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Email: jbisesi@phhp.ufl.edu  
Office hours – by appointment

Teaching Assistants: Alex Weppelmann  
Email: alexwepp@yahoo.com  
Office Hours – by appointment

Class meeting: Wednesdays 1:55pm – 4:55pm  
Room HPNP G312
**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**

**Text book:** *Environmental Health, 4th edition*

**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 Fall 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 outside of class will take place through the Sakai online site. This includes all emails.** It will be your responsibility to check the site on a routine basis to keep up with announcements, emails, and course modifications, although these will also be mentioned in class.

**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. 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.

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 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 and graded assignments (50 points each; Total 300 points). Typically these will be one to two single-spaced pages long. Detailed instructions will be provided with each assignment. Assignments 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. Be sure to adequately cite your sources/references for these assignments to avoid plagiarism. You may use Turnitin to generate a plagiarism report. Resubmissions after the due date may be subject to a late submission penalty.

2. Group Debate Assignment
Each student will complete one debate assignment. You will select two debate topics during the first week of class or they will be assigned for you. There will be 6-8 students per topic with 3-4 students per team. For this exercise two teams for each topic will defend a ‘pro’ and ‘con’ stance for a pre-assigned topic in a live formal debate. All students taking part in the debate will
be required to attend and participate. Each group will be required to follow the specific format described in the debate instructions (provided as a separate document). Each debate will have a monitor (Instructor or TA) to ensure the rules are followed.

Following presentations by the groups, the rest of the class will be required to vote for a debate winner and provide helpful feedback to the teams (observer forms). We will also follow the debate with a brief discussion with the class. Results of each debate will be revealed by the next class period. 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 oral presentation (100 points): For this part of the assignment, you and your team will be graded on your knowledge and debate performance. The structure and points to cover will be explained in more detail for each panel. Your debate performance will evaluated by both the instructor and the rest of the class (via voting). The winning team will receive 5 extra points towards their live debate grade. (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. 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 panel discussion and must be turned in before the debate begins.

Citation format;

You will only be required to participate in ONE live debate in this course. But, you will be required to respond to all other student debates by completing the poll for each debate and completing the observer form for each debate (see below).

3. Debate Observer Forms
After each debate, every student in the class (not including the debaters) will be required to vote and provide comments stating which side was most convincing and why (10 points each; Total 40 Points). There will be 5 minutes set aside for these classes for you to complete this exercise. You will not be responsible for the debate observer forms the days you present.
4. **In The News**
Each student will be required to submit one ‘in the news’ assignment during the semester (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 slide that describes the event and present the information to the class. The presentation should take no longer than 5 minutes. This slide can be visual – with pictures, embedded video links, etc. Please include a link to the article using appropriate citation format. (2) You are to prepare 1-2 page double-spaced description that provides 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 on Sakai with appropriate citation format. 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. The powerpoint and write-up should be turned in before class. After the due date for each topic, the powerpoint slides for each news story will be posted on Sakai. **All students are will need to view these compiled powerpoints as the material may be on the exam.**

5. **Exams**
There will be two in class exams: a midterm and a final (180 points each, Total 360 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, assigned readings and discussions. 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 short essay 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 3 hours to complete each exam.

**Exam Reviews**
There will be time set aside during the module prior to each exam to provide a review of the material that will be covered on the test and answer any pending questions from the students.
These specific timeframes will be announced during the course close to each exam. The reviews will be partly unstructured as to leave time for individual questions and concerns.

**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 www.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, consult the many available resources on the topic, e.g. starting with http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/msl/subjects/Physics/StudentPlagiarism.html, or contact the instructor in advance. 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 a zero for that assignment.

*Late Assignments.* Assignments turned in up to 24 hours late will be discounted 10% of the grade 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. Please do not contact the instructor weeks after an incident and expect special accommodations. Such special cases will be dealt on an individual basis, provided 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 assistants via email 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.

**Grade Components**

Written Assignments 6 @ 50 points each = 300 points
Classroom Debate = 1 @ 100 points each = 100 points
Debate Written Report = 1 @ 100 points each = 100 points
Observer Debate Write-up = 4 @ 10 points each = 40 points
In the News = 1 @ 100 points
Midterm Exam = 180 points
Final Exam = 180 points

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<td>Module 1: Introduction to Environmental Health</td>
<td>Aug 27</td>
<td>Environmental Health Chapter 1: The Scope Pages 1-22</td>
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<td>Module 2: Toxicology, Environmental disease, and Emerging Contaminants</td>
<td>Sept 3</td>
<td>Environmental Health Chapter 2: Toxicology Pages 43-59</td>
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<td>Assignment 1 due September 2nd 11:59 PM</td>
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<td>Sept 10</td>
<td>No Class, Bisesi Recorded Lecture Online (Bisesi on Travel)</td>
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<td>Sept 17</td>
<td>Environmental Health Chapter 3: Epidemiology Pages 43-59</td>
<td>Amber Barnes</td>
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<td>In the news 1; Toxicology</td>
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<td>Module 5: Infectious Disease</td>
<td>Sept 24</td>
<td>Environmental Health Chapter 10: Animals, Insects, and Related Pests Pages 220-241</td>
<td>Dr. Helena Chapman</td>
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<td>Environmental Health Chapter 15: Risk Assessment and Communication Pages 340-363</td>
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<td>Oct 22</td>
<td>Environmental Health Chapter 6: Food</td>
<td>Catherine McDermott</td>
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<td>Debate Panel C; All Fracked up</td>
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<td>Oct 29</td>
<td>Environmental Health Chapter 5: Indoor and Outdoor Air</td>
<td>Mary Leigh Morris</td>
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<td>In the news 3; Recycling</td>
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<td>Nov 5</td>
<td>Environmental Health Chapter 3: Epidemiology</td>
<td>Jessica Rowland</td>
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<td>Environmental Health Chapter 7: Drinking Water</td>
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<td>Holiday No Class</td>
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<td>Wrap up discussion Assignment 7 due</td>
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