

University of Florida
College of Public Health & Health Professions Syllabus
PHC 6103 Systems Thinking for Public Health
Summer A 2023

Delivery Format: Synchronous & Asynchronous Online
 Canvas via E-Learning

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 Class Time: T & R 11:00 am – 1:45 pm
 Office Hours: Tuesday 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm (zoom or in-person) or by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Rachel Liu-Galvin
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Prerequisites

Students will have graduate level competency and background in public health, health services, and/or population health management.

Students will have graduate level narrative writing and data analytical skills.

PURPOSE AND OUTCOME

Course Overview

The purpose of this course is to expose students to systems thinking theory and methods with a special focus on addressing problems in public health and public health management. This course is designed to facilitate the pivot from analytical thinking and knowledge-based learning to a more emergent and synthetic understanding of how public health problems manifest within complex systems. Multiple systems, structures, processes, and cultures will be considered in the context of a whole situation.

Learning Outcomes

The course is positioned within the curriculum to build on background and techniques acquired in first year graduate healthcare courses and to prepare students for internship and or job placement in a practical working environment.

By the end of the course, the students will gain knowledge and skills aligned with the *Systems Thinking* Foundational Public Health knowledge:

F22: Apply a systems thinking tool to visually represent a public health issue in a format other than a standard narrative.

Students will also gain necessary knowledge and skills for the following Population Health Management concentration competency:

PHM1: Integrate systems thinking theory to incorporate multiple stakeholders at state and local levels to address a public health issue.

Pedagogical Approach

This course is founded on a “constructivist” approach that holds that people actively construct or make their own knowledge. In order to prepare students for a future profession in public health, this course utilizes an “anchored instruction” methodology to allow for students to apply these concepts comprehensively real-world problems.

Course Structure

The course will be delivered over the 6 weeks of the condensed Summer A 2023 semester. The course will include the elements of blended learning, in which a mixture of technology and face-to-face instruction (via zoom) will help the students maximize their learning. Some knowledge content that could have been traditionally presented during a live class lecture is instead provided online before the live class takes place. Synchronous meeting time is instead focused on the course activities designed to help the students strengthen higher order thinking skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see the [Notification to Students of FERPA Rights](#).

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT

Course Structure

This course will consist of six (6) modules corresponding to the 12 classes within the course. Each module contains all learning materials for the given week.

Required Texts

This class does not have a required textbook. All assigned readings will be posted on Canvas.

Suggested Readings

Meadows, D. H. (2008). *Thinking in systems: A primer*. **[Available online through UF Libraries]**

De Savigny, D., Blanchet, K., & Adam, T. (2017). *Applied Systems Thinking for Health Systems Research: A Methodological Handbook*. McGraw-Hill Education (UK).

Senge, P. M. (2006). *The fifth discipline: The art and practice of the learning organization*.

Canvas via UF e-learning

Course materials will be shared through a designated UF Canvas site.

Technical Requirements

All students are required to have a webcam and microphone. Browser requirements may change; please consult the UF Helpdesk <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/> to see a list of supported browsers and recommendations for browser configuration. For technical support for the course eLearning site, activities, and assessments, please contact: the UF Help Desk at:

- Learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://elearning.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Announcements

Class announcements will be sent via the announcements tool eLearning and students are responsible for all information in these announcements. Note: Canvas does have a feature where you can have all announcements immediately forwarded to your email inbox.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Individual Participation and Discussion Posts (25%)

This course includes numerous opportunities for students to practice their systems thinking skills. Students are expected to actively engage in class discussions.

This class will have a rapid pace, and the weeks will fly by quickly. Students have an option of skipping one discussion submission without a penalty. To use this option, a student should submit a statement, "I am skipping this assignment."

Public Health Challenge Analysis (25%)

Each student will lead a group model building activity and develop a brief report (800-1,000 words) on the topic of their choice. Working in small groups, students will present a problem and engage their peers in the development of a systems model. The report is due on 9:00 am Tuesday of the last week of class meetings.

