

University of Florida
College of Public Health & Health Professions Syllabus
PHC4101: Public Health Concepts (3 credits)
Spring 2016
Online

Instructor Name: Deepthi S. Varma, PhD, MSW, MPhil
Room Number: 4238
Department of Epidemiology
College of Public Health & Health Professions
College of Medicine
2004 Mowry Road, PO Box 100231
University of Florida
Phone Number: 352 294 5941
Email Address: Please email through the Mail link in the course website
Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Assistants: Diana Rojas Alveraz
Denny Fe Agana
Email: Please email through course website
Office Location: According to the mutual convenience of student and TA
Office Hours: By appointment

Preferred Course Communications: Email

Prerequisites

Junior class status and one statistics course, or permission of the instructor

PURPOSE AND OUTCOME

Course Overview

This is a 3-credit course that will be conducted completely online via Canvas at <http://lss.at.ufl.edu>. You must have a valid Gatorlink ID and password to assess the course in Canvas. For assistance, call the UF Help Desk at 392-HELP.

This is an upper level course intended to introduce undergraduate students in a variety of disciplines to the basic tenets and applications of public health, including integrating public health with other health professions. This course explores the Nation's health challenges, the epidemiologic basis of the public's health, the organization and financing of health services in the United States, and current strategies for advancing the public's health. The course introduces students to a range of topics, issues, and frameworks to help understand current public health issues and modern public health systems, policies, and practices.

The lectures posted on Canvas are pre-recorded by Dr. Varma and guest faculty members from several other departments in the Health Science center. Students are expected to view all lectures and complete required readings and assignments.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to identify the basic fields of public health, read public health graphs, understand public health models and health behaviors, compute relative risks and odds ratios, and understand the nation's health care system. The student will also have a thorough knowledge on the differences between health and health care as well as the top 10 Public Health Achievements in the United States. Successful completion of this course requires a grade of 'C' or better.

Relation to Program Outcomes

- 1) Articulate the goal of public health and its integration with other fields.
- 2) Name and identify various components that comprise the nation's health system.
- 3) Identify public health models that are essential in population based health studies.
- 4) Apply and interpret commonly used terminology and findings in public health studies.
- 5) Discuss the historical contributions of public health to the well-being of the world's population.
- 6) Recognize the distinction between infectious and chronic diseases and public health's approach to both.
- 7) Discuss the social determinants of health and how they are related to health disparities.
- 8) Articulate how federal legislation has supported public health.
- 9) Understand the Ten Great Public Health Achievements in the United States (2001-2010).

Course Objectives

1. Identify public health monitoring systems to identify and solve community health problems
 - a. List and describe the core functions of public health
 - b. Describe the three levels of prevention
 - c. List and describe major surveillance and data collection efforts in the US
2. Recognize health problems and health hazards in the community using an ecological framework
 - a. Describe the levels of the ecological model
 - b. Identify the level of the ecological model that an intervention is designed to target
3. Identify appropriate methods for assessing the determinants of health problems
 - a. List and describe basic epidemiologic measures (rate, prevalence, incidence, etc.) and quantitative study designs (ecological, cross-sectional, cohort, case control, randomized trial)
 - b. List and describe basic qualitative methods (focus groups, in-depth interviews, etc.)
4. Be familiar with agencies that protect health and ensure safety
 - a. Identify the purpose and actions of US public health agencies (EPA, FDA, CDC, etc.)
 - b. Identify reliable sources of public health information

Online Course Format:

This online course is designed to be completed within 16 weeks of the Spring semester. Each week starts on Monday 12:05 AM and ends on Sunday 11:55 PM (Eastern Time) **unless otherwise specified**.

Please see the course schedule at the end of this syllabus for due dates and times for all the 16 weeks for this semester.

Since attendance is asynchronous (not in real time), you may log-in at any time of the day. However, you are expected to participate in the virtual classroom on a weekly basis and complete all readings, discussion requirements, quizzes, assignments, and exams (see Instructor Expectations below for more information). If you have any concerns or questions about the course or assignments/exams, please contact your instructors and/or teaching assistant BEFORE the due date or exam date.

