

University of Florida
College of Public Health & Health Professions
PHC 6530 Public Health Issues of Mothers and Children
Spring 2024
Delivery Format: Online

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College of Public Health and Health Professions

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Office Hours: **Thursdays** 9.00am-10:00pm, or by appointment (Zoom or in-person)

Preferred Course Communications (e.g., email, office phone): Direct email (lindabeckman@phhp.ufl.edu) through Outlook email. This is the preferred method of communication, not the message function within Canvas. Emails received on weekdays (Monday-Thursday) can expect a response within 24 to 48 hours. If I have not responded within two days, please contact me again. Your message is important to me, but it may have been overlooked. Emails received during the weekend or after 5pm on Friday will be answered by 2pm on the following Monday.

Prerequisites

Course is designed for second year MPH students, but other majors and academic levels may be approved at discretion of instructor.

PURPOSE AND OUTCOME

Course Overview

The first purpose of the course is to develop a working knowledge of key public health issues affecting mothers, children, and families, primarily in the United States. Following an introduction to key organizational and financing issues in the field, the course focuses in greater depth on major public health problems and specific local, state, and federal programs and policies that have been implemented to address them. The second purpose is to provide opportunities to integrate this population-specific content with public health skills as they are applied in practice situations. The role of data in understanding and addressing public health problems and the importance of evidence-based public health practice are emphasized throughout the course.

Course Objectives and/or Goals

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

1. Describe the historical roots and contemporary structure of maternal and child public health services in the United States.
2. Identify and discuss major public health problems of mothers and children and their key determinants.
3. Describe the programmatic and policy interventions developed to address major public health problems of mothers and children.
4. Analyze one specific MCH problem in-depth and propose valid and specific recommendations for addressing this problem in the future.

Announcements

Class announcements will be sent via the announcement tool in eLearning. Depending on your CANVAS notification settings, you may or may not be notified via email. **Therefore, you are responsible for all information in these announcements whether or not you see them in your email.**

What is expected of you?

You are expected to actively engage in the course throughout the semester. Your participation fosters a rich course experience for you and your peers that facilitates overall mastery of the course objectives. I expect and encourage you to have your camera on while the lectures are ongoing.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT

Course Materials and Technology

Required Textbook: Kirby, Russel & Verbiest, Sarah. *Kotch's Maternal and Child Health* (4th edition). Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning. ISBN 9781284200256. This course participates in the UF All Access program. Login at the following website and Opt-In to gain access to your required course materials - <https://www.bsd.ufl.edu/AllAccess> - UF All Access will provide you with your required materials digitally at a lower cost, and the charge will be applied to your student account. This option will be available starting 1 week prior to the start of the semester and ending 3 weeks after the first day of class.

Additional readings may be provided in the weekly modules as identified by the Instructor.

For technical support for this class, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

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

Additional Academic Resources

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.](#)

On-Line Students Complaints: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.](#)

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Attendance and Class Participation. Consistent with the spirit of graduate education and the interactive nature of public health practice, students are expected to attend and participate fully in every class session. Each person's frequency and quality of contribution to the class discussion will be assessed and reflected in the class participation score. Students are expected to answer and ask questions, make comments, and join in discussion. If you cannot attend a class, it is important that you inform the professor in advance. Excessive unexcused absence will result in recommending that you withdraw from the course.

Instructional Methods

- 1) Lectures: are for general orientation. Students are responsible for all the material presented in the course and assigned readings.
- 2) Readings and Resources: In addition to the lectures, supplementary readings and resources will be posted in the course. The reading and resource list may be supplemented during the course.
- 3) Assessments: A variety of assessments will be used in this course, including but not limited to assignments, quizzes, and projects.

Assignments: There will be three assignments that should be done independently. These assignments will cover a range of topics and themes to measure your knowledge of the content. Follow the instructions carefully for each assignment within the Canvas course site. Rubrics for each assignment will be provided within Canvas.

- **Assignment 1:** Why is maternal and child health important from a public health perspective. Written response on the importance of maternal and child health in the field of public health.
- **Assignment 2:** Perinatal Health Data Analysis and Presentation. Create tables and charts utilizing MCH data and report on findings.
- **Assignment 3:** Course Topic Analytic Paper on one public health problem of mothers, children, and/or families. This paper will address one MCH problem from a public health perspective, including significance and determinants; key interventions, effectiveness, and impediments to effectiveness; and recommendations derived from the preceding analysis. The paper is developed in two parts: part 1, analysis of the problem, and part 2, addressing interventions and recommendations. Specific guidelines for the paper will be distributed early in the semester. Topics must be approved by the course instructors.

