



Course Syllabus Fall 2023

HSHS 1023 Understanding Community and Public Health

Gunn College of Health Sciences and Human Services

Professor Contact Information

Dr. Randy Case

Office: Centennial Hall 420-C

Office hours: By appointment

Office phone: (940) 397-4653

E-mail: randy.case@msutexas.edu

Course Description

This course is an inquiry of community and public health and the competencies required of public health providers and educators, including the exploration and examination of philosophies, ethics, and current trends. This course will deliver an overview of the major content areas and critical issues related to community and public health promotion. This course will also provide an examination of community and public health and its role in society and discuss current trends, research, and anticipated future challenges.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Public Health 101: Improving Community Health, 3ed., Riegelman and Kirkwood, ISBN: 9781284118445

Communication with the Instructor:

Outside classroom communication will be through the student's Midwestern State University email account. The instructor will respond or at least acknowledge email messages from students within a maximum of five (5) business days when MSU is in session. Beyond standard university holidays and breaks, the instructor will notify students of any extended periods of time when email contact is not practical (professional meetings, etc.).

Class Meeting Date and Time:

Since this is a hybrid course, there are mandatory face-to-face sessions on some Mondays from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. However, the student should also be vigilant in logging into D2L. Regular checks will ensure messages from the instructor are received in a timely manner. This course is on a schedule that will be strictly adhered to. See the Course Schedule at the end of this syllabus

for specific information about activities and due dates. The instructor will be available to meet face-to-face, by phone, or by Zoom with any interested students.

Grading:

Table 1: Percentages allocated to each assignment.

Assignments	Percent of Grade
Module Quizzes	15%
Classroom Activities	10%
Classroom Attendance	15%
Portfolio Project	
Portfolio Part 1 – Research-Based Brochure	15%
Portfolio Part 2 – Collaborative Research Project Presentation	15%
Portfolio Part 3 – Health Professionals Observation	15%
Portfolio Part 4 – Reflective Report	15%
Total Points	100%

Table 2: Total percent for final grade.

Grade	Percent
A	90-100
B	80 to 89
C	70 to 79
D	60 to 69
F	Less than 60

Assignments:

Module Quizzes:

Quizzes will be given throughout the semester to test the student's knowledge and understanding of the material presented within each module. These quizzes will be administered through D2L.

Classroom Activities:

For this course, we will have two classroom activities that will require students to work collaboratively. Students will be graded according to the group activity rubric within D2L which will focus on each student's contributions and attitude, cooperation with others, focus and commitment, team role fulfillment, ability to communicate, and completed work.

Classroom Attendance:

This course requires regular attendance from the students. Classroom activities and discussions are an integral part and require student participation. Attendance will be taken for each course meeting.

Discussions:

For this course, there are open classroom discussions that will be utilized to engage students in the communication and inquiry of different aspects of community and public health. Students are expected to actively participate in these classroom discussions.

Portfolio Project:

The Core Assessment for this course will be conducted in a four-part portfolio project that directly aligns to the core course objectives and demonstrates a student's understanding of human health and social wellness through various components of community and public health and how various aspects of that health and wellness impact culture and society.

This assessment also requires students to apply empirical methods to think critically about how community and public health impact and are impacted by cultural differences to further their understanding of what makes us healthy humans. The final portfolio includes the following four components:

- (1.) A research-based brochure students create that will require them to think critically about factors impacting a specific problem within the community and public health spectrum and how those are influenced by diverse environments in a global context. A component of this brochure also includes a call to action to highlight social responsibility for a resolution to the issue.
- (2.) A community research project and presentation that requires students to be engaged in the research process that will allow them to analyze and think critically about human health and social wellness regarding a specific communicable disease.
- (3.) An observation to collect data that allows students to analyze the varying health professionals within the community and public health environment and how those individuals impact human health and the social wellness of the community, society, and culture.
- (4.) A final reflective piece that requires students to critically reflect on each component of the portfolio in order to synthesize and demonstrate an understanding of the social and personal responsibility to the issues in human health and social wellness from diverse cultures and communities in the US and across the globe. The separate portfolio components will be used as formative assessments during the course and the combined submitted portfolio is summative in nature and will be assessed using elements of the AACU Critical Thinking, Written Communication, Empirical and Quantitative Literacy, and Social Responsibility rubrics. All written portfolio components must adhere to APA 7th edition guidelines.

Portfolio Part 1 – Research-Based Brochure

A research-based brochure will be created to demonstrate your understanding of a current problem or barrier associated with community/public health and your personal and social responsibility for awareness and action directed towards that problem. You will create a brochure highlighting an issue of your choosing and provide strategies or solutions. Review the chart entitled, “A Community in Crisis” that is located in the Module 2 folder. Within this document, there are numerous examples of critical problems observed within the community and public health environments.

