



Course Syllabus: Community Health and Rehabilitation
College of Health Sciences and Human Services
RESP 4603 Section X10
Fall Semester, August 24, 2026 – December 15, 2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Patrick Helton DHEd, RRT, RRT-NPS, RPFT, RCHES
E-mail: patrick.helton@msutexas.edu

Course Description

This course focuses on determinants of health of individuals and the challenges faced by communities as they try to work to improve the health of their residents. The student will develop plans to maximize the use of community resources to address both acute and chronic respiratory conditions.

Course Objectives

Contrast the various concepts of communities, describe various methods for identifying community health needs, especially needs related to respiratory related diseases. Compare methods used to assess community assets needed to improve a community's respiratory related illnesses. Compare basic public health theories used in the development of community-based interventions, prepare community-appropriate plans to address respiratory related illnesses, develop plans to evaluate the effectiveness of community-based interventions, critique community-based health interventions, and examine emerging issues and literature related to respiratory related problems faced by communities.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Hardcopy Format: Prevention is Primary: Strategies for Community Well-Being, 2nd Edition, Cohen, Chavez, and Chehimi, ISBN-13: 978-0470550953

Digital Format: Prevention is Primary: Strategies for Community Well-Being, 2nd Edition, Cohen, Chavez and Chehimi, ISBN: 9780470873342

Online Resource: [The Community Toolbox](#): An online resources that has been developed to assist and help efforts to Change Our World. This is a free, online resource for those working to build healthier communities and bring about social change. Their mission is to promote community health and development by connecting people, ideas, and resources.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook 2025-2026](#) for code of student conduct and campus policies on Campus Carry Rules/Policies, Smoking/Tobacco Policy and Alcohol and Drug Policy. Additional information can be found on [MSUTexas website](#).

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. Research papers and projects must be original work for each course assignment. The faculty will not accept a submission that has been or is being submitted for another course. No Exceptions!

AI Statement

Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all writing assignments should be prepared by the student. Developing strong competencies in this area will prepare you for a competitive workplace. Therefore, AI-generated submissions are not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism.

Assignment Grading

Assignments	Percentage of Total Grade
Discussion Boards	15%
Written Assignments	30%
Quizzes	35%
Course Project	20%

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage Grade
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	75-79%
D	70-74%
F	Less than 69%

A minimum grade of 75, or a C, is required in all respiratory courses. All assignments must be completed by 11:59pm on the due date.

Discussion Boards

Discussion content and questions will be posted on certain weeks throughout the semester. You can see the weeks that will include a discussion assignment on the course schedule within the syllabus.

During the weeks that include discussions, an initial post must be submitted by Wednesday at 11:59pm. Two substantial responses must be made within the discussion board by Sunday at 11:59pm. Each discussion has a max point value of 6 points. 2 points will be given for your initial post and 2 points will be given for each of your 2 response posts. The Discussion Board will account for 15% of your final grade.

All discussion boards are expected to raise thoughtful questions, incorporate content from readings, build on the ideas of others, expand the class' perspective, appropriately challenge assumptions and perspectives, use citations to support posts in proper APA formatting. Initial posts should be at least 200 words in content. Response posts should be at least 100 words in content.

Written Assignments

There are two writing assignments for this course:

1. The Wheel of Community Organizing (Due 10/4)
2. At-Risk Populations (Due 11/18)

These writing assignments were created for you to think outside the box and try to create solutions to specific problems often associated with community health projects and prevention strategies.

Assignment will consist of three to four pages of actual content in addition to a title page and reference page. A minimum of four scholarly resources published within the last ten years are required for your content. Use in-text citations as well. These papers must follow APA guidelines. A great APA resource can be found on the [Purdue OWL website](#).

A well-written paper is that are at a collegiate level of writing is expected. A rubric for the writing assignments can be found in D2L. The written assignments are each worth 15% of your final grade for a total of 30% of your final grade.

Quizzes

There will be a total of seven quizzes, which will cover several chapters within the text as well as additional readings that you will find posted in each weeks' module. Students are expected to analyze and apply their education and knowledge during these quizzes.

Quizzes are located under assessments. You may use learning resources to help you with the quizzes; however, the quizzes are timed and may only be taken once. You will have 30 minutes for each 10-question quiz. The final quiz is a cumulative 20 question quiz with 60 minutes allowed. Quizzes/Exams account for 35% of your final grade, each quiz/exam being worth 5%.

Course Project

Utilize the following scenario for your project:

*You have been hired by your local school district to do an evaluation on the district's failing elementary asthma education program. The program and materials used for the program were created about 20 years ago and are outdated and not well received by the students or faculty of the school. A two-year grant for funding from a local hospital has been awarded to the district and your job is to **create and develop a new and improved asthma education program for children.***

• Your task is to:

1. Find up-to-date information about the causes, complications, treatments, and prevention of asthma
2. Develop an asthma education program with this updated information that is suitable and interactive for elementary aged children
3. Present this new program in a narrated power point to the school board to get their approval.

Be creative and think outside the box. Use graphics and illustrations that will make your presentation informative, yet kid-friendly. Please utilize at least four scholarly resources that have been published within the last ten years recent to support your findings. The Grading Rubric can be found in D2L.

