Environmental Health Concepts in Public Health
PHC 6313 Summer 2014, online
Syllabus

Instructor: Joseph H. Bisesi Jr, PhD (online instructor)
Email: jbiseli@phhp.ufl.edu
Phone: 352-294-4703

Teaching Assistants:
Catherine McDermott
Email: clmcder2@epi.ufl.edu

Note: This is a fast-paced shortened summer course that opens on June 2\textsuperscript{nd}. Please review this syllabus closely for course work obligations as soon as possible as the drop-add period for this course will be June 3\textsuperscript{rd}. There will be no mid-summer break in this course.
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 these agents affect disease, water and air quality, food safety, and land resources in community and occupational settings. The course will introduce the students to the economic context and touch on legal frameworks associated with environmental health issues and public health.

Course Objectives
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Define the major sources of biological, chemical and physical agents found in water, air, soil, and food
2. Understand chemical and pathogen routes of exposure, toxic mechanisms of action, and health impacts
3. Describe the tools that are used to analyze health impacts of environmental exposures, such as toxicology, exposure assessment, and epidemiology
4. Describe the role of risk assessment paradigms in creating safe environments, including target populations exposed to hazardous agents
5. Describe methods used to detect, manage, control, or remove health hazards
6. Understand the existing regulatory framework and policy for controlling environmental and occupational agents

Course Materials


Required Hardware: Webcam and Microphone. May use laptop built in webcams, but must be able to move camera during use (see exams). A headset microphone is preferable.

Sakai Online Site
There will be an online site for this course on Sakai, the online source supported by the University. Log in at https://lss.at.ufl.edu/ and go to PHC 6313 Summer 2014. Here, I will post the syllabus, lecture presentations, assignments and allow for discussions/chats amongst the students and course leaders. You will also turn in assignments through this site. Once the course begins, all communication will take place through the Sakai online site. This includes all emails. This will eliminate any issues with students not getting emails due to connection problems. It will be your responsibility to check the site on a routine basis to keep up with announcements, emails, and course modifications.

Course Overview
This course is taught as a series of modules, each covering one specific aspect of environmental health. Each module may contain lectures, external links, videos, discussions and required
readings as well as assignments. You are responsible for all course content regardless of the format. **As a summer course, each week we may cover two (2) modules.** A separate overview showing the dates of content modules and assignments is available for your convenience at the end of the syllabus. All dates associated with assignments, debates and tests are also listed.

**Getting Started**

1. Visit [http://lss.at.ufl.edu](http://lss.at.ufl.edu) and login using your Gatorlink ID and password.

2. Find our course website. It will be listed as “PHC6313 – Environmental Health Concepts – Dr. Joe Bisesi – Sum 2014

3. Once you are in the course you will notice that the only course content available is the syllabus and the exams. Please download the syllabus under the “Syllabus” tool and read through the whole document. You will need to complete an ungraded syllabus quiz before the rest of the course can be unlocked so please pay attention to the details.

4. Click on the “Course Helpbook” tool and select the Academic Integrity section. Please read this section thoroughly and watch all associated videos. Even if you believe you are well acquainted with plagiarism it’s always good to refresh yourself. This topic will be covered in the syllabus quiz and there will be a zero tolerance policy regarding plagiarism in this course.

5. After reading the syllabus and watching the plagiarism lecture, please open the “Exams” tool in the course and take the syllabus quiz. You MUST earn a 100% score on this quiz in order for the course materials to open in the course site. If you do not receive a 100% score, please review the feedback on your quiz attempt and retake as soon as possible. This is an important element to insure that all students are aware of the curriculum requirements for this course. If you have ANY difficulty with this quiz, please send an email in the course to “All Instructors” as soon as possible (be sure to check the “send to outside email…” box.

6. Once you have passed the syllabus quiz with a score of 100% the rest of the course content will unlock.

7. Please complete the first assignment in this course “Assignment 1” – found in the “Assignment tool. This is an ungraded assignment to assess what everyone’s pre-course perceptions about toxic chemicals and compounds. Please complete this as soon as possible, but before June 6th.

8. One you have completed all the steps about you will be ready to begin the weekly modules which are found under the “Weekly Lessons” tool. You will find course material here that will take through the last week of the course.
**Course Requirements**

**Assignments**

**General information**
Assignments are to be turned in as a Word document, unless otherwise indicated. They will be returned to you with comments. If you have unexpected issues with Sakai, you email the assignment to the course TA and professor directly. Assignments are normally intended as individual projects unless otherwise directed. Shared work may be treated as a form of plagiarism. Assignments may be required to be submitted via www.turnitin.com in this course (this will be done automatically in Sakai). This tool will pick up any passages in students’ work that comes from another source. Be sure to adequately cite your sources/references for these assignments to avoid plagiarism (see format below).

