

University of Florida
College of Public Health & Health Professions Syllabus
PHC6600: Foundations of Public Health
Spring 2025, 3 Credit Hours, Delivery Format: Lecture, E-Learning in Canvas

Instructor: Keith Benson, Ph.D., MHA, MBA
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Office Hours: Monday 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Preferred course communications: Email or Canvas Message

PURPOSE AND OUTCOMES

Course Overview

The course introduces public health, population health management, and how it relates to health care administration. The course includes understanding how the health professions and specialized health research contribute to achieving public health goals.

Relation to Program Outcomes

Students pursuing degrees within the UF College of Public Health and Health Professions must be grounded in fundamental public health knowledge, including sub-disciplines of epidemiology, biostatistics, biomedical sciences, environmental health science, social and behavioral sciences, and health policy and management. The course objectives, assignments, and activities are designed to contribute towards mastery of critical competencies in the Master of Health Administration (MHA) curriculum. Also, with changes in care and payment models, many healthcare organizations are looking at how they can influence factors outside their delivery systems to improve community health.

Course Objectives and Goals

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate fundamental knowledge in the public health sub-disciplines.
- Discuss the history of public health in the United States.
- Relate the social-ecological model to public health research and services.
- Describe the core functions and essential services of public health and how they relate to healthcare management.
- Describe how health is measured and compared across regions or populations.
- Discuss the structure of the public health system in the United States and its relationship to the healthcare system.
- Specify how public health interventions are created, implemented, and evaluated.
- Demonstrate how discipline-specific research contributes to population health.
- Apply public health principles and practices to healthcare management scenarios.

Instructional Methods

The course is housed in UF e-Learning in Canvas. Your participation in the class is vital to your success. Be prepared to participate in each class; students will be called on randomly if voluntary participation lags.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT

Topical Outline/Course Schedule

All assignments, including chapter readings, supplemental readings, and designated assignments, must be completed before class to facilitate your learning and participation in class discussions. If you miss class, you must obtain notes, handouts, and a summary of the lesson/class activities from your team members or peers. The syllabus and course schedule are subject to revision. Confirm deadlines in class and always check Canvas for updates.

Module	Date	Topics & Assignments	Required Text Chapter Reading Supplemental Readings are in Canvas
1	1/13	What is Public Health (PH) PH and Health Administration In-class Assignment	All the readings posted in Module 1
	1/20	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday	None
2	1/27	Public Health: Prevention, Promotion, Protection Social Determinants of Health (Part 1): Where You Live Impacts Your Health	Chapter 1 Chapter 2
3	2/3	Social Determinants of Health (Part 2): Keys to Improving Community Health	Chapter 3
4	2/10	Prevention, Challenges, and Population Health The Role of Data in Population Health	Chapter 4 Chapter 5
5	2/17	Exam 1 (Modules 1, 2, 3, & 4) Epidemiology: The Basic Science of Public Health Descriptive Epidemiology: The Significance of Person, Place, and Time	Chapter 6 Chapter 7
6	2/24	Guest Speakers – UF Environmental Health and Safety	
7	3/3	Epidemiological Measures of Disease Burden and Disease Frequency Analytical Epidemiology: Steps Toward Establishing Association and Causation Between Exposure and Disease	Chapter 8 Chapter 9
8	3/10	Exam 2 (Modules 5, 6, & 7)	None
	3/17	Spring Break	
9	3/24	Infectious Disease Epidemiology Community Health Assessment: A Public Health Duty	Chapter 10 Chapter 11
10	3/31	Population Health: A Culture of Health Improvement Approaches	Chapter 12
11	4/7	Principles of Population Health Management Population Health Improvement: A Systems Approach	Chapter 13 Chapter 14
12	4/14	Future of Public Health PSA Presentations	In Canvas
13	4/21	Exam 3 (Modules 10, 11, 12, & 13)	

Course Materials and Technology

Required Textbook: *Population Health, Epidemiology, and Public Health*, 2nd Edition, Rosemary M. Caron, HAP Press, ISBN: 9781640552920

Additional Materials: selected supplemental websites and articles will be posted on Canvas. You are responsible for all supplemental readings. Supplementary material will be discussed in class and included

in tests. PowerPoint presentations will be posted on the course website; however, they will only sometimes be available before class. Material provided in the PowerPoint presentations is intended to supplement the course material and information discussed in class.