You will need to submit your project in two places:

1. Submit to Drop Box for this assignment.
2. Submit and attach your project in the discussion area titled *Project Downloads and Feedback*.

These need to be turned in to both places by **October 18th at 11:59pm.**

Course Project Feedback: After presentations are posted you will provide feedback for two of your classmates' projects. Try and make sure everyone receives feedback. Feedback must be posted by **October 25th at 11:59pm.**

Guidelines for feedback include acknowledging those things that have been done well, determining where you think there could be errors in data presented or alternatives to consider, as well as asking questions and offering suggestions that might enhance the response and expand critical thinking.

Please make note that the grading of the projects includes the feedback component. Therefore, grading of the projects will not begin until after the October 25th deadline.

Late Work

D2L is designed so that students are locked out of the system after the deadline has passed. Please make note of all deadlines and adhere to them. Anything not completed and submitted on time will be graded as a zero. Please talk with your professor, prior to the due date, regarding circumstances that may prevent you from completing an assignment on time. All assignments must be completed by 11:59pm on the due date.

Important Dates

Deadline for Change of Schedule and Late Registration: August 26-28, 2025

Deadline to file for December Graduation: September 21, 2026

Deadline to file for May Graduation: October 5, 2026

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" November 23, 2026

Refer to: [Academic Calendar 2026 - 2027](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please refer to Distance Education Resources: [MSU Distance Education](#)

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class 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. ***Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings. Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!*** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help refer to [MSU Distance Education](#)

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students With Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please refer to [Distance Education Online Accessibility](#)

Course Schedule:

Below is your course schedule. The same content will be in each D2L module as well. I suggest printing a copy of the course schedule to help you stay organized and submit your assignment by the deadlines.

Please note that changes in the course syllabus, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the professor.

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Quizzes	Discussion Board	Due Date
Week 1 8/24– 8/30	- Review Syllabus - Class Introductions	Introductions due Sunday , 8/30 by 11:59 pm	Introductions: Due 8/30 by 11:59 pm
Week 2 8/31– 9/6	- Read Prevention Text Chapter 1 - Lecture 1A – Intro to Class Community Toolbox – Understanding Community	N/A	N/A
Week 3 9/7 – 9/13	- Read Prevention Text Chapter 2 - Lecture 1B – Intro to Comm Health - Quiz Covering Weeks 2 & 3 Content Week 3 Discussion Board	First Post by Wednesday Response posts by Sunday	Quiz 1: Due 9/14 by 11:59pm

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Quizzes	Discussion Board	Due Date
Week 4 9/14– 9/20	- Read Prevention Text Chapters 4&5 - Lecture 2 – Working Together Community Toolbox – Working Together - Quiz Covering Week 4 Content	N/A	Quiz 2: Due 9/21 by 11:59pm
Week 5 9/21– 9/27	Wheel of Community Organizing Assignment	N/A	Assignment: Due 10/4 by 11:59pm
Week 6 9/28- 10/4	- Read Prevention Text Chapter 7 - Lecture 3 – Media Advocacy Community Toolbox – Working with the Media - Quiz Covering Week 6 Content - Week 6 Discussion Board	First Post by Wednesday Response posts by Sunday	Quiz 3: Due 10/5 by 11:59pm

Week 7 10/5 – 10/11	- Read Prevention Text Chapter 9 - Lecture 4 – Prevention and Evaluation Community Toolbox – Evaluation Plans - Quiz Covering Week 7 Content	N/A	Quiz 4: Due 10/12 by 11:59pm
Week 8 10/12– 10/18	Asthma Education Program Assignment	N/A	Assignment: Due 10/18 by 11:59pm
Week 9 10/19 – 10/25	Asthma Education Program Feedback Discussion	Asthma Program Feedback due Sunday	Feedback: Due 10/25 by 11:59pm
Week 10 10/26– 11/1	- Read Prevention Text Chapter 10 - Lecture 5 – Environmental Health Watch Dateline Breathless Episode - Quiz Covering Week 10 Content - Week 10 Discussion Board	First Post by Wednesday Response posts by Sunday	Quiz 5: Due 11/2 by 11:59pm
Week 11 11/2- 11/8	- Read Prevention Text Chapter 11 - Lecture 6 – The Built Environment Review AJMC: Vulnerable Populations - Quiz Covering Week 11 Content	N/A	Quiz 6: Due 11/9 by 11:59pm
Week 12 11/9 – 11/15	At-Risk Populations Assignment	N/A	Assignment: Due 11/18 by 11:59pm
Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Quizzes	Discussion Board	Due Date
Week 13 11/16 - 11/22	Review Climate Change is in the Air - Week 14 Discussion Post	First Post by Wednesday Response posts by Sunday	N/A
Week 14 11/23 – 11/29	Happy Thanksgiving! – no assignments	N/A	N/A
Week 15 11/30 – 12/4	Final Quiz Comprehensive		Final Quiz: Due 12/4 by 11:59pm
Week 16 12/7 – 12/13	No assignments this week.	N/A	N/A