The Sakai course assignment tool will send you an email to your UFL email address confirming the submission of your assignment. PLEASE check your UFL email at [http://webmail.ufl.edu](http://webmail.ufl.edu) on a regular basis for these and other email notices from the course site. If you do not receive an email confirmation within 2 hours of submission, please return to the site and resubmit your assignment. It is a student’s responsibility to verify that they turn in assignments on time and that they turn in the CORRECT assignment attachment. Please take a few moments to open your submitted attachment and verify that you have submitted to correct file.

1. **Written Assignments**
   **There will be 6 written assignments (50 points each; Total 250 points).** Typically these will be one to two single-spaced pages long. Detailed instructions will be provided with each assignment.

   The first assignment in this course “Assignment 1” – found in the “Assignment” tool. This is an ungraded assignment to assess what everyone’s pre-course perceptions about toxic chemicals and compounds. In the assignment you will find a link to a quick survey. Please complete this as soon as possible, but before June 6th.

   Assignments 2 - 6 are to be turned in as a Word document in the Sakai Assignment tool, unless otherwise indicated. If you have unexpected issues with Sakai, you can email the course TA and professor directly. They will be returned to you with comments. Assignments are normally intended as individual projects unless otherwise directed. Shared work may be treated as a form of plagiarism. Assignments may be submitted via www.turnitin.com in this course. This tool will pick up any passages in students’ work that comes from another source. Be sure to adequately cite your sources/references for these assignments to avoid plagiarism - this will be done automatically in Sakai (see format below). Please check your Turnitin report by going back to the assignment and clicking on the colored box icon in the assignment (you want to achieve a blue or green indication) – anything yellow, orange or red should be adjusted and resubmitted BEFORE the assignment deadline. So, it is recommended that you submit EARLY to enable you to utilize this option of resubmission. Resubmissions after the due date may be subject to a late submission penalty.
2. Group Debate Assignment

Each student will complete one debate assignment during the semester. You will be assigned to one debate. There will be 8-10 students per topic with 4-5 students per team. You will be assigned to your debate groups and teams within the first week of the course. For this exercise two teams for each topic will research and defend a ‘pro’ or ‘con’ stance for a pre-assigned topic. Each team will upload one PowerPoint presentation of approximately 10 slides that highlight their ‘pro’ or ‘con’ stance on the topic. Each group will be required to follow the specific format described in the debate instructions (provided as a separate document).

Each presentation will be uploaded to the course site (under assignments – Group Debate Presentation) and the course instructor will post the debate presentations to the discussion board for the rest of your classmates to view and post a discussion comment (see below for discussion post guidelines). You are also encouraged to participate in the follow-up discussion. There is much to learn from each other in this kind of course. This will be an opportunity to share your experiences and expertise. Everyone’s experience will be better if you choose to participate when you have something meaningful to contribute.

There will be 2 components towards your grade when you directly participate in your debate:

1. Group presentation (100 points): For this part of the assignment, you and your team will be graded on your knowledge and presentation. The structure and points to cover will be explained in more detail for each panel. The presentation will be in a power-point format and uploaded for the class to see

2. Written assignment (100 Points): For this part of the assignment, each student in the group will independently prepare and submit approximately a 5-6 page, 11 font double-spaced word essay describing support for their assigned stance ‘pro’ or ‘con’ with at least 5 reputable sources (see format below), such as data gathered from PubMed, Web of Science, or governmental agencies. You cannot support your claim with public discussion sources or material that is opinion based. You can present situations regarding public opinion with reliable sources only or describe events (protesting etc.), but these stories will not count as your 5 major sources. You can work with your group to gather information but the paper is to be independently written by each student and reflect all the information researched to support your stance. The last paragraph will be an opportunity to describe whether you personally agree or disagree with the stance that you defended and why. This assignment will be due on the day of your presentation.

Citation format;

You will only be required to participate in ONE team debate in this course. But, you will be required to respond to all other student debates by posting on the discussion board for each topic (see below).
3. Debate Discussion
After the debate presentations are posted, each student in the class will be required to make a discussion post (12.5 points each; Total 50 points) consisting of 1) a significant contribution to the discussion with additional reference (e.g. article, internet) (Worth 6 points) 2) personal perspective on the topic (e.g. has your perspective changed? (Worth 2.5 points) and 3) any constructive criticism of the panel’s presentation (Worth 4 points). The discussion post should have a minimum of six sentences. You will be responsible for the discussion post for 4 of the 5 debates because you do not need to make a discussion post for the debate in which you participated in.

