

COURSE SYLLABUS (SPRING 2026)

COURSE: **DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH (Lecture)**

DN HY 4022 - 2 Credit Hour Course

DAY/TIME: Thursday 8:00 - 9:50 AM

LOCATION: Centennial Hall, Rm. # 103 A

INSTRUCTOR: Mrs. Kelly Holcomb, RDH, BSDH, M.Ed

OFFICE: Centennial Hall Rm# 125, Ext. 4481

Mon. 1-5:00 PM, Tues. 8:00 AM-12:00 PM, & Thurs. 1-4:00 / Friday *by appointment only*

EMAIL: kelly.holcomb@msutexas.edu

REQUIRED

TEXTBOOKS: **Community Oral Health Practice**, 4th Ed. By Christine F. Beatty

The following textbook has been purchased & utilized in previous courses:

Clinical Practice of the Dental Hygienist, 14th Ed. by Esther Wilkins.

COURSE

DESCRIPTION: As listed in the current MSU Catalog (2024-26)

4022. **Dental Public Health 2(2-0)**

Prerequisite: DNHY 4013.

Theory, methodology, and application of the principles of public health in relating the significance of oral health to total health, with special emphasis on the role of the dental team in public health programs and the use of a basic systems approach to the development of any public health program. Provides an overview of how statistics are used in research and development of public programs. Specific topics include but are not limited to study design, central tendency and variability, probability, repeated analysis of variance, data association and prediction, and the evaluation of research studies.

COURSE

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this course is to enhance the student's ability to function as an effective member of the dental public health team and to develop the student's appreciation of the contributions the dental hygienist can make in all phases of a public health program. Discussion of the theory, methodology, and application of the principles of public health, as related to oral health, and actual participation in community oral health projects will enable the student to utilize a basic systems approach to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate dental public health programs. Guest speakers in this course will serve to introduce students to career opportunities in various public health settings.

KEY CONCEPTS:

1. High-quality professional oral health care should be accessible to all Americans.
2. It is the healthcare professional's responsibility to facilitate change in equal partnership with the community.
3. The community should be involved in all phases of public health care planning.
4. Community oral health involves more than just the assessment of disease incidence.
5. Effective public health programs are the result of careful, systematic planning.
6. The dental hygienist can be a valuable member of the dental public health team.
7. Community health programming should not be confused with community health research.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Given lecture, reading assignments, and Oral Health Project, upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Discuss the development of dental public health from its historical perspective to future trends and describe the role and responsibilities of a public health dental hygienist.
2. Demonstrate an awareness of cultural, demographic, and socioeconomic factors that influence dental health needs and demand.
3. Determine the most effective teaching methodology(s) and communication techniques for diverse population groups in a variety of settings.
4. Demonstrate an appreciation of the necessity of addressing the five major issues central to community health programs, at each stage of the planning process.

5. Discuss the scope of each of the four elements of a systems approach to community oral health.
6. Evaluate the usefulness and validity of the indices utilized to measure oral diseases.
7. Assess the problems of oral disease using epidemiological and statistical methods.
8. Participate actively in the assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation of a community oral health presentation appropriate to the needs of a group in the community.
9. Evaluate the reliability and validity of research studies.

Learning objectives related to specific topics are given for each class session.

COURSE EVALUATION:

Grades: 25% Exam #1, 25% Exam #2, 25% Community Presentation, 25% Community Presentation Write-up

Dental Hygiene Grading Scale: 92-100 = A, 83-91 = B, 75-82 = C, 64-74 = D (*D constitutes a failure in Dental Hygiene program & course must be repeated*)

EXAMINATIONS:

Two exams will be given for this course. Both exams will be based on the written objectives for the class sessions involved, and each will be comprehensive from the first-class session. **No make-up exams will be given in this course.** Any student missing an exam will be required to write a paper that is between 5 to 10 typewritten pages in length. Topics will pertain to the material covered by the exam and must be approved by the course instructor.

Water bottles, cell phones, smartwatches, and hand-held calculators/computers are not allowed at your desk during any examination. Possession of any of these items during an exam will be construed as academic dishonesty and will be dealt with accordingly.

COMMUNITY PROJECT:

During National Children's Dental Health Month (February), each student will be required to participate in the assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation of an oral health program for designated area groups. The program will also be presented to fellow dental hygiene students during micro-teaching simulations. Typewritten (double-spaced) reports will be submitted for grading purposes (one report per team). See Community Project criteria. Class teacher critiques of the presentations will also be a portion of the final grade.

