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Spring 2015

PUBH 6532 - Environmental Health (Online)

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GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
JIANN-PING HSU COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

PUBH 6532 – ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (ONLINE)
SPRING 2015

<u>INSTRUCTOR:</u>	ATIN ADHIKARI, M.Sc., Ph.D.
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<u>OFFICE HOURS:</u>	WEDNESDAY 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM ALSO BY APPOINTMENT
<u>CLASS MEETING:</u>	ONLINE

Course schedules can be found at: <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/registrar/>

Catalog Description: Survey of *specific environmental conditions and factors* that *contribute to the development of health problems* in communities. Health effects, policy issues, intervention strategies and control programs for community environmental health protection are discussed.

Required Textbook: Friis, Robert H. (2012). *Essentials of Environmental Health – 2nd Edition*. Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett Publishers.

ISBN-13: 978-0-7637-7890-3; **ISBN-10:** 0-7637-7890-7

MPH Environmental Health Core Competencies:

1. Describe the discipline of environmental health and its relation to the other core areas of public health.
2. Relate the direct and indirect effects of significant environmental and occupational agents pertaining to human and ecological effects both regional and global.
3. Describe physiologic and psychosocial factors that can affect susceptibility and health outcomes as a result of exposure to environmental hazards including genetic predispositions.

4. Describe the impact of federal and state regulatory statutes and guidelines along with the authorities that control environmental health issues.
5. Specify approaches for assessing, preventing and controlling environmental hazards that pose risks to human health and safety.
6. Articulate the general mechanisms of toxicity along with the response to exposure and the methods of assessing, managing and communicating risk.
7. Define environmental justice and identify environmental justice issues within both rural and urban communities.
8. Demonstrate the capacity to respond to environmental justice concerns.
9. Articulate how biological, chemical and physical agents affect human health.
10. Identify the ethical, social and legal issues implied by biological systems within public health.
11. Demonstrate effective written and oral skills to communicate risk to practitioners, clients, policy-makers, interest groups and the media.
12. Evaluate the strengths and limitations of environmental health source material in order to compile relevant and appropriate information when needed.

Course Learning Objectives:

The number in parenthesis corresponds to the competency number from the list above. *As a result of this course the student will be able to:*

1. Define key terms in environmental health and relate environmental health sciences to other core areas of public health (1).
2. Compare types of associations found between environmental hazards and health outcomes and relate current regional and global cases (2, 3).
3. Compare mechanisms and health effects of human exposure and contrast prevention methods for chemical, physical, and microbial agents that impact the environment (2, 3, 5, 6, 9).
4. Contrast key environmental health regulatory agencies at the international, national, state and local levels and assess principles that guide environmental policy development (4).
5. Evaluate environmental policies designed to protect vulnerable groups (4, 7, 8).
6. Interpret the impact of humans on environmental change and its relation to emerging infectious diseases (5, 9).
7. Contrast trends in the production of pollution and distinguish methods for source reduction (2, 4, 10).
8. Compare the health impact categories of occupational hazards and distinguish methods for prevention of occupationally related disease (5, 10).
9. Dissect a local or global environmental health issue, communicate the health outcomes and criticize the strength and limitations of the regulatory actions undertaken (11, 12).

Overview of the Content to be Covered during the Semester:

Week	Topic	Readings	Assignment
1 (1/12/15)	Introduction: The Environment at Risk	Chapter 1	Review Definitions/Abbreviations
2 (1/19/15)	Environmental Epidemiology	Chapter 2	Quiz 1 (Chapters 1 & 2)
3 (1/26/15)	Environmental Toxicology	Chapter 3	
4 (2/2/15)	Environmental Policy/Regulation	Chapter 4	Quiz 2 (Chapters 3 & 4) Term Project Description/Plan - DUE
5 (2/9/15)	Zoonotic and Vector-Borne Diseases	Chapter 5	
6 (2/16/15)	Toxic Metals & Elements	Chapter 6	Quiz 3 (Chapters 5 & 6)
7 (2/23/15)	Pesticides and Other Organic Chemicals	Chapter 7	MID-TERM EXAM – DUE 10/6//14 Term Project Drafts : Group 1 - DUE
8 (3/2/15)	Ionizing and Nonionizing Radiation	Chapter 8	MID-TERM EXAM – DUE TODAY Quiz 4 (Chapters 7 & 8)
9 (3/9/15)	Water Quality	Chapter 9	Term Project Reports : Group 1 – DUE Term Project Drafts : Group 2 - DUE
10 (3/16/15)	Air Quality	Chapter 10	Quiz 5 (Chapters 9 & 10)
11 (3/23/15)	Food Safety	Chapter 11	Term Project Reports : Group 2 – DUE
12 (3/30/15)	Solid and Liquid Wastes	Chapter 12	Quiz 6 (Chapters 11 & 12)
13 (4/6/15)	Occupational Health	Chapter 13	
14 (4/13/15)	Unintentional Injuries and	Chapter 14	Quiz 7 (Chapters 13 & 14)
15 (4/20/15)	Final Exam Review	Notes review	Stop by at my office, if necessary!
16 (5/5/15)	FINAL EXAMINATION (The exam will be available from 5/4/15, 8 a.m. to 5/5/15 midnight).		

Samples of your work may be reproduced for search purposes and/or inclusion in professor's teaching portfolio. You have the right to review anything selected for use, and subsequently ask for its removal.

Instructional Methods: The class will be conducted primarily online via the Folio environment. The course grade will be determined through a combination of examinations, quizzes, and discussion posts (Environmental Health [EH] Concerns).

Examinations: You will have a week to complete your mid-term exam (“take home”).
You will be given 2 hours to complete the FINAL EXAM online!!!