Instructional materials for this course consist of only those materials specifically reviewed, selected, and assigned by the instructor(s). The instructor(s) is only responsible for these instructional materials.

Technology

Course materials are housed and available on CANVAS e-learning

For technical support for this class, please get in touch with the UF Help Desk at:

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

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Exams

Exams are primarily multiple-choice, true/false, and 1-3 short answer questions. The exam material includes PowerPoints, lectures, class discussions, student presentations, assigned readings in the textbook, and selected supplemental readings. The exams are not cumulative and focus on the information presented in specific modules. However, many concepts learned at the beginning of class are built upon and repeated or applied in subsequent tests.

In-class Assignments, Homework, and Quizzes

Multiple graded in-class assignments, homework, and quizzes will occur throughout the semester. Examples include creating and giving a presentation on an assigned topic, leading an exercise applying a public health practice in a healthcare management scenario, and writing a position paper. More details will be posted in Canvas.

Public Health Presentation

Each student will choose a topic concerning a public health concern from the textbook, select at least three current publications (within one year), and develop a presentation for the class. The presentation will cover the topic, why it is an issue, and how it relates to healthcare managers. The student will present and lead a discussion on the issue.

Public Health Public Service Announcement (PSA)

Students will be divided into teams, and each team will select a topic related to public health and UF students. Each team will create a TikTok or YouTube-like video with a one-page handout. Videos need to be between 2-4 minutes, and be creative!

Attendance (Extra Credit)

Students are expected to arrive for class on time, prepared and ready to participate in class discussions. The instructor will conduct "random in-class attendance check" assignments throughout the semester. Students who earn 100% on these checks will have five bonus points added to their lowest test score. Requirements for class attendance in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Grading

Requirement	Due	%
Exams (each is worth 15%)	Date posted in the syllabus	45
Public Health Presentation	Times and dates discussed in class or posted in Canvas	10
Public Health Public Service Announcement	Times and dates discussed in class or posted in Canvas	15
In-class assignments, homework, and quizzes	Times and dates discussed in class or posted in Canvas	30

Grade Calculation

This course uses the percent/weighted grading function in the Canvas. The assignment teams are entered in the assignments page and add up to 100%.

Points earned	93-100	90-92.99	87-89.99	83-86.99	80-82.99	77-79.99	70-76.99	67-69.99	63-66.99	60-62.99	Below 60
Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D+	D	D-	E

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	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	1.33	1.0	0.67	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

For greater detail on the meaning of letter grades and university policies related to them, see the Registrar's Grade Policy regulations at <https://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/>

Make-up Exams and Assignments

Make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. Students will be permitted a reasonable amount of time for excused absences to make up the material or activities covered in their absence. If you miss a test and a make-up test is approved, the test will be made up before or by the next designated testing date.

Technical Issues

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

Late Submissions

Late submissions are not encouraged but will be accepted for up to 7 days, but with the following policies and penalty schedule: It may be possible to avoid a late penalty if you contact the instructor at least 24 hours in advance. In some cases, documentation may be requested. If a lateness allowance is agreed to, this applies to a single assignment. It does not allow you to delay future assignments.

