University of Florida
College of Public Health & Health Professions Syllabus
PHC 6XXX: Environmental Policy and Risk Management in Public Health (3 credit hours)
Spring XXXX
Delivery Format: Online via e-learning in Canvas

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Preferred Course Communications: The "Inbox" in Canvas will be used for all email correspondence. Instructors and TAs will not be responsible for emails sent their "UFL" email addresses

Prerequisites:
PHC 6313: Environmental Health Concepts in Public Health
PHC 6XXX: Environmental Toxicology Applications in Public Health

PURPOSE AND OUTCOME

Course Overview
This course provides students with an in depth understanding of the government's environmental health structure, environmental policy making processes, important environmental policies, and application of these policies through risk assessment and management techniques to protect the public and the environment.

Course Objectives and/or Goals
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Describe the environmental legislative process, the jurisdiction of key government agencies involved in environmental health, and important legislation that governs our approach to protecting public and environmental health
2. Apply knowledge of environmental legislation to case studies to determine jurisdiction and approach
3. Evaluate current environmental policies and determine whether they are adequate to ensure a sustainable future
4. Explain the risk assessment process as well as its application in risk management
5. Develop a quantitative risk assessment framework for environmental hazards

Relation to Program and Learning Outcomes
Competencies primarily gained in this course
1. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community using an ecological framework
2. Use laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
3. Communicate effectively with constituencies in oral and written forms

Competencies reinforced in this course

1. Recognition of the role of environmental sciences in the health of populations
2. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
3. Conduct research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

Instructional Methods
1. Lectures: Students are responsible for all the material presented in the course and assigned readings. This will be the main source of content in this course.
2. Readings and Resources. In addition to the required text, supplementary readings and resources will be posted in the course. The reading list may be supplemented during the course.
3. Assessments: The primary assessments will be written assignments, development of a quantitative risk assessment, and a mid-term and final examination.

What is expected of you?

You are expected to watch weekly lectures and complete all readings, assignments, and exams. Additionally, you are expected to actively engage in the course throughout the semester. Your participation fosters a rich experience for you and your peers that facilitate overall mastery of the course objectives.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT
This course is taught as a series of modules, each covering one specific aspect of environmental policy and risk management. Each module may contain lectures, external links, videos, discussions and required readings as well as assignments. You are responsible for all course content regardless of the format. The topical Outline/Course Schedule below details the dates of content modules and assignments. Debates and Exams are also listed.

Getting Started
1. Visit http://lss.at.ufl.edu and login to e-Learning in Canvas using your Gatorlink ID and password.
2. Find our course website. It will be listed as PHC6XXX-Environmental Policy and Risk Management in Public Health – Dr. Joseph Bisesi – Spring 2019
3. Complete the "Getting Started" Module under the Modules Tool (left menu). This will prompt you to download and review the syllabus, review the materials on plagiarism, and complete the syllabus quiz.

The remainder of the course materials will be locked and unavailable to you until you have completed the "Getting Started" Module. You MUST earn a 100% score on the quiz in this module for the course materials to open in the course site. If you do not receive a 100% score, please review the feedback on your quiz attempt and retake as soon as possible. This is an important element to insure that all students are aware of the curriculum requirements for this course. If you have ANY difficulty with this quiz, please send an email to me using the Canvas "Inbox" as soon as possible.

Course Materials and Technology
Text book (Required):
Environmental Policy and Public Health*, 2nd edition*
Barry L. Johnson and Maureen Y. Lichtveld, CRC Press, 2017 ISBN 978-1498799393

e-Learning in Canvas site:

There will be an online site for this course in Canvas, the learning management system supported by the University. Log in at https://lss.at.ufl.edu/ and go to course site for PHC6XXX-Environmental Policy and Risk Management in Public Health – Dr. Joseph Bisesi – Spring 2019

Here, I will post the syllabus, lecture slides, assignments and allow for communication between the students and course instructors. You will also turn in assignments through this site. Once the course begins, all communication will take place through the e-Learning in Canvas site. This includes all emails. This will eliminate any issues with students not getting emails due to connection problems. It will be your responsibility to check the site on a routine basis to keep up with announcements, emails, and course modifications.

For technical support related to course materials and links, please contact me and the online course coordinator.

