a survey of major topic areas of environmental health. It will examine sources, routes, media, and health outcomes associated with biological, chemical and physical agents in the environment. It will cover how the agents affect disease, water quality, air quality, food safety, and land resources in community and occupational settings. The course will introduce the students to the current legal framework, policies, and practices associated with environmental health issues and intended to improve public health.

Course objectives

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

1. Describe some the history leading to our current approach to dealing with environmental health issues
2. Define the major sources of biological, chemical and physical agents found in water, air, soil, and food
3. Describe the spectrum of environmental and occupational health problems associated with those agents
4. Characterize target populations exposed to hazardous agents
5. Describe the tools that are used to analyze health impacts of environmental exposures such as toxicology, exposure assessment, risk assessment, epidemiology, and industrial hygiene
6. Describe methods used to detect, manage, control, or remove health hazards
7. Describe the existing regulatory framework for controlling environmental and occupational agents

Text book

Environmental Health

Dade W. Moeller Harvard University Press, 2004 ISBN 0-674-01494-4

Format

This course is taught as a series of content modules, covering one specific aspect of environmental health. Each module may contain recorded lectures, power point presentations and required readings from the textbook, as well as assignments and assessments. You are responsible for all course content regardless of the format. Some weeks more than one module may be assigned. A separate overview showing the due date for content modules and assignments is available for your convenience at the end of the syllabus. All assignments, discussion posts and tests are to be completed or submitted by 11:59PM on the day they are due.

Written assignments

There will be five written assignments each with 7 points each (7%), typically one to two pages long. Detailed instructions will be provided with each assignment. Assignments are to be turned in as MS Word files (10-12 font size, single-spaced, default margins) and they will be returned to you with comments. Assignments are normally intended as individual projects. If the work is shared, and this is acknowledged upfront, the credit will be split accordingly. If there is no acknowledgment of shared work, this will be treated as a form of plagiarism. Assignments may be required to be submitted via the www.turnitin.com site. This site will pick up any passages in a student's work that comes from another source. Be sure to adequately cite your sources for these assignments to avoid plagiarism.

Discussion Board Participation

There is much to learn from each other in this kind of course. This will be your opportunity to share your experiences and expertise. There will be weekly discussion topics. You will be required to post on 3 of these boards. You will be assigned 2 boards and should submit your choice of discussion topics you choose for the other board you wish to post. Posts addressing the topic will receive 5-points for each of these 3 boards for a total of 15-points. It is important that you read what others have posted, and part of your discussion board credit depends on your engaging others in discussions, where appropriate. Extra credit will be awarded to those who create additional posts or who post thoughtful responses to other student posts. You can earn up to 5-points bonus for the course (1-point per post) for this additional work. Posts and comments must be substantive ("me too", "I agree" etc. do not count). Please make sure to post all discussion postings in the appropriate discussion board topic. Keep all personal comments in the "Getting Acquainted" or "Social" discussion boards.

Module Quizzes

Your understanding of the different individual modules will be tested by eight quizzes. Quizzes are open-book. Quizzes are not graded, have an unlimited availability and are provided as a learning tool for the course. Quizzes will help to prepare you for the midterm and final exam. Quizzes are REQUIRED even though they are not graded as the completion of one module's quiz releases the next module, i.e. quiz 6 releases module 7, etc. All quizzes are composed of multiple choice, matching, true/false, and short answer.

Exams

There will be two exams, a midterm and a final. The final will be cumulative, i.e. it will cover all the material in the course. Exams will be available on the E-Learning site via a Lock-Down Browser. These exams will be comprised of primarily short essay questions where you will be expected to interpret the material that is presented in the course and apply it to the question or situation that the exam questions pose.

Course Policies

Behavior on the Discussion Board. You are expected to maintain a civil tone and respect the opinions of other posters. While commenting on others' posts is encouraged and at times required, aggressive or patronizing tone and language are unacceptable and may result in the loss of your posting privileges and relative discussion points.

Plagiarism. You are expected to know and follow the Academic Honesty Guidelines. Plagiarism is especially damaging in an online learning environment and will be dealt with in an official way according to University of Florida regulations. Incidents will be reported directly to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and a formal procedure will be started in each and every case. There will be no

informal incident resolution between student and instructor. Should you have any doubts on whether something constitutes plagiarism, consult the many available resources on the topic, e.g. starting with <http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/msl/subjects/Physics/StudentPlagiarism.html>, or contact the instructor in advance.

Late assignments. Assignments turned in up to 24 hours late will be discounted 15% of the grade they would otherwise receive. Assignments turned in more than 24 hours late will not be graded and will contribute zero points toward your final grade, unless arrangements have been made in advance with the instructor or online administrator.

Missed Assignments. Missed assignments and discussion posts will contribute zero points toward your final grade. There will be NO make-ups.

Special Circumstances. In the event of exceptional situations that may interfere with your ability to perform an assignment or meet a deadline, contact the instructor as soon in advance of the deadline as possible. Such special cases will be dealt on an individual basis, provided you have sufficient documentation.

Special Accommodations. Students desiring a special accommodation because of any disability should contact the Disability Resources Program of the Dean of Students Office to obtain a letter identifying the needs. This letter should be provided to the instructor at the beginning of the semester. Please note that the Disability Program is very mindful of your privacy rights.

Contacting the instructors

You are encouraged to contact the TA and the instructor for clarification and assistance with the course material and the assignments, and for special issues that may arise via the E-Learning e-mail system. If the issue or question may be of interest to others, your best option is to post it on the discussion board, in the “Always Open” section.