Quizzes: There will be one quiz covering one lecture. Questions will be multiple-choice in format.

Grading

Requirement	Due date	Points or % of final grade (% sum to 100%)
Class participation		10 (8.7%)
Assignment1: MCH and Public Health	1/15 Monday 11.59 PM	10 (8.7%)
Assignment2: Perinatal Health Data Analysis	1/26 Friday 11.59 PM	15 (13%)
Quiz 1	2/16 Friday 11.59 PM	5 (4.3%)
Course paper part 1	2/23 Friday 11.59 PM	30 (26%)
Course paper part 2	4/12	30 (26%)
Course Paper presentation	4/16 & 4/23	15 (13%)
<i>Total points</i>		<i>115 (100%)</i>

Translating Course Percentages to Letter Grades

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D+	D	D-	E
Percentage earned	93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	70-76	67-69	63-66	60-62	Below 60

Note: The Bachelor of Health Science Program and Bachelor of Public Health Program do not use C- grades.

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D+	D	D-	E	WF	I	NG	S-U
Grade Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.33	1.0	0.67	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Policy Related to Make up Exams or Other Work

Requirements: Students are responsible for all course material, including reading all required materials prior to each lecture. The course is conducted in eLearning and all assignments, course lectures, and discussions, will be delivered in this medium. Students should also read your email and announcements in the course several times a week. Please note that announcements and emails sent out from the course site will go to your UFL email address (versus your Google, Yahoo, etc.); please check this mail at <http://webmail.ufl.edu> regularly also. Students should also reference the calendar in the course to keep up with weekly deadlines.

Readings and Discussions: Students should read the assigned readings prior to viewing course lectures and be prepared to discuss the material through course discussions and assignments.

Make-Ups: If you are unable to meet a deadline in this course for approved reasons and have given prior notification to the instructor when possible, you will be given adequate time to make up any coursework missed. All other missed or late work will receive a grade of zero. Make-up exams will be provided only in cases of excused absences or conflict during final exams per University policy and MUST be discussed with the instructor in advance. Make-up exams will differ from the regularly scheduled exam.

Please note: Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the UF Computing Help Desk (<http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>) correspondence. You MUST e-mail me within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Policy Related to Required Class Attendance

Attendance Policy: Per the University of Florida, students are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives as defined by the instructor. Acceptable reasons for absence include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, and professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official University activities such as music performances, athletic competition or

Last Updated: 12/19/2023

debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Remember that, when possible (i.e., extracurricular activities, official University activities, and religious holidays), prior notification of absence is required if the student plans to be given an extension on assignments. Even though this is an online course, students are expected to log on regularly and participate in the course.

All 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>

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS, ROLES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

Expectations Regarding Course Behavior

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/>

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

Recording Within the Course:

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.

Online Faculty Course Evaluation Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, you must register with the Dean of Students Office <http://www.dso.ufl.edu> within the first week of class. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation of accommodations to you, which you then give to me as the instructor of the course to receive accommodations. Please make sure you provide this letter to me by the end of the second week of the course. 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>. Online and in person assistance is available.
- **U 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>
- **University Police Department:** [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- **UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:** For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

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.

Diversity Statement

I consider this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect, and I welcome individuals of all ages, backgrounds, beliefs, ethnicities, genders, gender identities, gender expressions, national origins, religious affiliations, sexual orientations, ability – and other visible and nonvisible differences. All members of this class are expected to contribute to a respectful, welcoming, and inclusive environment for every other member of the class.

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.

Weekly Course Schedule (schedule content may be subject to change during the first weeks)