For technical support for this e-Learning in Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at:
- Learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/

Topical Outline/Course Schedule

Week	Date(s)	Topic(s)	Readings
Section I: Introduction to Environmental Policy and Enforcement			
1	1/7/2019	History of Environmental Policy and US Government Environmental Health Structure	Chapter 1 and 3
2	1/14/2019	Steps in Environmental Health Policy Making	Chapters 2 and 4
Section II: Environmental Policy			
3	1/21/2019	Air and Water	Chapters 8 and 9
4	1/28/2019	Solid and Hazardous Waste	Chapter 12
5	2/4/2019	Pesticides and Toxic Substances	Chapter 11
6	2/11/2019	Food Safety	Chapter 10
7	2/18/2018	Mid-term Exam	None
Section III: Risk Assessment and Management			
8	2/25/2019	Introduction and Hazard Characterization	Chapter 19
9	3/4/2019	Spring Break (No Class)	None
10	3/11/2019	Exposure and Effects Assessments	None
11	3/18/2019	Risk Characterization	None
12	3/25/2019	Risk Management	None
Section IV: Special Topics in Environmental Policy			
13	4/1/2019	Occupational Safety and Health	Chapter 4 OSHA and NIOSH
14	4/8/2019	Environmental Justice and Ethics	Chapter 18
15	4/15/2019	International Environmental Health Programs and Policy	Chapter 5
16	4/22/2019	Final Risk Assessment Project Presentations	None
17	4/29/2019	Final Exam	None

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

General information
Assignments are to be turned in as a Word document or PowerPoint file as directed, unless otherwise indicated. They will be returned to you with comments. If you have unexpected issues with Canvas, you may email the assignment to the course TA and instructor directly. Assignments are normally intended as individual projects unless otherwise directed. Shared work may be treated as a form of plagiarism. Assignments may be required to be submitted via Turnitin in this course (this will be done automatically in the Canvas Assignment). This tool will pick up any passages in students' work that come from another source. Be sure to adequately cite your sources/references for these assignments to avoid plagiarism (see format below). Also please confirm that your work is not overtly plagiarized, the Turnitin system will give you a report. Some similarity is expected and unavoidable, however if large portions are copied from other sources, this will be as considered plagiarism. Please check your Turnitin report by going back to the assignment and clicking on the colored box icon in the assignment (you want to achieve a blue or green indication) – anything yellow, orange or red should be adjusted and re-submitted BEFORE the assignment deadline. So, it is recommended that you submit EARLY to enable you to utilize this option of resubmission. Resubmissions after the due date may be subject to a late submission penalty. Written assignments will be due at 11:55 PM on the due date. Late submissions will be subject to the late assignment policy below.

The Canvas assignment tool will notify you confirming the submission of your assignment. PLEASE check your UFL email at http://webmail.ufl.edu on a regular basis for these and other email notices from the course site. If you do not receive an email confirmation within 2 hours of submission, please return to the site and resubmit your assignment. It is a student's responsibility to verify that they turn in assignments on time and that they turn in the CORRECT assignment attachment. Please take a few moments to open your submitted attachment and verify that you have submitted to correct file.

Policy Brief Assignments (due dates vary - see Canvas)
There will be 2 Policy Briefs (100 points each; Total 200 points, 20% of final grade). For each policy brief you be assigned an emerging environmental health issue and review the options for developing a new policy or changing an existing policy that addresses the environmental health issue. Policy brief 1 will be an "objective brief". For the objective brief you will consider multiple policy options but will not advocate one policy over another. Policy brief 2 will be an "advocacy brief". For the advocacy brief you will consider multiple policy options with the requirement that you advocate one policy over another (or others). Detailed instructions and the grading rubric for each policy brief is provided in Canvas.

Case Study Assignment (due week 6)
There will be 1 Case Study Assignment (100 points, 10% of final grade). For this assignment, real-world environmental disaster cases that involved environmental case law are reviewed and summarized both individually and as a group. This assignment is partially individual (written and participation portions) and partially a group project (presentation portion). Your case study group will be assigned in the first week of class. Each group will choose an environmental disaster case from the list provided. Because this is partially a group assignment, each student group must collectively agree on a single environmental disaster case. Environmental disaster topics are chosen on a first come first serve basis and only one group will be allowed to brief and present on a given topic so choose your topic as soon as possible. Once the group has decided on an environmental disaster case, they will send their selection to the instructor for approval. Once a topic is chosen and approved by the instructors, all members of the group must

complete both the individual and group components of this assignment using this topic. There are three components of this assignment:

1. Case Study Brief (50% of grade): Each INDIVIDUAL student will write a student brief of the environmental disaster, the associated case law, a discussion of the relevant environmental policy highlighted in the case, and the community impacted by the case.