PROJECT GRADING:

Project Presentation Grade will consist of 2 parts: ISD Teacher Critiques and Student Micro-Teaching Simulations

Micro-Teaching Simulations Objective

Given student micro-teaching simulations upon completion of this class session, the students should be able to:

1. Evaluate various dental health education presentations regarding educational content and methods of presentation.
2. Determine if the established goals and objectives of the dental health education presentations were met by reviewing the reported assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation processes involved for each presentation.
3. Propose improvements or possible alternatives, where applicable, for the various processes of the presentations.

Project Write-Up Grade

1. ONE WRITE-UP PER GROUP is to be turned in for evaluation.
2. All members of the group will receive the same grade for the write-up.
3. Write-ups must be typewritten, double-spaced, and cover the specified content areas. **See specific Write-Up Criteria document**
4. Rubric will be utilized in the grading of the write-ups

HYBRID COURSE:

Taking a hybrid course requires you to have access to a computer (with internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. All assignment submissions made by students in D2L are considered final submissions. It is the student's

responsibility to ensure the correct and complete file is uploaded. If a student submits an incorrect document, an incomplete draft, or any unintended version, the assignment will be graded as submitted. ***Students are strongly encouraged to double-check their upload before finalizing the submission.*** Additionally, Apple file formats, such as .pages, .numbers, and Keynote files, will not be accepted. ALL submissions must be uploaded in Microsoft Office formats, such as .doc, .docx, and .ppt. or .xlsx or otherwise specified in assignment instructions.

Computer labs are available for student use in Centennial Hall (3rd floor), Moffett Library, Legacy, and Clark Student Center. Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!

Contact your instructor immediately if you have any computer trouble or technical difficulties in the course. The University cannot work directly on student computers due to liability and resource limitations; however, they can help you connect to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS:

All assignment submissions will be made by students in D2L and are considered final submissions. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the correct and complete file has been uploaded. If a student submits an incorrect document, an incomplete draft, or any unintended version, the assignment will be graded as submitted. Students are strongly encouraged to double-check their upload before finalizing the submission.

Additionally, Apple file formats such as .pages or Keynote files will not be accepted. All submissions must be created utilizing Microsoft Office 365 on the MSU website. All submissions must be uploaded in — such as .doc, .docx, .ppt, or .xlsx—or as otherwise specified in the assignment instructions.

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is critical. Reviewing notes and the reading assignments without active participation in the course's clinical and didactic activities will not permit the student to adequately meet course objectives. Therefore, **MORE THAN 2 ABSENCES FOR ANY REASON WILL RESULT IN THE FINAL COURSE GRADE BEING LOWERED BY ONE FULL LETTER GRADE.** In cases of extreme illness and/or hospitalization, individual decisions may be made.

Two (2) tardies will be the equivalent of one absence. You will be considered tardy if you enter class after the lecture has begun.

PHONE USE:

Cell phone use (texting or verbal) is extremely disruptive to your fellow classmates and to the faculty teaching your course. Therefore, the use of cell phones will not be tolerated, FOR ANY REASON. If you utilize your cell phone, it will be confiscated for the remainder of the scheduled day. Repeat offenders will be asked to leave the classroom and will be required to meet with the faculty and the chair of the Dental Hygiene Department. In cases of emergencies, please notify spouses, family, and friends to contact you via the program secretary at (940)-397-4764. **AUDIO OR VIDEO RECORDING OF ANY COURSE MATERIAL IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED!**

OTHER POLICIES

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Dental Hygiene Honor System: All Dental Hygiene courses adhere to the MSU Code of Conduct. In particular, academic dishonesty, however small, creates a breach in academic integrity. A student's participation in this course comes with the expectation that his or her work will be completed in full observance of the MSU Code of Student Conduct. A student should consult the current Student Handbook for answers to any questions about the code.

Many components of DNHY 4032 are designed to be highly interactive with students helping each other learn. Students are encouraged to take full advantage of many resources available, including course resources, Internet sites, other textbooks and journals, faculty, and peers when answering objectives. This interactive collegial learning environment is conducive for lifelong learning.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to, (1) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (2) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or completing other assignments; or (3) the acquisition of tests or other academic materials belonging to the university faculty or staff without permission.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the use of, by paraphrase or direct quotation without correct citation in the text and on the reference list, the published or unpublished works of another person. Students may NOT submit papers and assignments that they have previously submitted for this or other courses. The use of materials generated by agencies engaged in "selling" term papers is also plagiarism. Students are encouraged to review the tutorials and suggested websites for more information about plagiarism.

Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) will not be tolerated in this class. Whenever a student is unsure of whether a particular situation will be interpreted as academic dishonesty, he/she should ask the instructor for clarification. If students are guilty of academic dishonesty, a grade of zero (0) will be given for the quiz, assignment, etc. Cases may also be referred to the Dean of Students for possible dismissal from the university.