Team Case Presentation (10%) and Report (20%)

Students will work in teams of 3-5 to analyze a public health case, develop a causal loop diagram, and present three outcome scenarios. A causal loop diagram and a three-slide presentation summary will be due at the end of the team case meeting class. Team presentations will take place on Tuesday of the last week of class meetings. In addition, the teams will submit a narrative report (1,500 – 2,000 words) by 9:00 am of the last day of class meetings.

Final Exam (20%)

The final exam is designed to test both the understanding of systems thinking concepts and the ability to apply systems thinking methods to an applied public health problem. The exam will be open book and open note. The exam will include ten (10) multiple-choice questions and one (1) brief systems mapping case. For the brief case, students will have a choice to develop a causal loop diagram, a group model building protocol and script, OR two system dynamics scenarios. The exam will be open during the last class, from 11:00 am to 1:45 pm.

Knowledge Checks

Students will be prompted to answer 3-4 knowledge questions to assess their level of engagement with asynchronous reading and video content. Knowledge checks will not be graded but will serve as formative assessment of student engagement and provide guidance for discussions during synchronous meetings.

Submission Format

All submissions will use 12-point Calibri, Arial, Times Roman, or other similar font, 1-inch margins, and single spacing. All submissions should follow as best as possible the APA 7th Edition guidelines for structure of manuscripts, in-text citations, and references. While formatting is not factored into the grading, this is designed to provide helpful structure for students and the instructor. Helpful information for using APA 7th (and others) is available through the Purdue Online Writing Lab.

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html

Late submissions

Late submissions for all assignment will be accepted but will receive a grade penalty. Submissions that are late up to 24 hours will receive a 10% penalty, and submissions that are late by more than 24 hours will receive a 20% penalty.

Grading

Final grades will reflect the students' performance in the following areas:

Requirement	Per cent of final grade
Participation and Discussions	25%
Public Health Challenge Analysis	25%
Team Presentation	10%
Team Report	20%
Final Exam	20%
TOTAL	100%

Point system used (i.e., how do course points translate into letter grades).

Per cent points earned	93-100	90-92.9	87-89.9	83-86.9	80-82.9	77-79.9	73-76.9	70-72.9	67-69.9	63-66.9	60-62.9	Below 60
Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
Grade Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0.00

Please be aware that a C- is not an acceptable grade for graduate students. The GPA for graduate students must be at least a 3.0 in all 5000 level courses and above to graduate. A grade of C counts toward a graduate degree only if a sufficient number of credits in courses numbered 5000 or higher have been earned with a B+ or higher. In addition, the Bachelor of Health Science and Bachelor of Public Health Programs do not use C- grades.

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS, ROLES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

Expectations Regarding Course Behavior

Students are expected to be prepared and ready to participate in class discussions. Professional behavior is expected at all times.

Communication Guidelines

Students will be expected to communicate via official UF email. The preferred methods of communication for the course are messages in Canvas or e-mail. Include PHC 6103 in the subject line of every email for a response within one business day.

Policy Related to Required Class Attendance

Please note all students and faculty are bound by the UF policy for excused absences. For information regarding the UF Attendance Policy see the Registrar website for additional details:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Graduate Catalog (<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#attendance>) and require appropriate documentation. Additional information can be found here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Policy Related to Make up Exams or Other Work

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the receipt received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The receipt will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail me within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

All make up exams due to extenuating circumstances, such as illness, are at the discretion of the professor and documentation may be required.