If your assignment is late, you will lose 10% each day. Thus, if an assignment is worth 30 points, you will lose 3 points for each late day. "Late" begins one minute after the due time (e.g., an assignment due at 8:34 am is considered late at 8:35 am). Penalties are as follows:

1 minute to 24 hours late	10% of the maximum deducted from the achieved grade
One day + 1 minute late to 48 hours late	20% of the maximum deducted from the achieved grade

Two days + 1 minute late to 72 hours late	30% of the maximum deducted from the achieved grade
Three days + 1 minute late to 96 hours late	40% of the maximum deducted from the achieved grade
Four days + 1 minute late to 120 hours late	50% of the maximum deducted from the achieved grade
Five days + 1 minute late to 144 hours late	60% of the maximum deducted from the achieved grade
Six days + 1 minute late to 168 hours late	70% of the maximum deducted from the achieved grade
Seven days + 1 minute late or longer	100% of the maximum deducted from the achieved grade

Policy Related to Required Class Attendance

Class attendance is a critical component of the learning process. Students are expected to be present for all classes since much of the material will be covered only once in class. Please note that the UF policy for excused absences binds all faculty. For additional details regarding the UF Attendance Policy, see the Registrar's website: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Policy on Collaboration

Unless otherwise stated explicitly by written instructions, all coursework should be prepared individually. Before beginning any graded assignment, ask the instructor if you need clarification on the appropriate collaboration level.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS, ROLES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

This class teaches students about public health, population health management, and healthcare administration. Therefore, the professor will operate the classroom as an organization based on the policies mentioned below.

Administrator-in-training (AIT) – Students are expected to take an active role in learning after entering the classroom. Examples include asking questions, offering position statements, and providing course feedback. AITs are expected to give input on class structure and course content. In other words, AITs are encouraged to become “co-owners” of PHC 6600.

Expectations Regarding Course Behavior

You are expected to maintain a civil tone and respect the opinions of other persons. While commenting on others' positions is encouraged, aggressive or patronizing tone and language are unacceptable and may result in a grade reduction.

Communication Guideline

Preferred communication is via direct email. Response within 24 hours to emails received on weekdays (M-F) and 48 hours to emails received over the weekend. Response via Canvas Message may be delayed.

Professional Development - A critical part of the AIT development process is the internalization of professionalism. Examples of professionalism are arriving to class on time, not watching the clock, participating in classroom exercises, quality and thoughtfulness of comments, competition assignments, and valuing and respecting your peers. Essentially, this measures the value you add to the class! Remember – in today's competitive job market, prospective employers are looking for reasons NOT to hire and not for reasons to hire. Please do not share the following information with your peers.

Electronic Device Policy:

Electronic devices (laptops, tablets, and cell phones) are prohibited during guest lectures and presentations. The necessity of classroom interaction in this course negates the usefulness of electronic devices as note-taking devices. Using your electronic device during class can also prove distracting to your

classmates, so please refrain from using your electronic device during class. When the use of electronic devices is permitted, please adhere to the following-

- Charge your device fully before coming to class.
- Set your laptop volume control to mute or off before class.
- Remember to keep your laptop closed during presentations and other in-class activities.
- Do not engage in unauthorized communication or entertainment (web surfing, instant messaging, chat room chatting, DVD viewing, music playing, game playing, etc.) during class unless it is part of the lesson.

Guest Lecturers:

If we have a guest lecturer during the semester, please be respectful and participate, arrive on time, and refrain from staring at your phone/laptop.

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. 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.”

Your responsibility is 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 further details:

<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

<http://gradschool.ufl.edu/students/introduction.html>

Please remember that cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism is unacceptable and inexcusable.

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 you with accommodations documentation, which you must then give to me as the course instructor to receive accommodations. Please ensure 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.

U Matter, We Care

Your well-being is essential to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging community members to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a community member is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A

nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to other supporting resources, including Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

Counseling and Student Health

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

- The Counseling and Wellness Center 352-392-1575 offers various support services such as psychological assessment, intervention, and math and test anxiety assistance. Visit their website for more information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu>. Online and in-person help is available.
- You Matter We Care website: <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>. If you feel 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 is available to UF students. More information can be found at the website 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>

Please come in and talk with us before you reach a crisis. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone, so feel free to ask for assistance.