

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY**INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC HEALTH (PBH-228-01/BIO-228-01)****SUMMER 2009 ONLINE COURSE CLASS SCHEDULE**

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INTRODUCTION

This course introduces students to public health and the public health infrastructure and regulating agencies at the state, national and international levels. Core functions and essential services of public health will be discussed in the areas of assessment, assurance, policy development and public health interventions. Secondly, this course will introduce students to microbes as a potential threat to public safety and wellbeing. Thirdly, aspects of environmental (soil and water) pollution, water and food security and their impact on public health and public safety are explored. This course delves into human biology as it relates to public health and epidemiology of emerging infectious diseases, aspects of surveillance systems and the role of technology and communication as tools in the delivery of public health services. Finally, the role of life style changes in public health policy and implementation will be discussed in the context of infectious disease impact studies, and smoking and cancer as public health issues. Formal lectures will be supplemented with speakers from the public health and related fields. At the end of the course, students would have acquired appreciation and basic understanding of the complexities of the public health systems, practices and policies. This course is for undergraduate students with interest in graduate studies and employment in public health delivery and management sectors.

Methods of Student Performance Assessment and Evaluation

Students' understanding of the principles of public health as outlined in the syllabus will be evaluated or assessed through timed examinations and/or quizzes, assigned written term paper, and chat room group discussions. The grading policy is summarized below:

Summary of Student Evaluation

Examinations (2)	65%
Written Assignment (1)	20%
Group Discussions/Activities	10%
Quizzes	5%
Total	100%

Examinations Due by Midnight:

Examination# 1	Modules I and II
Examination#2	Modules III and IV

STUDENT EVALUATION

Written Assignment

All written assignments should be between six (6) to eight (8) pages long (excluding citations/references/bibliographies) with one and half spacing. All assignments are due on the dates indicated and should be submitted electronically. It is the responsibility of the student to check the assignment board for assignments and their dates. Late submissions will be corrected with loss of 20% points. You are encouraged to take a look at the written assignments at your earliest time. Keep the assignment in mind while you are reviewing the lecture materials.

See **Student Evaluation** for all the written assignments and their due dates.

Examinations

There will be two (2) timed examinations and taken electronically. You will be given one hundred and twenty (120) minutes to take each examination at one sitting/attempt. Make sure that you are ready to take the examination at one sitting before you start. There will be no retakes and you may not stop and restart. See **Student Evaluation** for all the written assignments and their due dates.

Quizzes

You must take the quiz (if available) at the end of each module. These quizzes are timed; no more than one (1) hour duration, therefore no retakes, nor stops and restarts. Make sure you are ready to take the quiz at one sitting before you start. See **Student Evaluation** for all written assignments and their due dates.

Group/Chat room Discussions

All students are required to participate in the group discussion-online chat room; Online or chat room participation should be substantive, objective, detailed, expressive, thought provoking and enlightening.

Course bibliography, reading list and/or listing of instructional media

1. Required Textbook: **Public Health: What It Is and How It Works, 4th edition**, 2008; BJ. Turnock; Jones and Bartlett Publishers
2. Required textbooks: **Introduction to Public Health, recent edition**; Schneider, Mary-Jane; Jones and Bartlett Publishers.
3. Reference Textbook: **Introduction to Epidemiology, recent edition**, Merrill, RM and Timmreck, TC; Jones and Bartlett Publishers

Office Hours

You may call me on my office phone [\(1-860-465-4524\)](tel:1-860-465-4524) during normal working office hours (9.00 am to 5 .00 pm) or send to me an email (nsiah@easternct.edu) during after hours. I shall endeavor to reply to your communications with within 24 hours.

Make-up of Examinations

You are responsible for materials and/or information covered in this course. No make-up on missed activities or examinations will be given in this course. Excused absences due to illness and personal emergency will be considered on individual basis. An unexcused absence from an activity will result in a grade of zero for that assignment.

Accommodation and Access

Accommodation for any disability is granted only through the Office of Disabilities and Access. You are encouraged to visit the Access Office for evaluation if you so desire.

Cheating

Cheating will not be tolerated in this course. It is against University code of conduct. If you are caught cheating you will receive a zero (0) for the exam or quiz which may result in a failing grade for the course.

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MODULE ONE: Chap 1, 3, 4 and 6 (T); Chap 1, 2 and 3 (S)

- I. Introduction: What is Public Health?
- II. Public Health Systems and the Infrastructure of Public Health
- III. Law, Government and the Public Health

MODULE TWO: Chap 2, 5 and 7 (T); Chap 5, and 7 (S)

- IV. Core Functions/ Essential Services of Public Health
 - a. Assessment of functions
 - b. Assurance: healthcare providers and beneficiaries
 - c. Advocacy and policy development
 - d. Public health interventions
- V. Understanding and Measuring of Health

MODULE THREE: Chap 4-6, 8-10 (S)

- VI. Epidemiology: Principles and Methods in Public Health
- VII. Infectious Diseases: Epidemiology and Public Health
 - a. Epidemiology and pathogenesis of infectious diseases
 - b. Identification of microbes
 - c. Surveillance systems and Emerging infectious diseases
 - e. Reportable infectious diseases
 - i. International, national and state requirements and police powers
 - ii. Environmental controls and Surveillance and statistics of diseases
 - iii. Zoonosis and hospital acquired diseases
 - f. Vaccines
- VIII. The Role of Data in Public Health

MODULE FOUR: Chap 13-24 (S) and Chap 8 and 9 (T)

IX. Public Health Threats: Social and Behavioral Factors

- a. Do people choose their health?
- b. Psychosocial factors and Tobacco
- c. Poor diet and Physical inactivity and Injuries and accidents
- d. Maternal and Child health as social problems

X. Environmental Health Issues

- a. Clean environment, Air and water
- b. Safe Food and Drugs
- c. Soil, Chemical, Radioactive and Industrial wastes
- d. Population Growth

XI. Public Health: Bioterrorism, Emergency Preparedness and Response

XII. Future Challenges for Public Health