

University of Texas at Dallas
Course Syllabus

Course Information: Sociology 4385

Public Health and Society

Fall, 2014

Professor Contact Information: Audra Kirkendall, MPH

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Dept. Public Affairs and Sociology, School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences

Office hours: Monday & Wednesday 9:00am – 10:00pm

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, Restrictions: no requirements.

Course Description: The concept of international health, over the past decade, has taken a new dimension from the traditional notion of advanced economies making efforts to address health and healthcare issues in less developed countries to a new phenomenon that deals with health threats at the cross-national level. Increased movement of people and goods through globalization has indeed brought to light the interconnection between economic development and healthcare. Recent cases of SARS and the H1N1 pandemics attest to this. The intent of this course is to provide students with an overview for understanding the conditions, practices, and obstacles encountered in delivering population health in the international arena. This course is organized around the social determinants of health. Thus, the relationships among culture, political economy, and socio-economic impacts on morbidity and mortality will be explored. The history of international health, the differences and commonalities facing healthcare at the international level, and the roles of global governmental and nongovernmental institutions in promoting health will also be explored.

Required Textbook:

- Introduction to Global Health. 2nd Edition by Kathryn H. Jacobsen
- Other assigned readings will be supplied to students as necessary through eLearning.

How the Course is Organized This course is structured around “Modules”. The folders for each week can be accessed from the course home page.

Readings, discussion boards, lectures, test, project

How Students Should Proceed Each Week for Class Activities The materials needed in order to successfully complete course activities are available in the course module folders. Documents specific to each assignment are available in the assignment folder. Discussions are located on the course discussion board (accessible from the course toolbar located on the left side of the course website). The exams are located in the test folder.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The following is expected of each student enrolled in this class:

1. Completion of course readings
2. Full participation in online discussions
3. The timely completion of assignments
4. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner. This includes:
 - a. being prepared for all class assignments, being flexible to unforeseen changes in schedules and assignments, and exhibiting proper online etiquette. Examples of proper online etiquette can be found at: http://www.ic.sunysb.edu/Class/che326ff/discussion_board/etiquette.pdf
 - b. Although this course may seem self-paced because of the lack of scheduled face-to-face class meetings, there are, in fact, timelines that must be followed. A variety of assignments will be used that include group discussions and independent assignments.
 - c. “Attendance” is mandatory – meaning that you must check in to the class often to read posts and get announcements. If you do not check in, you will miss posts and notices by the professor and other students that might help clarify the assignments or give important information about upcoming due dates, etc. **It is your responsibility to keep a calendar handy so that you do not miss deadlines for assignments.**

COMMUNICATIONS

- Use the discussion boards as the primary tool to communicate directly with other students and the professor. Please send personal concerns or questions via the course email tool. Students can expect to receive a timely response to questions on working days. Working days do not include weekends or holidays. Students should not wait until the day before assignments are due to request assistance with assignments. Please be aware that the instructor will not be able to respond to “last minute” requests for assignment clarification, and students may encounter unforeseen problems with their Internet provider, software, or hardware. Therefore students are encouraged to develop communication networks with other class members via electronic communication vehicles such as the email system within class and discussion boards. Students should consider the communication parameters with regard to assignment due dates.
- Students are responsible for reading all discussion posts. Tips and other important information from the professor can be found in “Messages from the Professor.” Also watch for announcements (they will pop up when entering the course or can be accessed from the toolbar).

Academic Calendar:

Week	Date	Course Session Topic	Assigned
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			Readings
Module 1: Global Health Context			
1	Aug. 25th	Introduction and Course Requirements	Chapter 1
	Aug. 27th	Global Health and Health Transitions	Chapter 1
2	Sep. 3 rd	Health Inequalities	Chapter 2 & Appendix IV
	Sep. 4th	1st Current Event Begins	
3	Sep. 8 -10	Socioeconomic Context of Disease	Chapter 3
		Project instructions distributed	
4	Sep. 15 -17	The Spread of Infectious Disease	Chapter 6
Module 2: Global Health Priority Topics			
4	Sep. 15 -17	Maternal and Child Health	Chapter 4
5	Sep. 22 nd	Special Populations	Chapter 5
	Sep. 24 th	Test 1	None
6	Sep. 29 th – Oct. 1 st	HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and TB	Chapter 7
7	Oct. 6 th – 8 th	Globalization	Chapter 8
		Project Outline Due	
8	Oct. 13 th – 15 th	Global Nutrition	Chapter 9
10	Oct. 20 th	Test 2	None
	Oct. 22 nd	Enviromental Health	Chapter 10
Module 3: Global Health Effects and Responses			
11	Oct. 27 th – 29 th	Effect of Enviromental Change	Chapter 11
12	Nov. 3 - 5	Global Health Stakeholders	Chapter 12
		Project Draft Due	

13	Nov. 10 - 12	Health Priorities	Chapter 13
14	Nov. 17 - 19	Fall/Thanksgiving Break	
15	Nov. 24 - 26	Health, Human Rights, and Humanitarian Aid Complex Emergencies Project Due	Appendix II,I IV Merson Ch. 11
16	Dec. 1 - 3	Cooperation in Global Health Test 3	Chapter 13 Merson Ch. 17
17	Dec. 8 - 10	Global Public Health Research	Chapter 14

Grading Policy:

- **Lectures:** Students are required to watch lectures.
- **Quizzes:** you will be given weekly reading and lecture quizzes. Quizzes will be graded as part of your attendance.
- **Current Event:** Every week students will contribute to a current event assignment. This assignment is an iterative process that will start anew every three weeks. The process is as follows:
 - Week 1 – each student will select and present a public health current event
 - Week 2 – each student will select another student’s current event and create three open ended Socratic questions.
 - Week 3 – each student will select a current event other than the event they created questions for and answer two of the three.
- **Discussion Post/Assignments:** Discussion post will be assigned weekly and assignments will be given periodically. Both are an integral part to the course design and student learning experience. Discussion boards assignments will be in module folders. When an assignment is given an announcement will be posted the Blackboard to alert you.
- **Test:** Tests are based on assigned readings, class lectures, handouts and discussions. Multiple choice/essay
- **Project:** Students are required to present a project that applies social science research to a current public health issue. Suggested topics and guidelines will be discussed in class. The project topic and a brief description are due on Oct. 8th. The written project is to be based on review of a minimum of three articles and/or books, published in print or on-line (in addition to assigned readings). It must be submitted on the date due and presented

in class.