Dates	Module	Topics and Cross-cutting Issues	Readings & M	Assignments, & Assessments
Module 1: MCH HISTORY AND DATA				
Week 1 (of classes) Jan 9 10.40- 12.30 AM. All zoom links can be found at the lesson's page (modules)	INTRODUCTION TO COURSE, HISTORY OF MCH AND MATERNAL MORTALITY AND COURSE PAPER STRUCTURE	Learning Objectives: - Define basic MCH terminology, its impact on public health, and trends - Understand main components of maternal and child health - Understand the development of maternal and child - Maternal mortality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caring for Infants – Then & Now • Chapter 4 in Kirby & Verbiest • https://mchb.hrsa.gov/about-us/timeline Optional: Chapter 2-3 in Kirby & Verbiest (could be good to scroll through)	
Week 2 Jan 16 10.40- 12.30 AM.	MCH INDICATOR DATA, HOW TO DO ASSIGNMENT 2	Learning Objectives: - Define periods between preconception and Interconception - Understand MCH indicator data and where to locate data - Knowledge of rates for the Nation and Florida - Infant mortality	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vital Statistics Report Births Data for 2022 • Vital Statistics Report Infant Mortality Data for 2023 • Chapter 5 in Kirby & Verbiest 	Assignment 1: Why is maternal and child health important to the field of public health? Due Monday 1/15 11.59 PM
Week 3 Jan 23 10.40- 12.30 AM.	MCH BUREAU AND DATA PRESENTATIONS	Learning Objectives: - Understand the mission, approach and goals of the MCH Bureau - Knowledge of MCHB Programs - Knowledge of MCH Block Grant funding and accountability measures - Knowledge of programs provided by the FL Dept. of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing Medicaid Benefits by Extending 12 Months Postpartum • Chapter 7 (p163-180) in Kirby & Verbiest. • Chapter 20 in Kirby & Verbiest Optional: Chapter 7 page181-211, in Kirby & Verbiest. Parts of these pages could possibly be good for your final project paper.	Assignment 2: Perinatal Health Data Analysis: Due 1/23 Tuesday 10.00 PM (presentation + submission)
Module 2: PREGNANCY				
Week 4 Jan 30 10.40- 12.30 AM.	TOBACCO USE DURING PREGNANCY GUEST LECTURE with Lauren Mollman		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 5 pages 113-115, in Kirby & Verbiest (in the middle of the page) 	
Week 5 Feb 6 10.40- 12.30 AM.	MATERNAL MORTALITY PREVENTION AND REDUCING HEALTH DISPARITIES: SHARED DECISION MAKING GUEST LECTURE with Dr. Karen Harris		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levels of Maternal Care 2019 • Severe Maternal Morbidity Screening and Review • Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Obstetrics and Gynecology • Achieving Health Equity: A Guide for Health Care Organizations 	
Week 6 Feb 13 10.40- 12.30 AM.	HIV/AIDS DURING PREGNANCY – FILM Prerecorded film with Caitlin Lewis. The film includes graded quiz questions.		Chapter 5, pages 112-113, in Kirby & Verbiest (Sexually transmitted infections)	Watch film and answer quiz

Week 7 Feb 20 10.40- 12.30 AM.	EARLY LIFE ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH Guest lecture with Dr. Katherine Svensson			Assignment 3: COURSE TOPIC – PART 1 PAPER Due 2/20, 11.59 PM.
Week 8 Feb 27 10.40- 12.30 AM.	SAFE KIDS			
MODULE 3: PERINATAL PERIOD				
Week 9 March 5 10.40- 12.30 AM.	PERINATAL MENTAL HEALTH AND DARKSIDE OF THE FULL MOON VIDEO		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perinatal Depression Healthy Start White Paper • Postpartum Depression Healthy Start Tip Sheet • Chapter 15 in Kirby & Verbiest 	
Week 10 (March 12)				
SPRING BRAKE				
Week 11 March 19 10.40- 12.30 AM.	INFANT NUTRITION: BREASTFEEDING with Dr Marion Bendixen		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendixen, 2022 • Meek, 2022 • Chapter 13, page 395-401 in Kirby & Verbiest <p>Optional readings – see lecture page.</p>	
Week 12 March 26 10.40- 12.30 AM.	HOME VISITING PROGRAMS AND FATHERHOOD INVOLVEMENT with Julie Moderie		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 18 in Kirby & Verbiest • See additional web-links from on the lesson's page. 	
Week 13 April 2 10.40- 12.30 AM.	ALACHUA CHILDREN'S TRUST with Kristy Goldwire			
Week 14 April 9 10.40- 12.30 AM.	PEDIATRIC IMMUNIZATIONS GUEST LECTURE with Chris Schreier		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coping with Crying • Healthy Start Tip Sheet • Home Safety Checklist – Healthy Start Tip Sheet • Infant Safety – Healthy Start Tip Sheet • Safe Sleep – Healthy Start Tip Sheet 	Assignment 4 due this week: COURSE TOPIC – PART 2 PAPER Due Friday 4/12, 11.59 PM.
Week 15 April 16 10.40- 12.30 AM.	COURSE TOPIC – PRESENTATIONS			
	Schedule TBD			
Week 16 April 23 10.40- 12.30 AM.	COURSE TOPIC – PRESENTATIONS			
	Schedule TBD			