- Provide empirical, numerical evidence on the impacts (local, national, or global) of the issue.
- Visually appealing that highlights the challenges of the community and public health issue.
- Include the supporting research-based strategies/recommendations/solutions to address this challenge.
- Include 3 References
- Include your name, course name, and date on the brochure
- Submit in PDF format

Two Examples are available in D2L in the Module 2 folder.

Portfolio Part 2 – Communicable Disease Research Project Presentation

This is a Communicable Disease Research Project Presentation to deepen your understanding of a specific communicable disease, its effects on community and public health, the influence that disease has on differing social institutions, age groups, culture, and our society as a whole. You will conduct research through literature review and create a self-developed (do not submit/copy another presentation) 10-20 slide PowerPoint presentation describing a communicable disease of your choice, along with its characteristics and statistics and integrate it with material from research articles and the textbook regarding its effects on the community and public health.

Be sure that you include the following information in your presentation:

- Disease Definition – What it is?
- Disease Statistics
- Modes of Transmission
- Incubation Period
- Signs and Symptoms
- Precautions/Prevention
- Treatments
- Outlook for the future
- Specific Regions, Societies, Cultures affected by the disease
- Include 3 References
- Include your name, course name, and date on the PowerPoint
- May be submitted as a PowerPoint or PDF

An example is available in D2L in the Module 3 folder.

Portfolio Part 3 – Health Science and Human Services Professionals

This section of the portfolio will focus on observations to collect data that allows students to analyze the varying health science and human services professionals within the community and public health environment and how those individuals impact human health and the social wellness of the community, society, and culture. The observations will be used to gain an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of those taking an active role in providing healthcare services to those within the community and public health environments. You will observe a series of documents/videos reflecting on the specific elements of the professionals and then will analyze aspects of their professions that are imperative to the overall health of humans and social wellness. You will complete an observation protocol sheet where you will need to provide answers to the following questions:

- How can each health professional play a vital role in the overall health of individuals and society?
- What elements of each health professional do you think would be most beneficial for certain aspects of community and public health?
- How might each health professional impact social institutions such as hospitals, clinics, and public healthcare education programs?
- List and discuss specific areas of community and public health that may be positively impacted by each health care professional.
- How might collaboration between the varying healthcare professionals provide a better healthcare experience for individuals, groups, society, and cultures?

The observation protocol sheet is provided in D2L in the Module 4 folder. Upload this file, fill in each box with your answers and resubmit in the dropbox. No References Required.

Portfolio Part 4 – Reflective Report

The reflective piece requires you to critically reflect on Parts 1, 2, 3 of the portfolio. You will synthesize the information you have gathered to demonstrate an understanding of human health and social wellness and how it impacts individuals, society, and culture. You should address the aspects of community and public health utilized within Parts 1, 2, 3 to demonstrate an understanding of our social and personal responsibility to grasp the differences in global environments—both the positive aspects as well as challenges of your own and other cultures face. The following are areas for reflection:

- What did you learn from your work on the first three portfolios?
- How has the knowledge of community and public health impacted your understanding of what it is that makes us healthy humans?
- How has the understanding of behaviors associated with human health and social wellness allowed you to be more understanding, tolerant, or to take a particular action?
- How has the knowledge of the impacts of global influences on community and public health impacted your behavior (think about the actions suggested in your brochure).
- Why is it important for people to better understand community and public health?
- What have you learned from this course?

The reflection is an essay style should be at least 500 words and must be submitted as a Word document and uploaded by the date due to D2L. No References Required.

Disease Detectives – Solve the Outbreak:

This is just for fun and not a requirement, but we may try to do a couple during class time. If you feel like solving a potential outbreak, give it a try! Scientists and disease detectives work around the world to track diseases, research outbreaks, respond to emergencies of all kinds, and use what they learn from this work to develop and advocate public health policies that strengthen America's health and resilience. Your mission is to get clues and analyze data to [Solve the Outbreak](#) and save lives. In this fun, interactive activity you get to try your hand at becoming a Disease Detective. You will virtually travel the world chasing outbreaks like the ones real-life CDC Disease Detectives help fight. Should you quarantine the town, send for more lab results, or alert the media?

Late Work, Make up Work:

Late work is typically not accepted within the course and is subject to a grade of a zero. However, late work may be accepted at the discretion of the instructor. If a student is going to miss an assignment or course activity, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor prior to the submission deadline. Communication is key. If late work is accepted by the instructor, a 10% reduction will be taken for each day (weekends and holidays included) after the scheduled assignment or course activity due date.