PLEASE NOTE

By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a "limited right" in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The "limited right" shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student's work product in order to verify originality and authenticity, and for educational purposes. Specifically, faculty may submit student papers and assignments to an external agency to verify originality and authenticity, and to detect for plagiarism.

MSU COHSHS Student Conduct Appeals Committee

All Midwestern State University (MSU) students may legitimately appeal a course grade if 1) the student has not been evaluated according to the same criteria as his or her classmates, or 2) an error has been made in grading and/or posting (MSU Student Handbook, p. 37.) In addition, the Office of the Dean of Students has the responsibility to enforce standards of conduct for students as outlined in the MSU Student Handbook (p. 70-80).

When enrolled in the College of Health Sciences and Human Services (COHSHS), students are often assigned to community agencies, such as healthcare facilities, social service agencies, or athletic environments, as part of their academic process. During these experiences, the student is expected to behave in a manner required of professionals working in this environment. COHSHS students may also be required to successfully complete a licensing/certification process following graduation. As a result, students in these programs are often held to a different academic and/or behavioral standard than students in other MSU programs. For example, students may not be allowed to progress in a program if they have been unsuccessful (D or F) in a certain number of courses in the major. In these circumstances, COHSHS faculty and administration, all of whom have had similar professional experience, may make decisions which negatively impact students' programmatic progress.

COHSHS students have a right to a review of decisions made by the program faculty, which prevent individuals from progressing in their program in a timely manner. However, those who participate in the review must understand the context of the professions involved. Therefore, **issues concerning the professional conduct of students in the COHSHS will NOT be brought to the University Grade Committee, but to the COHSHS Student Conduct Appeals Committee.** Specifically, the COHSHS Student Conduct Appeals Committee will review faculty decisions related to:

- Student conduct in a clinical experience, internship, or other work-related environment that negatively impacts the student's academic progress. This conduct may include behavior which is prohibited by licensing and/or professional standards or departmental policy. Student removal from a program because of a) professional conduct issues or b) failure to maintain academic standards required specifically by the program

SEE COHSHS WEBSITE FOR A COMPLETE COPY OF THIS POLICY

SOCIAL MEDIA

DO NOT use any social media site related to Midwestern State University or the Dental Hygiene Dept./Program to harass, threaten, insult, defame, or bully another person or entity; to violate any College policy; or to engage in any unlawful act, including but not limited to gambling, identity theft, or other types of fraud.

- Post or store content that is obscene, pornographic, defamatory, racist, excessively violent, harassing, threatening, bullying, or otherwise objectionable or injurious.
- Post copyrighted content (such as text, video, graphics, or sound files) without permission from the holder of the copyright. Remember, even information that is widely available to the public (such as text, photographs, or other material posted on the Internet) may be subject to copyright restrictions that prohibit unauthorized duplication or dissemination.

The Americans with Disabilities Act:

Midwestern State University does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's disability and complies with Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act in its admission, accessibility, and employment of individuals in programs and activities. MSU provides academic accommodations and auxiliary aids to individuals with disabilities, as defined by law, who are otherwise qualified to meet academic employment requirements. For assistance call (940) 397-4618 or (940) 397-4515. It is the student's responsibility to declare any disabilities. After declaration, preferably at the beginning of each semester, the student needs to contact individual instructors to determine any reasonable accommodations that may be required.

Campus Carry Statement:

Senate Bill 11 Handgun Policy -Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from licensed concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law (Penal Code 30.06 signage). Please note, that the open carry of handguns, whether licensed or not, and the carrying of all other firearms (rifles, shotguns, etc.), whether open or concealed, are prohibited on campus. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at: Campus Carry.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE USAGE POLICY

The use of generative Artificial Intelligence Tools (AI) that emulate human capabilities (EX: ChatGPT, Dall-e, Gamma, etc.) is permitted in this course for the following activities and must be disclosed (this includes all graded assignments and activities) in an explanatory appendix describing which tool was used and how (including illustrations and editing):

- Brainstorming and refining ideas
- Discovery of information on your topic
- Illustration of topic

However, the use of AI tools (mentioned above) are prohibited for:

- Discussion assignments
- Completion of assignments
- Making of PowerPoints
- All written assignments

Obligation to Report Sex Discrimination under State and Federal Law

Midwestern State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. State and federal law require University employees to report sex discrimination and sexual misconduct to the University's Office of Title IX. As a faculty member, I am required to report to the Title IX Coordinator any allegations, personally observed behavior, or other direct or indirect knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, or stalking, involving a student or employee. After a report is made, the office of Title IX will reach out to the affected student or employee in an effort to connect such person(s) with resources and options in addressing the allegations made in the report. You are also encouraged to report any incidents to the office of Title IX. You may do so by contacting: