

## Course Syllabus – Public Health & Society

### **Course Information**

<i>Course Number/Section</i>	SOCI 4369. 0W1
<i>Course Title</i>	Public Health and Society
<i>Term</i>	Fall 2025

### **Professor Contact Information**

<i>Professor</i>	Soyoung Kwon, PhD
<i>Office Phone</i>	972) 883-2932
<i>Email Address</i>	<a href="mailto:soyoung.kwon@utdallas.edu">soyoung.kwon@utdallas.edu</a>
<i>Office Location</i>	GR 3.130
<i>In-Person Office Hours</i>	Monday 12:00-3:00 or by appointment
<i>TEAMS Office Hours</i>	Email me to set up an appointment.
<i>Other Information</i>	Check your email frequently as this is how I will communicate changes to our class schedule or important course information.

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### **Course Description**

This class is an overview of public health, with an emphasis on the relationship between social forces and health. Topics covered include the history of public health, public health careers, epidemiology, behavior change theory, and program development. Particular emphasis will be devoted to social determinants of health and health disparities in the U.S.

### **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

1. Learn public health terms and concepts within a sociological context.
2. Understand the history of public health, public health epidemics, and public health policy.
3. Describe how social forces influence health disparities in the US.
4. Describe social determinants of health and how they affect communicable and non-communicable diseases.
5. Discuss behavioral and social science theories/models and demonstrate how they are applied in public health.
6. Learn how public health entities serve communities.
7. Demonstrate ability to find and communicate evidence-based research.

### **Required Textbooks and Materials**

#### *Required Text*

[McKenzie's An Introduction to Public Health.6 Ed. Jones & Bartlett, Burlington.](#)

ISBN:9781284197594

Supplemental reading and course materials will be provided in Blackboard.

### **Technical Requirements**

In addition to a confident level of computer and Internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the important technical requirements on the [Getting Started with eLearning](#) webpage.

### **Course Access and Navigation**

This course can be accessed using your UT Dallas NetID account on the [eLearning](#) website.

Please see the course access and navigation section of the [Getting Started with eLearning](#) webpage for more information.

To become familiar with the eLearning tool, please see the [Student eLearning Tutorials](#) webpage.

UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The [eLearning Support Center](#) includes a toll-free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service, and an online chat service.

### **Communication**

This course utilizes online tools for interaction and communication. Some external communication tools such as regular email and a web conferencing tool may also be used during the semester. For more details, please visit the [Student eLearning Tutorials](#) webpage for video demonstrations on eLearning tools.

### **Distance Learning Student Resources**

Online students have access to resources including the McDermott Library, Academic Advising, The AccessAbility Resource Center, and many others. Please see the [eLearning Current Students](#) webpage for more information.

### **Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties**

The University is committed to providing a reliable learning management system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the online [eLearning Help Desk](#). The instructor and the eLearning Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

### **Course Guideline**

**Open/Close times:** This online course is built on a weekly framework of material, including objectives, required readings, lecture content and video clips, external links, exercises, and discussion forums. Additionally, exams and projects will be utilized throughout the course. The course materials will open at **9:00 a.m. on Mondays** for the week. Assignments should be completed and submitted at any time during the week they are due. However, all assignments need to be posted on the date indicated in the course outline below. After the due, all the assignments, exams, and project tabs will close.

### **Course Requirements and Assignments**

- A. Introduction posting:** Please post an introduction of yourself to the discussion forum that I have started entitled "Introductions" in the discussion forum. The specific prompt is posted on Bb in the Week 1 folder.
- B. Course syllabus quiz:** This quiz will be based on the information contained in this syllabus. Students will be able to take this quiz an unlimited number of times to earn up to 100% until the quiz window closes. After the quiz window closes, students will not be allowed to take the quiz. The purpose is to ensure that students clearly understand the course requirements and how to use the course online tools.

- C. **Quiz:** There will be mastery quizzes to check that you are completing and understanding the material. These quizzes are intended to help you understand and learn the material in the readings.
- There will be NO MAKE-UP quizzes offered unless arranged in advance and/or based on the instructor's discretion.
  - They are open books/open notes, but you CANNOT work together. NOTE: You will have 30 minutes to take each quiz, and you will be allowed **3 attempts**. The highest scores will be recorded.
  - You CANNOT skip questions to go back to them later, so make sure you choose the answer you want the first time around. Finally, be sure to use a secure line and use a desktop computer if possible.
  - Once all students have completed the weekly quiz, they will be able to access the answer key, which will be posted after it is due.
  - NO make-up quizzes.
  - Blackboard will automatically score your quiz after you submit it, so you should see your score immediately after submission. Please contact me if you do not see your score or if you have an issue submitting it.
  - You are responsible for having a working internet connection, etc., when you take the quizzes and for completing them within the given time.
- D. **Individual homework assignments (due on Fridays at 9:00 p.m.):** Each week, there is an assignment you have to submit. The form of the assignment will vary depending on the topic we cover each week, such as a short essay response paper, exercise worksheet, case study, data analysis worksheet, film reflection paper, etc. For example, during the week of social epidemiology under the module of Public Health tools, there is a data analysis exercise worksheet in which you will draw upon course material to critically evaluate and analyze epidemiological data. Instructions for each assignment are available on Blackboard.
- E. **Discussion forum:** Typically, at the end of each module, there will be a discussion forum assignment.