Student Assessments:

Assessments are linked to the learning objectives for this class. Each assessment below is linked to the course learning objectives (LO 1-19) on pages 2 – 3 of this syllabus. Weighting of assignments for purposes of grading will be as follows:

Mid-Term Exam (LO 1-7, 9-10, 12-14)	100 points
Module Quizzes (LO 1-19)	70 points
Term Project Description/Plan and Draft	20 points
Term Project Report (Env. Health [EH] Concerns)	50 points
Discussion Posts (Critiques) on Term Project Reports	40 points
Final Exam (LO 1-19)	120 points
Total Possible Points (100%)	400 points

The following point scale will be utilized in grading:

360-to-400 points	A
320-to-359 points	B
280-to-319 points	C
240-to-279 points	D
Below 240 points	F

For the calculation of your final grade, all the grades above will be included. Your grades will be posted in the grade book and available to you as they are graded via Folio.

There are times when extraordinary circumstances occur (e.g., serious illness, death in the family, etc.). In such circumstances, and/or if you need additional time to satisfactorily complete any course requirement, please consult with the instructor within a reasonable amount of time.

Note: Extensions are not guaranteed and will be granted solely at the discretion of the instructor.

Academic Misconduct: As a student registered at this University, it is expected that you adhere to only the strictest standards of conduct. It is recommended that you review the latest edition of the *Student Conduct Code* book, as well as the latest *Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog* to familiarize yourself with the University's policies in this regard. Your continued enrollment in this course is an implied contract between you and the instructor on this issue; from this point forward, it is assumed that you will conduct yourself appropriately.

Academic integrity relates to the appropriate use of intellectual property. The syllabus, lecture notes, and all materials presented and/or distributed during this course are protected by copyright law. Students are authorized to take notes in class, but that authorization extends only to making one set of notes for personal (and no other) use. As such, students are not authorized to sell, license, commercially publish, distribute, transmit, display, or record notes in or from class without the express written permission of the instructor.

Plagiarism - According to the Academic Dishonesty Policy of GSU, Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to):

- A. Directly quoting the words of others without using quotation marks or indented format to identify them.
- B. Using published or unpublished sources of information without identifying them.
- C. Paraphrasing material or ideas without identifying the source.
- D. Unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic material.

If you are accused of plagiarism by a JPHCOPH faculty, the following policy, as per the Judicial Affairs website (<http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/judicial/faculty.htm>) will be enforced.

PROCEDURES FOR ADJUDICATING ACADEMIC DISHONESTY CASES:

First Offense - In Violation Plea:

1. If the professor and the Dean of Students agree that the evidence is sufficient to warrant a charge of academic dishonesty, the professor should contact the Office of Judicial Affairs to determine if this is a first violation of academic dishonesty. The incident will be reported via the following website:
<http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/judicial/faculty.htm>

2. If it is a first violation, the professor should talk with the student about the violation. **If the student accepts responsibility in writing and the professor decides to adjudicate the case, the following procedures will be followed:**
 - a. The student will be placed on disciplinary probation for a minimum of one semester by the Office of Judicial Affairs.
 - b. The student will be subject to any academic sanctions imposed by the professor (from receiving a zero (0) on the assignment to receiving a failing grade in the class).
 - c. A copy of all the material involved in the case (Academic Dishonesty Report Form and the Request For Instructor to Adjudicate Form) and a brief statement from the professor concerning the facts of the case and the course syllabus should be mailed to the Office of Judicial Affairs for inclusion in the student's discipline record.

First Offense - Not in Violation Plea (student does not admit the violation)

If the professor and the Dean of Students agree that the evidence is sufficient to warrant a charge of academic dishonesty, the professor should contact the Office of Judicial Affairs to determine if this is the first or second violation of academic dishonesty. The student will be charged with academic dishonesty and the University Judicial Board or a University Hearing Officer would hear the case. If the student is found responsible, the following penalty will normally be imposed:

- a. The student will be placed on Disciplinary Probation for a minimum of one semester by the Office of Judicial Affairs.
- b. The student will be subject to any academic sanctions imposed by the professor.

Second Violation of Academic Dishonesty

If the professor and the Dean of Students agree that the evidence is sufficient to warrant a charge of academic dishonesty, and if it is determined this is the second violation, the student will be charged with academic dishonesty and the University Judicial Board or a University Hearing Officer would hear the case.

If the student is found responsible, the following penalty will normally be imposed:

- a. Suspension for a minimum of one semester or expulsion.
- b. The student will be subject to any academic sanctions imposed by the professor.

NOT RESPONSIBLE FINDING

When a student is found not responsible of academic dishonesty, the work in question (assignment, paper, test, etc.) would be forwarded to the Department Chair. It is the responsibility of the Department Chair to ensure that the work is evaluated by a faculty member other than the individual who brought the charge and, if necessary, submit a final grade to the Registrar. For the protection of the faculty member and the student, the work in question should not be referred back to the faculty member who charged the student with academic dishonesty. In the case of a Department Chair bringing charges against a student, an administrator at the Dean's level will ensure that the student's work is evaluated in an appropriate manner.

Academic Handbook: Students are expected to abide by the Academic Handbook, located at <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/sta/guide>. Your failure to comply with any part of this Handbook may be a violation and thus, you may receive an F in the course and/or be referred for disciplinary action.

University Calendar for the Semester: The University Calendar is located with the semester schedule, and can be found at:

<http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/registrar>

Attendance Policy: Federal regulations require attendance be verified prior to distribution of financial aid allotments. Attendance will not be recorded after this initial period.

One Final Note: The contents of this syllabus are as complete and accurate as possible. The instructor reserves the right to make any changes necessary to the syllabus and course material. The instructor will make every effort to inform students of changes as they occur. It is the responsibility of the student to know what changes have been made in order to successfully complete the requirements of the course.