Please note that since exams are conducted at the testing center where the space is reserved according to each course, it is almost impossible to accommodate any requests for changes in exam date or time. Therefore please note the exam date and time and mark your calendar as soon as it is announced so that you are available to take the exams. **Confirmed exam dates and time will be announced by the end of the first week of this semester.** Please see the course schedule in the next section of the syllabus for due dates and times for each week of the semester.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT (Topical Outline/Course Schedule)

Week	Date(s)		Topic(s)	Readings	Assignments
1	Jan 5-10	Online (only this week you have extra days up to January 14th midnight to complete both the Quiz)	Read and understand the course syllabus and Plagiarism guidelines Read: Introduction of 10 Public Health Achievements – United States (Article	Syllabus 10 Public Health Achievements article	Quiz 1 – Syllabus quiz – due 1/14 before 11:55PM – retake allowed Quiz 2 – Plagiarism – due 1/14 before 11:55PM (30 min) – retake allowed
2	Jan 11-17	Online	History of Public Health & Public Health Structure Deepthi Varma, PhD	Chapter 1, 2	Quiz 3- due 1/17 before 11:55pm (30 min) take only one time Week 1 Discussion Board- Introductions – due 1/17 before 11:55PM Assignment - due 1/17 before 11:55pm
3	Jan 18-24	Online	Intro to Epidemiology Statistics	Chapter 3-4 Chapter 7	Quiz 4 – due 1/24 before 11:55PM (30 min) take only one time Week 2 Discussion Board - due 1/24 before 11:55PM Assignment 2: due 1/24 before 11:55PM
4	Jan 25-31	Online	Observational Study Designs Designing a Study	Chapter 5	Quiz 5– due 1/31 before 11:55PM (30 min) take only one time Week 3 Discussion Board - due 1/31 before 11:55PM Assignment 3: due 1/31 before 11:55PM
5	Feb 1-7	Online	Experimental Study Designs	Chapter 6	Quiz 6– due 2/7 before 11:55PM (30 min) take only one time Week 4 Discussion Board - due 2/7 before 11:55PM Assignment 4: due 2/7 before 11:55PM
6	Feb 8-14	Online	Infectious Disease	Chapter 9,10	Quiz 7 – due 2/14 before 11:55PM (30 min) take only one time Week 5 Discussion Board - due 2/14 before 11:55PM Assignment 5: due 2/14 before 11:55PM

Week	Date(s)		Topic(s)	Readings	Assignments
7	Feb 15-21	Online	Chronic Disease	Chapter 11	Quiz 8 – due 2/21 before 11:55PM (30 min) take only one time Week 6 Discussion Board - due 2/21 before 11:55PM Assignment 6: due 2/21 before 11:55PM
8	Feb 22-28	MID TERM EXAM (Topics covered till now) On Campus Feb 24, 2016, Time: 5.30-7.30pm (2 hrs) 12-2 pm, HSC Testing Center			
9	Feb 29-Mar 6	Spring Break			
10	Mar 7-13	Online	Social and Behavioral Health	Chapter 13	QUIZ FOR THIS TOPIC IS INCLUDED IN QUIZ 11 (NEXT WEEK) Week 7 Discussion Board – due 3/13 before 11:55PM Assignment 7: due 3/13 before 11:55PM
11	Mar 14-20	Online	Health Disparities	Chapter 14	Quiz 9 – due 3/20 before 11:55PM (30 min) take only one time / includes topics from Week 10 Week 8 Discussion Board – due 11/1 before 11:55PM Presentation 8: due 11/1 before 11:55PM
12	Mar 21-27	Online	Environmental Health Global Health	Chapters 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25	Quiz 10 – due 3/27 before 11:55PM (30 min) take only one time Week 9 Discussion Board – due 3/27 before 11:55PM Assignment 9: due 3/27 before 11:55PM
13	Mar 28-April 3	Online	Public Health Surveillance Millennium Development Goals (MDG)		Quiz 11 - due 4/3 before 11:55PM (30 min) take only one time Week 10 Discussion Board – due 4/3 before 11:55PM Assignment 10: due 4/3 before 11:55PM