Students are required **to answer a minimum of one question and to respond meaningfully to others' posts**. Your grade for the discussion forum will be an "average" of the two posts:

- *Initial post (Due on Thursdays at 9:00 p.m.):* Post your responses to all of the assigned questions by the middle of the lesson period. This post should answer the question(s), but not merely "review" or repeat the lesson notes or reading. It is often helpful to include an example.
- *Response post (Due on Saturdays at 9:00 p.m.):* Respond to at least one of your classmates' comments on each question by the last day of the lesson period. This is where you "discuss" the material with your classmates. You may disagree, extend, or challenge another student—just be sure to be respectful and sociological! I will also include questions after the initial posts are completed to help stimulate conversation.
- You may post a new question, start a new thread, or simply respond to other students. For this to happen, we need a couple of guidelines: post or reply and then follow up. You will not achieve full points by just logging on in the last hour of the last day and posting a couple of random comments on others' posts. Ideally, you will post something, check back in a few hours, and check in again over the course of several days to interact.
- If you don't participate, or don't follow the discussion forum requirements, you will receive **0 points** for that week.

- Discussion board assignments CANNOT be made up.
- F. Final Project:** You will work in groups to apply what you learned about social determinants of health to a particular disease. Your group will write a report and give a presentation or recording during the final week of class. Detailed guidance will be posted on Bb.

**Grading Policy**

Graded Assignment		Possible Points
Syllabus quiz		10 points
Introduction posting		10 points
Final project	100pts	100 points
Module 1(Proposal)	1*15pts	20 points
Module 2 (Progress report)	1*20pts	30 points
Module 3 (Final report)	1*50pts	50 points
Peer evaluation	20pts	20pts
Discussion Forums	5*20 pts for each	100points
Quizzes	6 *20 pts for each	120 points
HW assignments	10*30 pts for each	300 points

**Grading Scale:** A+ 97- 100, A 93-96, A- 90-92, B+ 87-89, B 83-86, B- 80-82, C+ 77-79, C 73-76, C- 70-72, D+ 67-69, D 63-66, D+ 60-62, F 59 or less

**Course Schedule**

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.

*Note: The specific due time is 9:00 p.m. (CST) unless otherwise specified.*

WEEK/ DATES	TOPIC/LECTURE	READING	ASSESSMENT / ACTIVITY	DUE DATE
<b>Unit 1. Principles of Public Health</b>				
1 08/25- 08/30	Introduction What is public health? Individual vs. population health	Syllabus Prologue and Ch.1 “ <u>Sick individuals and sick populations</u> ” “McKeown and the Idea That Social Conditions Are Fundamental Causes of Disease”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction post</li> <li>• Syllabus quiz</li> <li>• HW#1: Personal essay</li> </ul>	08/29 Friday

WEEK/ DATES	TOPIC/LECTURE	READING	ASSESSMENT / ACTIVITY	DUE DATE
2 09/01- 09/06	How does the public health work?	Ch. 2,3 <a href="#">Bb link</a> (CDC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz #1 (Ch.1,2,3)</li> <li>• Discussion #1</li> </ul>	09/05 Friday Discussion: Initial post due Thurs. by 9 pm, final post due Saturday at 09:00 pm
<b>Unit 2. Social and Behavioral Factors in Public Health</b>				
3 09/08- 09/12	Do people choose their own health?	Ch.13 Film: Is Sickness and in Wealth (56 min.) <a href="#">Actual cause of death in the United States Health, United States, 2020-2021</a> <a href="#">Healthy People 2030</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HW#2: Film reflection worksheet</li> </ul>	09/12 Friday
4 09/15- 09/19	Social-environmental determinants of health	Ch. 20,21,22,23 Film: Place Matters (29 min)  Readings on Bb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz #2 (Ch.13,20-23)</li> <li>• HW#3: Film reflection worksheet</li> </ul>	09/19 Friday
5 09/22- 09/26	Psychosocial Factors and Health – Models of Health Behavior	Ch.14,15,16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz #3 (Ch. 14,15,16)</li> <li>• HW #4: Tools explain and predict health behavior</li> <li>• Discussion #2</li> </ul>	09/26 Discussion: Initial due Thurs. by 9 pm, final post due Saturday at 09:00 pm
<b>Unit 3. Tools of Public Health</b>				
6 09/29- 10/04	Outbreak investigation: Intro to Epi and study design	Chaps 4, 5 <a href="#">Video lecture</a> (CDC) Link in Bb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HW #5: Epidemiological exercise 1</li> </ul>	10/03 Friday
7 10/06-10/10	Outbreak investigation: Analytic tool and causations vs. correlation	Ch.5, 6 Link in Bb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HW #6: Epidemiological exercise 2</li> </ul>	10/10 Friday