5. Evaluation:

Basis for final grade:		Grading Scale:
Attendance	10%	A= 90-100
Discussion Board, Current Events, & Assignments:	20%	B= 80-89
Test 1:	15%	C= 70-79
Test 2:	15%	D= 60-69
Test 3:	15%	F= 0-59
Project:	25%	

Total: 100%

Late Work: * **Late assignments will not be accepted.** Due dates and times are set on Central Daylight Time. All assignments deadlines are displayed in the instructions as well as on the “weekly deadline timeline” document. You are encouraged to start your assignments early. *When working with technology, it is never a good idea to wait until the last minute!*

Assignments and Due Dates Please see the “Modules” within the course for assignment details and read the requirements carefully. Some weeks require assignments as well as discussion board posts. For some assignments in this course, students rely on each other to meet deadlines and do their fair share of the work.

Assignment Submission Instructions

Directions for submitting assignments will be included with each assignment. All assignments must be submitted to the completed assignment folder as a **Word document (.doc, .docx)**. Assignments submitted in any other format will not be graded. Files must have the following **naming convention: LastName+week#.doc** - meaning your last name (if someone else in the class has the same last name, add your first initial after your last name) and the week number (Example: Smith5.doc , Smith5a.doc **Your full name must be included at the top of every document.** Deductions will be taken for submitting assignments in the wrong file format, spelling and grammatical errors that interfere with comprehension, and failure to use the correct file naming convention. Assignments must include citations in APA style.

Discussions

Class participation/discussions are worth 10% of your grade. This is a substantial amount of points. Since we are not sitting together in a classroom, participation is graded in a more creative way. Participation means that you complete the required discussion postings by the due date listed. You may not begin the discussions early. Early posts will be deleted. You must also meet

the requirements for the post. The grading of discussion posts will be simple. Here are some basic requirements:

1. Posts must include required elements as stated in the instructions.
2. Posts must indicate that the student has examined the readings and can articulate and apply concepts.
3. Some posts may require that you reply to other students' posts; replies must be thoughtful, well stated, and thorough. Simple responses such as "I agree" or "you said exactly what I was going to say" are not sufficient to receive credit.
4. Posts must be at least 5 substantial sentences.
5. Posts meeting all requirements will earn all of the points. Post meeting most of the requirements will earn half of the points. Posts lacking most or all requirements earn a zero. Late discussion posts will count as a zero.

Test

Three tests will be used to evaluate your understanding of textbook readings. Tests are available for completion during the duration of the exam period (see dates above & below) and can be taken at any time during that window. Unless otherwise noted, you may begin the quiz, close it, and pick up later where you left off. However, pay close attention to the closing date and time so you don't fail to complete the test. You may use your book and course materials to help you with the tests.

You can access tests by clicking the Assessments link on the course menu. Please read the on---screen instructions carefully before you click "Begin Assessment". After each exam is graded and released, you may go back to the Assessments page and click "View All Submissions" to review your exam results.

If you lose Internet connectivity during the exam, log back in immediately and continue on with the exam. Save your answers often (every 5-10 minutes). If you experience any issues while taking the exam, you must contact the Blackboard Helpdesk immediately so that your issue is documented with a helpdesk ticket number. Considerations regarding exam issues will be made by the instructor on an individual basis based on the documentation.

RESEARCH PROJECT: The assignment is to review and apply contemporary social science research to a current global public health issue. The research project will be conducted through TED-Ed: Lessons Worth Sharing. Detailed instructions will be presented to students with appropriate time complete the projects.

Posting of Grades of Student Work

Grades will be posted in the "My Grades" link located in the toolbar.

Course and Instructor Policies

Student and faculty contributions to the class are mutually respected by all participants. Each student is expected to attend classes as scheduled and to notify the instructor when he or she must be absent.

Course assignments may be discussed with the instructor throughout the course. Tests and project must be completed as assigned, on dates due, to be eligible for full credit.

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 go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

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

SCHOLARLY EXPECTATIONS From the UTD Student Code of Conduct: Academic dishonesty – plagiarism. The term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to (a) the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement and (b) the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

Plagiarism is copying by retyping, cutting and pasting, or paraphrasing. In this course, beware of the following:

1. Do not quote or paraphrase published sources without explicit reference to the original work. Information used or quoted from other sources must contain a citation, whether the source is a print or electronic source. APA Style --- <http://www.apastyle.org/learn/tutorials/basics-tutorial.aspx> Citation Machine --- <http://citationmachine.net/index2.php?reqstyleid=1> EasyBib--- <http://www.easybib.com/> Owl Purdue --- <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/> UNT Libraries - <http://www.library.unt.edu/citations-style-guides>
2. Do not insert parts of another students' work into your own work. That student trusts you to respect his/her intellectual product.
3. Do not copy and paste parts of the course material into your work.