Week	Date(s)		Topic(s)	Readings	Assignments	
14	April 4-10	Online	Mental Health Public Health Preparedness	Chapter 26, 27, 30, 19	NO QUIZ THIS WEEK Week 11 Discussion Board – due 4/10 before 11:55PM	
15	April 11-17	Online	Health Policy and Management Public Health Law and Ethics		INCLUDES TOPICS OF WEEK 14 & 15 Quiz 12 – due 4/17 before 11:55PM (30 min) take only one time Week 12 Discussion Board - due 4/17 before 11:55PM	
16	April 18-24		FINAL EXAM Topics covered after midterm exam April 19, 2016, Time: 4-6pm (2 hrs) HSC Testing Center			

Course Materials and Technology

Required Text:

Introduction to Public Health, 4th edition, 2013
Mary-Jane Schneider.
Jones & Bartlett Publishers
ISBN: 978-1-4496-9736-5

The textbook may be purchased from www.amazon.com

Additional readings may be posted in the Weekly Modules as identified by the Instructor.

Technology Requirements:

- Computer with audio capabilities
- High speed, broadband Internet connection — preferred browsers: FireFox, Explorer, Safari

The UF HelpDesk will be able to assist you with access questions.
For technical support for this class, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- Learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Assessments:

12 Online Quizzes (quizzes # 3-12 worth 12 points each, 120 points total, 20%)

There will be a total of 12 online quizzes in this course. They will be delivered in Canvas once a week over the course of the semester. However, week 1 has 2 quizzes to complete. Each quiz has ten or fewer questions, and you will have 30 minutes to complete each one. Usually students don't need that much time.

- Quiz 1 is based on the course syllabus and will not be figured into your course grade - but it is mandatory and should be retaken until you receive a 100% score. Though your grade will not be factored into your course grade, if/when you receive 100% score, you will receive 2 bonus points.

- Quiz 2 will be based on materials from Marston Science Library's *Avoid Plagiarism Guide* for Students (<http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/msl/07b/students.html>). This quiz should be retaken until you receive a score of 100%. Though your grade will not be factored into your course grade, if/when you receive 100% score, you will receive 10 bonus points.
- Quizzes 3-12 will be based on lectures posted for each week and reading assignments (e.g. textbook, supplemental readings, etc.). The graded quizzes (3-12) will collectively constitute 20% of your final grade. These quizzes may only be taken once and they must be completed before 11:55PM by the last day of the week (Sunday). You may only take Quizzes 3-12 during the week in which it is assigned. If you miss a quiz, you will lose the 12 points allotted for that Quiz.

Please note: you should take each quiz either on a computer hardwired to the Internet or on your own computer while hardwired to the Internet. Wireless connections can be unreliable and can cause you to be disconnected from your quiz due to a dip in signal strength. You will not be allowed to retake the assessment, despite time running out due to technical problems.

Quizzes will automatically CLOSE at 11:55PM on the last day for the quiz even if you are in the middle of taking it. If you start your quiz after 11:25PM on Sunday it will automatically close before your full 30-minutes are up and you will not have an opportunity to retake this quiz.

Assignments:

10 Public Health Achievements in the United States (15 points each, 150 points total, 25.0%)

Every week you have to submit a two page assignment on the allotted Public Health Achievement. Guidelines for submission are given in the Assignment tab in Canvas. Each of these assignments is 15 points and there are 10 Assignments in total.

Posting Responses:

This course utilizes the discussion board as an opportunity to summarize what you have learned from the material, apply it to your current interests in your respective field, and interact with your classmates, instructor, and TA. Several students (about 10, depending on the course size) will be pre-chosen to post a main discussion on the current week's topic or a related topic online.

For those posting a main discussion: Your postings should incorporate your opinions, pertinent information from things that you've read, and examples from your experience that are relevant to public health. Your responses to the other students should include more than phrases such as "I agree with that" or "Interesting comment." The distinguishing feature of a well done posting might include an objective and critical analysis of what you read, what you experienced; or, possibly a short synopsis of a chapter or a related assignment from another course. **Those who are chosen to do the main posts should do so by the Thursday** of that week in order to give other students adequate time to respond to your post.