For individual issues, the best way to reach the instructors is using the course e-mail. Weekday daytime emails have the best chances of being answered quickly. Evening and nighttime messages will most likely be addressed on the following day. Weekend messages may occasionally receive a weekend response, but do not normally expect that.

Grade Contributions








Assignments (5 @ 7-points each) =	35 points
Discussion board participation (3 at 5-pts each) =	15 points*
Midterm exam =	25 points
Final exam =	<u>25 points</u>
	100 points





*5 bonus points available in this category

Grade point equivalence

Average score	Grade
>90 points	A
85-90 points	B+
80-84.9 points	B
75-79.9 points	C+
70-74.9 points	C
65-69.9 points	D+
60-64.9 points	D
<60 points	F

PHC 6313 WEBCT COURSE CONTENT: SUMMER 2008 – DR. NATALIE FREEMAN

WEBCT SECTION	Dates	LECTURE # & TITLE	POWERPOINT FILE	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS [Dates]	DISCUSSIONS [Dates]	ASSESSMENTS [Dates]
“Start Here” Section 	May 12 – May 19	0: Intro Faculty Video and Directions for Using Lecture Files	IntroVideo.ppt		0-Go through the “Start Here” Module to acquaint yourself with how WebCT operates [by Sun. 5/19]	0- Getting Acquainted [Mon. 5/12 – Mon. 5/19]	Quiz – Syllabus and course resources [May 12] – required to open course materials
Section 1: Module 1: Introduction to Environmental Health 	May 19 – May 25	1: Introduction	Introduction.ppt	Chapter 1 of <i>Environmental Health</i> by Moeller		1- Identify Key EH Topics [Mon. 5/19 – Sun. 5/25]	Quiz 1: Introduction 6-Occupational Exposure [quizzes are unlimited, but required to open next module]
Section 1: Module 2: Toxicology 	May 26 – June 1	2: Toxicology, 1 of 4 3: Toxicology, 2 of 4 4: Toxicology, 3 of 4 5: Toxicology, 4 of 4	Toxicology1.ppt Toxicology2.ppt Toxicology3.ppt Toxicology4.ppt	Chapter 2	1-Toxins in the Environment [due Sun. 6/1]	2 – Toxicity Tests [Mon5/26 – Sun. 6/1]	
Section 1: Module 3: Epidemiology 	June 2 – June 8	6: Epidemiology	Epidemology.ppt	Chapter 3		3-Meaning of Causality [Mon. 6/2 – Sun. 6/8]	Quiz 2: Toxicology and Epidemiology
Section 1: Module 4: Exposure Assessment 	June 9 – June 15	7: Exposure Case Study	Exposure Assessment.ppt	Chapter 16		4-Exposure Assessment [Mon 6/9 – Sun. 6/15]	
Section 1: Module 5: Risk Assessment 	June 16 – June 22	8. Risk Assessment 9: Risk Communication	Risk Assessment.ppt Risk Communication.ppt	Chapter 17	2-Superfund Exposures [due Sun. 6/15]	5-Risk Assessment [Mon. 6/16 – Sun. 6/22]	Quiz 3: Monitoring Exposure Assessment and Risk Assessment MIDTERM EXAM (1.5 hour) [Sat. 6/28 – Thurs. 7/3]
SUMMER BREAK	June 23 – June 29						
Section 1: Module 6: Laws & Regulations 	June 30 – July 6	10: Environmental Law, 1 of 2 11: Environmental Law, 2 of 2	Laws and Regulations.ppt Laws and Regulations.ppt	Chapter 14 Chapter 15		6-Laws & Regulations [Mon. 6/30 – Sun. 7/6]	Quiz 4: Environmental Laws and Standards

Section 2: Module 7: Ambient and Indoor Air 	July 7 – July 13	12: Ambient Air	Ambient Air.ppt	Chapter 5	3-Environments and Populations at Risk [due Sun. 7/13]	7- Ambient & Indoor Air [Mon. 7/7 – Sun. 7/13]	
		13: Indoor Air	Indoor Air.ppt				
Section 2: Module 8: Solid Waste 	July 14 – July 20	17: Solid Waste	Solid Waste1.ppt	Chapter 9 Chapter 10		8-Solid Waste – Rodents and Insects [Mon.7/14 – Sun. 7/20]	
		18: Hazardous Waste	Solid Waste2.ppt				
Section 2: Module 9: Food Soil & Dust 	July 21 – July 27	19: Food Protection	Food.ppt	Chapter 6	5-Food Sanitization [due Sun. 7/27]	9-Managing our Sources of Food [Mon. 7/21 – Sun. 7/27]	Quiz 5: Food Safety and Sanitation
Section 2: Module 10: The Occupational Environment 	July 28 – August 3	21: Occupational Health, 1 of 5	Occupational Health1.ppt	Chapter 4	6-Occupational Exposure [due Sun. 8/3]	10-Unexpected and Surprising Hazards [Mon. 7/28 – Sun. 8/3]	Quiz 6: Occupational Health FINAL EXAM (2 hrs) [Sat. 8/2 – Thur. 8/7]
		22: Occupational Health, 2 of 5	Occupational Health2.ppt				
		23: Occupational Health, 3 of 5	Occupational Health3.ppt				
		24: Occupational Health, 4 of 5	Occupational Health4.ppt				
		25: Occupational Health, 5 of 5	Occupational Health5.ppt				