Policy Related to Guests Attending Class

Only registered students are permitted to attend class. However, we recognize that students who are caretakers may face occasional unexpected challenges creating attendance barriers. Therefore, by exception, a department chair or his or her designee (e.g., instructors) may grant a student permission to bring a guest(s) for a total of two class sessions per semester. This is two sessions total across all courses. No further extensions will be granted. Students are responsible for course material regardless of attendance. For additional information, please review the Classroom Guests of Students policy in its entirety. Link to full policy: <http://facstaff.phhp.ufl.edu/services/resourceguide/getstarted.htm>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity. As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge:

“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”

You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For additional information regarding Academic Integrity, please see Student Conduct and Honor Code or the Graduate Student Website for additional details:

<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

<http://gradschool.ufl.edu/students/introduction.html>

Please remember cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

Online Faculty Course Evaluation Process

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, it is strongly recommended you register with the Dean of Students Office <http://www.dso.ufl.edu> within the first week of class or as soon as you believe you might be eligible for accommodations. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation of accommodations to you, which you must then give to me as the instructor of the course to receive accommodations. Please do this as soon as possible after you receive the letter. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

Counseling and Student Health

Students sometimes experience stress from academic expectations and/or personal and interpersonal issues that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing issues that have the potential to or are already negatively affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and/or seek help through University resources available to you.

- The Counseling and Wellness Center 352-392-1575 offers a variety of support services such as psychological assessment and intervention and assistance for math and test anxiety. Visit their web site for more information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu>. On line and in person assistance is available.
- You Matter We Care website: <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>. If you are feeling overwhelmed or stressed, you can reach out for help through the You Matter We Care website, which is staffed by Dean of Students and Counseling Center personnel.
- The Student Health Care Center at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 392-0627 or check out the web site at: <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>
- Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from:
Alachua County Crisis Center:
(352) 264-6789
<http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx>

Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.

Inclusive Learning Environment

Public health and health professions are based on the belief in human dignity and on respect for the individual. As we share our personal beliefs inside or outside of the classroom, it is always with the understanding that we value and respect diversity of background, experience, and opinion, where every individual feels valued. We believe in, and promote, openness and tolerance of differences in ethnicity and culture, and we respect differing personal, spiritual, religious and political values. We further believe that celebrating such diversity enriches the quality of the educational experiences we provide our students and enhances our own personal and professional relationships. We embrace The University of Florida's Non-Discrimination Policy, which reads, "The University shall actively promote equal opportunity policies and practices conforming to laws against discrimination. The University is committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression,

marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act." If you have questions or concerns about your rights and responsibilities for inclusive learning environment, please see your instructor or refer to the Office of Multicultural & Diversity Affairs website: www.multicultural.ufl.edu

KOGNITO

Kognito is a free online training simulation course that teaches effective techniques to help and refer friends, classmates, and peers around you who might be showing signs and symptoms of emotional distress. Kognito has three unique training modules, one for friends and family of students, one for faculty members, one for helping student veterans, and one for helping LGBTQ+ students. You are only expected to complete the At-risk for Students module though we encourage you to explore the other modules as well.

As a friend, family member or UF peer, you may be the first one to notice signs of distress of someone around you. At UF, it is our shared responsibility to look out for one another and we are here to help you support distressed students. The UF Counseling and Wellness Center offers a free online resource, Kognito, to help you practice having difficult conversations and learn tools for when students show signs of stress. With Kognito, you can learn how to talk about these signs, practice sharing your concerns, and learn how to motivate the person in distress to seek help.

To take this course, follow these instructions:

- Go to kognitocampus.com or <https://counseling.ufl.edu/resources/kognito/>
- Click on "Create a New Account"
- ***DO NOT USE THE SAME PASSWORD AS YOUR GATORLINK ACCOUNT***
- Fill out form using enrollment key: ufl2323
- Follow the on-screen instructions

RECORDING CLASS LECTURES

"Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code."

Course Schedule PHC 6103 *

Week 1: Conceptual Foundations

Week 2: Causal Loops

Week 3: Group Model Building

Week 4: Scenario Development

Week 5: Beyond Causal Loops

Week 6: System Interventions

*** Schedule is subject to change. Students will be notified via email of any changes to the syllabus schedule. For example, other assignments and homework may be modified as needed.**