WEEK/ DATES	TOPIC/LECTURE	READING	ASSESSMENT / ACTIVITY	DUE DATE
8 10/13- 10/17	Outbreak investigation: Data in public health	Ch.7,8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz #4: (Ch.4 through 8)</li> <li>• HW#7: Epidemiological exercise 3</li> </ul>	10/17 Friday
<b>Final Project Module 1</b>				
9 10/20- 10/24	<p>CDC program evaluation framework</p> <p>Evidence-based public health P.E.R.I.E</p> <p>Note: The Week 9 learning folder will be released early so you can get started ahead of time.</p>	PDF files on Bb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion # 3</li> <li>• Final project module 1: select the public health issue &amp; your pair/group for the project</li> <li>• Submit the brief plan for the project</li> </ul>	10/24 Friday Initial post due Thurs. by 9 pm, final post due Saturday at 09:00 pm
<b>Unit 4. Mental health, Infectious and Chronic disease</b>				
10 10/27- 11/01	Mental health	Ch. 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HW#8</li> </ul>	10/31 Friday
11 11/03- 11/08	Infectious disease	Ch. 9,10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HW#9: Case study</li> </ul>	11/07 Friday
12 11/10- 11/15	Chronic disease	Ch. 11,12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz#5 (Ch. 9, 10,11,12, 19)</li> <li>• HW#10: Case study</li> </ul>	11/14 Friday
<b>Final Project &amp; Wrap up Unit 4</b>				
13 11/17- 11/22	Work on the final project	Instruction for the final project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final project module 2: Final project progress report</li> <li>• Discussion # 4</li> </ul>	11/21 Friday Initial post due Thurs. by 9 pm, final post due Saturday at 09:0 pm
<b>Unit 5. Health Care System and Public Health &amp; The future of Public Health</b>				
14 11/24-11/30	<b>Fall Break &amp; Thanksgiving Holiday</b>			

WEEK/ DATES	TOPIC/LECTURE	READING	ASSESSMENT / ACTIVITY	DUE DATE
15 12/01- 12/06	Medical care and public health system  Future public health	Ch. 26,29, 31 <a href="#">Public Health 3.0: A Call to Action for Public Health to Meet the Challenges of the 21st Century</a>  <a href="#">Prepare and Support Our Chief Health Strategists on the Front Lines</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz #6 (Ch. 26,29,31)</li> <li>• HW#11</li> </ul>	12/05 Friday
16 12/08-12/09	Wrap up & Final project/presentation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion &amp; Learning reflection #5</li> <li>• Final project</li> <li>• Peer review due</li> </ul>	12/9 Tuesday

### Course Policies

#### *Make-up exams*

Let me know in advance if you cannot make an exam date. If you are sick or something happens and you cannot get to class, please contact me ASAP at [Soyoung.Kwon@utdallas.edu](mailto:Soyoung.Kwon@utdallas.edu)

#### *Extra Credit*

Generally, there is no extra credit. If I decide to offer extra credit for a few points, everyone in class will have the opportunity to complete the exercise. I do not offer extra credit on an individual basis.

#### *Late Work*

Students who miss a quiz or any assignments for ANY REASON will not be able to make it up. Therefore, we strongly recommend that students take the quiz as early as possible and not wait until Sunday night to avoid the following (actual) situation:

*“I know that you have stated that late quizzes are not accepted but while I was taking the quiz tonight, I lost internet connection and was unable to answer a couple questions...I don't believe that this should be viewed as a late quiz, please let me know if there is anything I can do. Thank you very much!”*

My response?

*“Since we do not accept late quizzes, we recommend that you do not wait until Sunday night to take the quiz in the future, to avoid a situation like this.”*

#### *Classroom Citizenship*

Online class citizenship entails active participation, respect, and integrity in all virtual interactions and activities. Students should engage thoughtfully in discussions, contribute meaningfully to group work, and support their peers in a collaborative learning environment. Respectful communication, including the use of appropriate language and tone, is essential. Academic integrity must be upheld, with all work being original and properly cited. Timely completion of assignments and adherence to course policies demonstrate responsibility and commitment to the

learning process. Together, these elements foster a positive and productive online classroom community.

### **Comet Creed**

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

*“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”*

### **Academic Support Resources**

The information contained in the following link lists the University’s academic support resources for all students. Please see <http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources>.

### **UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures**

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please review the catalog sections regarding the credit/no credit or pass/fail grading option and withdrawal from class. Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies

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