4. In The News
Each student will be required to submit one ‘in the news’ assignments during the semester in the course site (100 points). For this assignment, each student will be assigned to a topic area at the beginning of the semester, such as ‘toxicology’ or ‘infectious disease’. You will perform a search to identify a current news story that relates to this topic. The ‘news’ can be positive, negative, changes in policy, public concerns, etc. You may use general public news forums (TV, web, newspaper); however, please make sure that the sources are credible.

This assignment will consist of two components: (1) You are to prepare 1 powerpoint flash slide that describes the event. This slide can be visual – with pictures, embedded video links, etc. Please include a link to the article using appropriate citation format (see “in the news” assignment description in the course site) on the slide. (2) You are to prepare a 1-2 page double-spaced description. It should include the following information;

   a. Describe the ‘news’ item in brief and how it relates to the assigned category (i.e. toxicology).
   b. Is the news projecting or emphasizing a positive influence on public health or a concern? What evidence do they have?
   c. What do the experts say should be done about it? Is there controversy?

An example ‘in the news’ will be posted in the course site. Make sure to cite your references inside the assignment content as well as listing references in citation format at the end of the document (not included in the 2-page limit). (Please see citation format under Section 2 “Group Debate Assignment”.) The due date for this assignment will be based on the topic you are assigned as due dates are associated with the specific topic. After the due date for each topic, the PowerPoint slides for each news story will be deidentified and compiled into a single PowerPoint presentation and posted on Sakai. All students will need to view these compiled PowerPoints as the material may be on the exam. See more information about this assignment in the course site Assignment tool.

5. Exams
There will be two in class exams: a midterm and a final (200 points each; Total 400 points). The format for both exams will be CLOSED BOOK. The midterm exam will test your knowledge of the first series of modules, including material covered in lectures, In the News slides, and assigned readings. The final exam will focus on material covered in modules from the midterm onward; however, as this material builds on concepts presented during the first half of the course, it will be imperative to have a good comprehension of material covered during the first part of the course. Both exams will be comprised of multiple choice, matching, and true/false questions, where you will be expected to interpret the material that is presented in the course and apply it to the scenarios or situations that the exam questions present. You will have 2 hours to complete each exam.

All exams are conducted online using an online proctoring service, ProctorU. You must go to the ProctorU website, http://proctoru.com, and register for your exam appointment. ProctorU will verify your identity and monitor your exam process via the webcam. You must be able to provide 2 forms of picture ID to the proctor and move your webcam around to show your environment. You MUST have a working webcam and microphone to take exams in this course. There is more information about taking an exam in the “Taking Exams” tool in the course site.

Exam Reviews
An exam review document will be posted the week before each exam. There will also be a discussion board in the course dedicated to student questions about the exam.

Course Policies

Behavior on Sakai and in class. You are expected to maintain a civil tone and respect the opinions of other posters. While commenting on others’ posts is encouraged, aggressive or patronizing tone and language are unacceptable and may result in the loss of your posting and discussion privileges.

Academic Integrity. You are expected to know the University of Florida policy on academic integrity and act accordingly (see Student Conduct Code and/or visit http://dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.php). Cheating, lying, misrepresentation or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior. 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, please consult the many available resources on the topic, e.g. starting with http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/subjects/Physics/StudentPlagiarism.html, or contact the instructor in advance. There is also a reference posted in the course site, in the tool column, named “What is Plagiarism?” As you submit assignments, you will have the opportunity to check it for unintentional plagiarism using Turnitin®, the same software that instructors will use to check your work. You are encouraged to take advantage of this option. If you turn in assignments that are plagiarized, you will receive zero points for that assignment.
You are expected to turn in original work in this course. This means that when answering assignment questions, writing papers, posting discussions, etc you will be expected to write your responses in your own words. You **MAY NOT** copy answers word for word from any course materials or outside sources. On occasion it may be useful to provide a quote from course materials or outside sources in which case you must properly cite the source and place the quote in quotation marks. That being said we urge you to avoid excessive quotation as it does little to demonstrate you understanding of course material.

**Late Assignments.** Assignments turned in up to 24 hours late will be discounted 10% of the grade that 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. Missed assignments will contribute zero points toward your final grade.

**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 that 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 instructor(s).** You are encouraged to contact the instructor and/or teaching assistant via email on the Sakai site for clarification and assistance with the course material and the assignments, and for special issues that may arise. Weekday daytime (US Eastern Time) emails have the best chances of being answered quickly. Please only use the Sakai email to communicate with the course instructor and/or TA. While the instructors and TAs will check their UFL email regularly, they will not be held responsible for email sent directly to their UFL addresses. When using the course email on Sakai you MUST check the “send to outside email...” box to ensure that your message is read in a timely manner.

