



HSHS 1023: Hybrid Understanding Community and Public Health

Course Syllabus Spring 2026

Gunn College of Health Sciences and Human Services

Professor Contact Information

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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:

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 Thursdays from 2:05 pm to 3:05 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 (5)	15%
Classroom Activities (3)	10%
Classroom Attendance	15%
Portfolio Projects	N/A
• Portfolio Part 1 – Research-Based Brochure	15%
• Portfolio Part 2 – Communicable Disease Presentation	15%
• Portfolio Part 3 – Health Professionals Observation	15%
• Portfolio Part 4 – Reflective Report	15%
Total	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:

All assignment submissions made by students in D2L 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. These formats do not open on MSU computers. All submissions must be uploaded in Microsoft Office formats, such as *.doc*, *.docx*, *.ppt*, or *.xlsx*, or as otherwise specified in the assignment instructions.

Module Quizzes:

Quizzes will be given throughout the semester to test the students' knowledge and understanding of the textbook material within each module. Quizzes are timed at 30 minutes. You may utilize your resources for these quizzes. Quizzes will be administered through D2L.

Classroom Activities

For this course, we will have a series of classroom activities that will require students to work collaboratively. Students will be graded on their contributions, 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.

Classroom 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 Projects:

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.

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 toward that problem. You will create a brochure highlighting a community or public health concern/issue and provide strategies or solutions. Review the chart entitled, "A Community in Crisis" which 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. Utilizing at least three outside resources, begin exploring this issue. You must locate empirical, numerical evidence of the impacts (local, national, or global) of this issue. Create a visually appealing brochure that highlights the challenges of the community and public health issue you have chosen. Be sure to include the supporting research data and numerical data on the impacts and provide research-based strategies/recommendations/solutions to address this challenge. Websites such as postermywall.com and canva.com are great resources to create this type of brochure. **(Include your name, the course name, date, and 3 References) Submit in PDF format.**

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 the community and public health, and the influence that disease has on differing social institutions, age groups, cultures, and our society as a whole. You will conduct research through a literature review and create a 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. You will submit a self-developed (do not

submit/copy another presentation) PowerPoint that is between 10-20 slides that you will upload to D2L. 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 your name, the course name, date, and 3 References) Submit as a PowerPoint or PDF.

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 might each health professional play a vital role in the overall health of individuals and society?
- 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 healthcare professional.
- How might collaboration between the varying healthcare professionals provide a better healthcare experience for individuals, groups, society, and cultures?

(References are not required for this portfolio) Upload as a Word document or PDF.

***The observation protocol sheet is available to download in D2L in the Module 4 folder.**

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 required elements of your reflective report:

- 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, and 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 might you feel that it is 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 are required for this portfolio)**

Disease Detectives – Solve the Outbreak:

This is just for fun and not a requirement. If you feel like solving a potential outbreak, give it a try! Scientist 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, with the exception of the final exam. The final exam must be taken at the schedule time and date. 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 May graduation: February 16th, 2026

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" April 29th, 2026 by 4:00pm

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals, Invalidation, & 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 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 Power Point or as a PDF. For students without Microsoft software, Microsoft offers students a [free download of Office 365](#).

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](#)

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 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:

Refer to: [Tobacco-free Policy](#)

Alcohol and Drug Policy:

Refer to: [Alcohol and Drug Policy](#)

Grade Appeal Process:

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

Course Schedule:

Module	Date	Readings and Lectures	Assignment/Activity All Due dates are set for 11:59pm
Module 1 Principles of Population Health	Jan 22	Review Course Syllabus	-Review Course Syllabus -Ice Breaker Activity
Module 1 Principles of Population Health	Jan 29	Chapter 1 - Public Health: The Population Health Approach	-What is Community
Module 1 Principles of Population Health	Feb 5	Chapter 2 - Evidence-Based Public Health	-What is Public Health -Portfolio Part 1 Due Feb 5 -Module 1 Quiz Due Feb 5
	Feb 12	NO CLASS THIS WEEK	
Module 2 Tools of Population Health	Feb 19	Chapter 3 - Public Health Data and Communications	-Health Disparities
Module 2 Tools of Population Health	Feb 26	Chapter 4 - Social and Behavioral Sciences and Public Health	-CODE BLUE (Activity 1) -Module 2 Quiz Due Feb 26
Module 3 Preventing Disease, Morbidity, and Mortality	Mar 5		-BMI and the Obesity Epidemic
	Mar 12	NO CLASS THIS WEEK	Happy Spring Break
Module 3 Preventing Disease, Morbidity, and Mortality	Mar 19	Chapter 6 - Non-Communicable Diseases Chapter 7 - Communicable Diseases	-Communicable Diseases -Portfolio Part 2 Due Mar19
Module 3 Preventing Disease, Morbidity, and Mortality	Mar 26	Chapter 8 - Environmental Health and Safety	-Environmental Hunt (Activity 2) -Module 3 Quiz Due Mar 26
	Apr 2	NO CLASS THIS WEEK	Happy Easter Break
Module 4 Health Professionals, Institutions, and Systems	Apr 9	Chapter 9 – Health Professionals and the Health Workforce	-Health Professions Talks -Portfolio Part 3 Due Apr 9

Module	Date	Readings and Lectures	Assignment/Activity All Due dates are set for 11:59pm
Module 4 Health Professionals, Institutions, and Systems	Apr 16	Chapter 10 - Healthcare Institutions Chapter 11 - Health Insurance and Healthcare Systems	-Wellness Project (Activity 3) -Module 4 Quiz Due Apr 16
Module 5 Public Health Institutions and Systems	Apr 23	Chapter 12 - Public Health Institutions and Systems Chapter 13 – Food and Drugs in Public Health	Drug & Substance Use
Module 5 Public Health Institutions and Systems	Apr 30		-Wrap Up -Course Evaluations -Portfolio Part 4 Due Apr 30 -Module 5 Quiz Due Apr 30

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