2. Group Presentation (40% of grade): Each GROUP will record a brief 5-minute video presentation (with PowerPoint slides) that summarizes the key elements discussed in the student brief. The group will work together to summarize materials from their individual briefs in this component.

3. Discussion Posts (10% of grade): Each INDIVIDUAL will post a VIDEO discussion post on at least two other student case study presentations and a VIDEO response responding to each student post made about your own presentation (dialogue about these cases is important). Remember that this portion should be completed by each individual, not as a group.

Detailed instructions and the grading rubric for the Case Study Assignment are provided in Canvas.

Risk Assessment Project (due week 16)
Each student will complete a risk assessment project during the course (200 points, 20% of final grade). Students will be separated into groups and given a specific spill scenario for which they will be expected to develop risk assessment. Each group will be given data about the site including measurements of concentrations, at risk populations, and other details. From this data students will perform a hazard characterization, develop a conceptual frame work, perform an exposure assessment and effects assessment, and characterize the potential risk. During the final week of class each group will present their risk assessment (via recording) and provide recommendations for risk management. Detailed instructions and the grading rubric for the Risk Assessment Assignment are provided in Canvas.

Fish Bowl Discussions (due dates vary-see canvas)
Each student will participate in a small fish bowl discussion (50 points, 5% of final grade) as well as participate as an observer of other fish bowl discussions by providing feedback (50 points, 5% of final grade) for a total of 100 points. In a fish bowl discussion, a small group discusses a given topic, while the rest of the class watches and provides feedback on the processes and outcomes of the small group discussion. Groups for the fish bowl discussion are based on assigned topics for the objective policy brief. Each objective policy brief has 4-5 students assigned to it. After completing the individual objective policy brief (described above) students with the same assigned topic will get together to have a live discussion of their individual perspectives on the assigned case. The discussion will be recorded and presented to the rest of the class for additional discussion of the content and the process of smaller discussion group. Each student is expected to be a participant in one fish bowl discussion of their assigned case study, and participate as an observer for all other fish bowl discussions by posting feedback on the Canvas discussion board. While participating in your fishbowl discussion (inside the fishbowl), students are expected to provide a 20-30-minute discussion between your group members that dissects the assigned policy issue so that fellow students can understand it clearly. Students that are not participating in the Fishbowl discussion (i.e. those outside of the fishbowl) will view the recordings from the discussion forum and evaluate whether they feel the group adequately explained the topic and all the controversies surrounding it. Each student will need to make one post as an observer for each fish bowl discussion, with exception for their group's discussion. More details on the anticipated content of discussion posts will be posted on the Canvas site.

Exams (midterm due week 7, final exam due week 17)
There will be two in class exams: a midterm and a final (200 points each; Total 400 points, 40% of final grade). The format for both exams will be **CLOSED BOOK**. The midterm exam will test your knowledge of the first series of modules, including material covered in lectures and assigned readings. The final exam will focus on material covered in modules from the midterm onward; however, as this material builds on concepts presented during the first half of the course, it will be imperative to have a good comprehension of material covered during the first part of the course. Both exams will be comprised of multiple choice, matching, and true/false questions, where you will be expected to interpret the material that is presented in the course and apply it to the scenarios or situations that the exam questions present. You will have 2 hours to complete each exam. Exams will be administered through the Canvas Online Learning System. We will utilize Proctor U proctoring service for all exams. More information on how to take exams will be provided on the course site.

Grading

Requirement	Points	Due date	Individual or Group Assignment
Policy Briefs (2 @ 100 points)	200	dates vary - see canvas	Individual
Case Study	100	Week 6	Individual/Group
Risk Assessment Project	200	Week 16	Group
Discussion posts	100	dates vary - see canvas	Individual
Midterm Exam	200	Week 7	Individual
Final Exam	200	Week 17	Individual
Total	1000		

Point system used (i.e., how do course points translate into letter grades).