**Grade Components (Total 1000 points)**

Written Assignments = 5 @ 50 points each = 250 points
Live Debate =1 @ 100 points each = 100 points
Debate Written Report = 1 @ 100 points each = 100 points
Debate Discussion Post = 4 @ 12.5 points each = 50
In the News = 1 @ 100 points = 100 points
Midterm Exam = 200 points
Final Exam = 200 points
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade point equivalence Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95-100%</td>
<td>A (4.0)</td>
<td>83-86%</td>
<td>B (3.0)</td>
<td>73-76%</td>
<td>C (2.0)</td>
<td>63-66%</td>
<td>D (1.0)</td>
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<td>90-94%</td>
<td>A- (3.67)</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
<td>B- (2.67)</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
<td>C- (1.67)</td>
<td>60-62%</td>
<td>D- (0.67)</td>
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<td>87-89%</td>
<td>B+ (3.33)</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
<td>C+ (2.33)</td>
<td>67-69%</td>
<td>D+ (1.33)</td>
<td>Below 60%</td>
<td>F (0.0)</td>
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Please note that access to this course site will begin on Saturday, June 1st and the course material will start on June 3rd. Deadlines will be close together, so please be sure to review the schedule closely.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODULE</th>
<th>WEEK/DATE</th>
<th>SPEAKER</th>
<th>DISCUSSION BOARD DEBATES</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS (Due date)</th>
<th>Required Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Starting the course</td>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Syllabus Quiz</td>
<td><em>Environmental Health</em> Chapter 1: The Scope Pages 1-22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 1: Introduction to Environmental Health</td>
<td>Week 1 June 2 – 8</td>
<td>Dr. Joe Bisesi</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Assignment 1:</td>
<td><em>Environmental Health</em> Chapter 2: Toxicology Pages 23-42</td>
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<td>Due by June 5th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 2: Toxicology and Environmental disease</td>
<td>Week 2 June 9 - 15</td>
<td>Dr. Sabo-Attwood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 3: Emerging contaminants; Nanomaterials and EDCs</td>
<td>Week 2 June 9 - 15</td>
<td>Dr. Joe Bisesi</td>
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<td>Assignment 2:</td>
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<td>Due by June 15th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 4: Infectious Disease</td>
<td>Week 3 June 16 - 22</td>
<td>Dr. Helena Chapman</td>
<td>Debate 1 Teams Post by 8:00am EDST on 6/16/2014</td>
<td>Assignment 3:</td>
<td><em>Environmental Health</em> Chapter 3: Epidemiology Pages 43-59</td>
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<td>Module 5: Epidemiology</td>
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<td>Dr. Sabo-Attwood</td>
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<td>Due by June 22^d</td>
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<td>Module 6: Risk Assessment, Management and Communication</td>
<td>Week 4 June 23 - 29</td>
<td>Dr. Sabo-Attwood</td>
<td>Debate 2 Teams Post by 8:00am EDST on 6/23/2014</td>
<td>Assignment 4:</td>
<td><em>Environmental Health</em> Chapter 15: Risk Assessment and Communication Pages 340-363</td>
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<td>Module 7: Global law and economics</td>
<td>Week 5 June 30 – July 6</td>
<td>Dr. Joe Bisesi</td>
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<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>July 5 - 8</td>
<td>Includes material from</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 1</td>
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<td>Module 8: Climate Change and Global Health</td>
<td>Week 6 July 7 - 13</td>
<td>Amber Barnes</td>
<td>Debate 3 Teams Post by 8:00am EDST on 7/7/2014</td>
<td>Assignment 5: Due By July 13th</td>
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<td>Module 9: Maternal and Child Health</td>
<td>Week 7 July 14 - 20</td>
<td>Dr. Helena Chapman and Amber Barnes</td>
<td>Debate 4 Teams Post by 8:00am EDST on 7/14/2014</td>
<td>Toxicology, Infectious Disease, and Climate Change Topics Due by July 14th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 10: Air Pollution</td>
<td>Week 8 July 21 – 27</td>
<td>Dr. Sabo-Attwood</td>
<td>Debate 5 Teams Post by 8:00am EDST on 7/21/2014</td>
<td>Assignment 6 Due by July 27th</td>
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<td>Module 11: Solid Waste</td>
<td>Week 9 July 28 – August 3</td>
<td>Dr. Sabo-Attwood</td>
<td></td>
<td>Environmental Health Chapter 5: Indoor and Outdoor Air Pages 87-112</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 12: Drinking Water and Sanitation</td>
<td>Exam week August 1 - 5</td>
<td>Catherine McDermott</td>
<td>Includes material from Module 8 – Module 13</td>
<td>Environmental Health Chapter 9: Solid Wastes Pages 190-219</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 13: Food Safety</td>
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<td>Environmental Health Chapters 6: Food Pages 113-136</td>
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<tr>
<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
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<td>Register at proctoru.com</td>
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