For those not posting a main discussion: For the students who were not chosen to post a main discussion for the week, you will be responding to at least 1 main discussion. Your posts should feature good writing, correct spelling and grammar. We often assess one another substantially by the quality, clarity and depth of writing. Communication should be professional and use good etiquette. In the spirit of scholarly discussion, I expect responses that agree and disagree with others as long as they apply to the topic and are respectful. Your response to the main post will be due on Sundays.

In our learning model, the heart of active learning occurs through the discussions that help you test your ideas; reinforce what you have learned, and share resources with others in the class.

Exams:

Midterm Exam (140 points, 23.3%) and Final Exam (160 points, 26.7%)

There will be two exams during the semester comprised of multiple choice questions. The midterm exam is worth 140 points and the Final exam is worth 160 points of the course's 600 points. Exam questions are based on both the lectures as well as the materials covered in the textbook.

Grading

Grades are assigned based on the following criteria (see below). We will take every effort to grade all submitted assignments within seven days of the due date. A full explanation of content, discussion questions, assignments and other course components are completely described in the appropriate weekly pages of this syllabus.

All grades will be posted on the course website under *MyGrades*. If a student notices a discrepancy in any grade as it appears online, s/he must contact the course instructor within one week of the posting date in order to have the problem addressed. Students may not wait until the end of the semester to contest a grade.

Breakdown of Points for Each Assignment/Exam:

Requirement	Points	%
Discussion and Interaction (Participation)	30	5.0
For those not posting a main discussion: Write <u>1 response</u> per week to a main discussion		
For those posting a main discussion: Write <u>1 response</u> per week in addition to your posting		
Midterm exam	140	23.3
10 Great Public Health Achievements in United States – 2001-2010	150	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccine Preventable Diseases-----15 • Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases-----15 • Tobacco Control -----15 • Maternal and Infant Health -----15 • Motor Vehicle Safety -----15 • Cardio Vascular Disease Prevention-----15 • Occupational Safety-----15 • Cancer Prevention -----15 • Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention -----15 • Public health Preparedness and Response-----15 		
Quizzes (10*12 points)	120	20.0
Final Exam	160	26.7
Bonus Points	12	
Total	600	100

Tentative due dates for all grade components are listed on the course schedule above and additional information and specific instructions will be posted on the course website, under the *Assignments* tool. Please check Sakai regularly for updates to the syllabus that may affect due dates.

Points earned	93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	Below 60
Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E	WF	I	NG	S-U
Grade Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Attendance Policy

As an online course, you may view your lectures, do your readings, and complete your assignments on your own time. There are strict due dates for assignments and quizzes. All exams (midterm and final) will be conducted on the same day and time as noted in the course schedule at the end of this syllabus. The online course system tracks student participation. This participation data will be analyzed for students who are not advancing in the course at an appropriate pace.

Exam Policy

Both exams will be conducted **on campus and must be completed in person**. Both exams are through Canvas and will be at the HSC testing center. All exams follow a multiple choice format. The Midterm exam will cover portions from Week 1 through Week 7 and the Final exam will cover portions from Week 8 to Week 16. **All exams are done at the HSC testing center during scheduled time. These slots are reserved already for this course and hence changing exam timings for one or two students is extremely difficult.**

Policy Related to Make up Exams or Other Work

If you miss a submission of an assignment for an acceptable reason (as noted below) and have given prior notification to the instructors and TA, when possible, you will be given adequate time to make up any coursework missed. All other missed or late work will receive a grade of zero. Make-up exams will be provided only in cases of excused absences or conflict during final exams per University policy (more than three final exams scheduled on one day or two exams scheduled at the same time) and **MUST** be discussed with the instructors in advance. Make-up exams will differ from those regularly scheduled.

Acceptable reasons for tardy or missed work, with documentation, include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, and professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official University activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Remember that, when possible (i.e. extracurricular activities, official University activities, and religious holidays), prior notification of absence is required if the student plans to be given an extension on assignments or be excused from a class deadline. This notification must be sent to both the instructors and TA.

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues **MUST** be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You **MUST** e-mail me within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS, ROLES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

Expectations Regarding Course Behavior

Use of tablets, cell phones, etc. is not permitted during exams or quizzes.