Percentage of 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%
Points Earned	1000-930	929-900	899-870	869-830	829-800	799-770	769-730	729-700	699-670	669-630	629-600	Below 600
Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E

Please be aware that a C- is not an acceptable grade for graduate students. The GPA for graduate students must be 3.0. in all 5000 level courses and above to graduate. A grade of C counts toward a graduate degree only if a sufficient number of credits in courses numbered 5000 or higher have been earned with a B+ or higher.

Passing grades and Grade Points: Credit Earned

Passing Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
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

For greater detail on the meaning of letter grades and university policies related to them, see the Registrar's Grade Policy regulations at:
http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Late Assignments and Make Up Work
Assignments turned in up to 24 hours late will be discounted **10%** of the grade that they would otherwise receive. Assignments turned in more than 24 hours late will **not** be graded and will contribute zero points toward your final grade, unless arrangements have been made in advance with the instructor or students have an excused absence warranting adjustments to due date. Missed assignments will contribute zero points toward your final grade.

Special Circumstances. In the event of exceptional situations that may interfere with your ability to perform an assignment or meet a deadline, contact the instructor as soon in advance of the deadline as possible. Such special cases will be dealt on an individual basis, provided that you have sufficient documentation.

Please note: Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the UF Computing help desk (http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/) correspondence. You MUST e-mail me within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Policy Related to Required Class Attendance
All faculty are bound by the UF policy for excused absences. For information regarding the UF Attendance Policy see the Registrar website for additional details:
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS, ROLES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

Expectations Regarding Course Behavior
You are expected to maintain a civil tone and respect the opinions of other posters. While commenting on others' posts is encouraged, aggressive or patronizing tone and language are unacceptable and may result in the loss of your posting and discussion privileges.

Communication Guidelines
You are required to contact the professor by email using the "Inbox" in Canvas for clarification and assistance with the course material and the assignments, and for special issues that may arise. Weekday daytime (US Eastern Time) emails have the best chances of being answered quickly. Please only use the Canvas "Inbox" to communicate with the course instructor and/or TA. While the instructors and TAs will check their UFL email regularly, they will not be held responsible for email sent directly to their UFL addresses.

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. Plagiarism is especially damaging in an online learning environment and will be dealt with in an official way, according to University of Florida regulations. Incidents will be reported directly to the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Office and a formal procedure will be started in each and every case. There will be no informal incident resolution between student and instructor. Should you have any doubts on whether something constitutes plagiarism, please consult the many available resources on the topic, e.g. starting with http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/msl/subjects/Physics/StudentPlagiarism.html, or contact the instructor in advance. There is also a reference posted in the course site, in the Course Help link. As you submit assignments, you will have the opportunity to check it for unintentional plagiarism using Turnitin®, the same software that instructors will use to check your work. You are encouraged to take advantage of this option.

You are expected to turn in original work in this course. This means that when answering assignment questions, writing papers, posting discussions, etc you will be expected to write your responses in your own words. You **MAY NOT** copy answers word for word from any course materials or outside sources. On occasion it may be useful to provide a quote from course materials or outside sources in which case you must properly cite the source and place the quote in quotation marks. That being said we urge you to avoid excessive quotation as it does little to demonstrate you understanding of course material.

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, it is strongly recommended you register with the Dean of Students Office http://www.dso.ufl.edu within the first week of class or as soon as you believe you might be eligible for accommodations. The Dean of Students Office will provide

documentation of accommodations to you, which you must then give to the instructor of the course to receive accommodations. Please do this as soon as possible after you receive the letter. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. 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 so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.

Inclusive Learning Environment
Public health and health professions are based on the belief in human dignity and on respect for the individual. As we share our personal beliefs inside or outside of the classroom, it is always with the understanding that we value and respect diversity of background, experience, and opinion, where every individual feels valued. We believe in, and promote, openness and tolerance of differences in ethnicity and culture, and we respect differing personal, spiritual, religious and political values. We further believe that celebrating such diversity enriches the quality of the educational experiences we provide our students and enhances our own personal and professional relationships. We embrace The University of Florida's Non-Discrimination Policy, which reads, "The University shall actively promote equal opportunity policies and practices conforming to laws against discrimination. The University is committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act." If you have questions or concerns about your rights and responsibilities for inclusive learning environment, please see your instructor or refer to the Office of Multicultural & Diversity Affairs website: www.multicultural.ufl.edu