Important Dates:

Deadline to file for December graduation: September 25, 2023

Deadline to file for May graduation: October 2, 2023

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" October 30, 2023 by 4:00pm

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

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 contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Online Computer Requirements:

Taking this class with an online component 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 a reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center.

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, log into [D2L](#).

Instructor Class Policies:

Students are required to participate in class in a respectful manner whether or not the interactions are online or face-to-face. All course assignments must be submitted to D2L in Microsoft format including, Word documents and PowerPoint. For students without Microsoft software, Microsoft offers students a free download of Office 365. This software can be accessed and downloaded through the following link: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/education/products/office>

Change of Schedule:

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the *Schedule of Classes* each semester.

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) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Disability Support Services:

Midwestern State University is committed to providing equal access for qualified students with disabilities to all university courses and programs, and by law all students with disabilities are guaranteed a learning environment that provides reasonable accommodation of their disability. This guarantee is provided through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The ADA reads: "No qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subject to discrimination by any such entity." The Director of Disability Support Services serves as the ADA Coordinator and may be contacted at (940) 397.4140, TDD (940) 397.4515, or 3410 Taft Blvd., Clark Student Center 168.

Student Handbook:

Refer to: [Student Handbook 2022 - 2023](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures:

This course adheres to the MSU Code of Conduct. Academic dishonesty, however small, creates a breach in academic integrity. A student's participation in this course comes with the expectation that his/her work will be completed in full observance of the MSU Code of Student Conduct. A student should consult the Student Handbook for answers to any questions about the code.

Students are encouraged to take full advantage of many resources available including Internet sites, handouts, other textbooks & journals, faculty, and peers. This interactive collegial learning environment is conducive to life-long learning.

The components of this course are designed to represent the efforts of each student individually and are NOT to be shared. Submitting someone else's work as your own or improperly cited work constitutes plagiarism. Please see the Midwestern State University Catalog for further discussion of plagiarism. Plagiarism will constitute in an F for the course and the student will be referred to administration for further action. When students submit their efforts for grading, they are attesting they abided by this rule.

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, in addition to AI-generated works is also plagiarism. Students are encouraged to review the tutorials and suggested websites for more information about plagiarism.

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 students work product in order to verify originality and authenticity, and for educational purposes.

College Policies:

Campus Carry Rules/Policy:

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy:

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy:

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state, and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process:

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

Course Schedule: Days marked as HYBRID are considered online and will not meet face to face.

Module	Date	Readings and Lectures	Assignment/Activity All Due dates are set for 11:59pm
Module 1 Principles of Population Health	Week 1 8/28	Review Course Syllabus	
	Week 2 9/4	Chapter 1 - Public Health: The Population Health Approach	
	Week 3 9/11 No Class Meeting	Chapter 2 - Evidence- Based Public Health	Module 1 Quiz Due 9/17
Module 2 Tools of Population Health	Week 4 9/18	Chapter 3 - Public Health Data and Communications	
	Week 5 9/25	Chapter 4 - Social and Behavioral Sciences and Public Health	

Module	Date	Readings and Lectures	Assignment/Activity All Due dates are set for 11:59pm
	Week 6 10/2 No Class Meeting		-Module 2 Quiz Due 10/8 -Work on Portfolio Part 1 Due 10/8
Module 3 Preventing Disease, Morbidity, and Mortality	Week 7 10/9	Chapter 6 - Non-Communicable Diseases Chapter 7 - Communicable Diseases	
	Week 8 10/16	Chapter 8 - Environmental Health and Safety	
	Week 9 10/23 No Class Meeting		-Module 3 Quiz Due 10/29 -Portfolio Part 2 Due 10/29
Module 4 Health Professionals, Healthcare Institutions, and Healthcare Systems	Week 10 10/30	Chapter 9 – Health Professionals and the Health Workforce	
	Week 11 11/6	Chapter 10 - Healthcare Institutions Chapter 11 - Health Insurance and Systems	
	Week 12 11/13 No Class Meeting		-Module 4 Quiz Due Date 11/20 -Portfolio Part 3 Due Due Date 11/20
Module 5 Public Health Institutions and Systems	Week 13 11/20	Chapter 12 - Public Health Institutions and Systems	
	Week 14 11/27	Chapter 13 – Food and Drugs as Public Health Issues	

Module	Date	Readings and Lectures	Assignment/Activity All Due dates are set for 11:59pm
	Week 15 12/4		-Module 5 Quiz Due Date 12/10 -Work on Portfolio Part 4 Due Date 12/10

Notice: Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.