Online courses require a lot of student organization to keep on task due to the lack of a pre-set class meeting. Please be sure to print this syllabus and plan adequate time each week to view your lectures, read, complete your assignments, and study for your exams. All deadlines and course requirements are expected of online students in the same self-responsibility model as a campus course. Please plan your time accordingly and ask questions if you are not clear on a lecture or assignment before they are due, versus after it is due.

Please do not wait until the last day to submit your assignments as something will inevitably come up to prevent your submission and you will have no time to correct the situation. Such as you didn't charge your laptop and now it is dead, your DSL keeps dropping because of the storm outside, the dog ate your electrical cord or your friend took your thumb drive home instead of theirs, etc. Stuff happens, so please submit **EARLY!**

Please verify that you submitted (1) the right assignment paper (not your biology assignment paper, or version 1 of the assignment) and (2) that you submitted ANY attachment to your assignment. You may go into the Assignment tool and check this immediately after you submit an assignment. Submitting the wrong assignment paper, or no paper attachment, will not waive the late penalty for assignments. So check once, check twice if you have to, and be sure that you sent in what you intended to send in.

Communication Guidelines

Online Conduct: We hope to engage the class in discussions and encourage you to ask questions of the instructors via our discussion boards. Please keep all personal discussion conversations confined to the “Social Discussion” board. Ask for technical assistance via the “Technical Assistance” discussion board. Please treat all individuals in the online class with respect at all times, including fellow students, instructors, and guests. Discussion postings that are deemed inappropriate will be removed from the course site.

Emailing Instructors and TA: If you have questions, please feel free to email us through the *Mail* function of Canvas. For all course and Quiz related matters, doubts and clarifications please email your TA through Canvas; for all content related matters, please email the instructor. Also, **remember to check the checkbox with the cc option that reads “send a copy of this message to recipients' email address (es);”** this will ensure a timely response to your question. Please contact the UF HelpDesk if you have access questions or technical issues with the course: (352) 392-HELP (4357) or helpdesk@ufl.edu or in the HUB, room 132.

Responses to your Emails: We will be in the online classroom at least four days per week. We will respond to questions within 48 hours. All work will be graded within seven days of the original due date. However, if you write to us on the previous day of the due date and expect us to respond before the due date, it may or may not happen. So please remember to check the assignment and plan your work way ahead of the due date. Responses from instructors during weekends will be slower as compared to week days.

Submission of Assignments: Please keep a copy of all assignments and work submitted. Canvas will issue an email receipt when assignments are submitted. Please check your submission to be sure it was properly submitted and that you attached the correct file. You will NOT be excused from a late submission penalty if you submit the wrong attachment or do not submit any attachment. You should make the commitment to post your responses for exercises, assignments and discussions on the due dates each week. The assignment links close on the due dates. The classroom should be active all week -- not just on weekends. Print the syllabus for your reference. It is your responsibility to be aware of all assignments, due dates and guidelines. All assignments must be submitted through Turnitin.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity. As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge:

“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”

You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For additional information regarding Academic Integrity, please see Student Conduct and Honor Code or the Graduate Student Website for additional details:

<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>
<http://gradschool.ufl.edu/students/introduction.html>

Please remember cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

Online Faculty Course Evaluation Process

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of

the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, you must register with the Dean of Students Office <http://www.dso.ufl.edu> within the first week of class. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation of accommodations to you, which you must submit to me as the instructor of the course to receive accommodations. Please make sure you provide this letter to me by the end of the second week of the course. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

Counseling and Student Health

Students sometimes experience stress from academic expectations and/or personal and interpersonal issues that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing issues that have the potential to or are already negatively affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and/or seek help through University resources available to you.

- The Counseling and Wellness Center 352-392-1575 offers a variety of support services such as psychological assessment and intervention and assistance for math and test anxiety. Visit their web site for more information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu>. On line and in person assistance is available.
- You Matter We Care website: <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>. If you are feeling overwhelmed or stressed, you can reach out for help through the You Matter We Care website, which is staffed by Dean of Students and Counseling Center personnel.
- The Student Health Care Center at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 392-0627 or check out the web site at: <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>
- Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from:
Alachua County Crisis Center:
(352) 264-6789
<http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx>

Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone and so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.
