

University of Florida
College of Public Health & Health Professions Syllabus
PHC6900 Environmental and Global Health Journal Club (1 credit hour)
Semester: Summer C 2021
Delivery Format: On Campus

Instructor's Name: Tony Maurelli, Ph.D.

Day/Time: Thursdays, 11:00 am-12:15 pm

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Office Hours: Mondays, 8:30 am-9:30 am

Office Location: Emerging Pathogens Institute, Building 1377, Room 472

Preferred Course Communications: Canvas

Prerequisites: None

PURPOSE AND OUTCOME

Course Overview

This course provides students with fundamental skills for reading, understanding, and critically analyzing scientific research papers in environmental and global health. Students choose a paper and present the results of the scientific study to the class. Thus, both critical thinking and public speaking skills are developed through this course.

Relation to Program Objectives

This course fulfills a core requirement for graduate students in the PhD program in Public Health, Environmental Health and One Health concentrations. However, students from environmental health and one health masters programs are welcome to take this course.

Course Objectives and/or Goals

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

1. Describe and critique the structure and content of a peer-reviewed scientific paper
2. Perform a critical analysis of data presented and described in the published literature
3. Implement reasoned arguments to defend a scientific conclusion/viewpoint
4. Design and deliver high quality presentations of a scientific study

Competencies reinforced in this course

PhD in Public Health, Environmental Health Concentration

1. Evaluate the direct and indirect human and ecological effects of major environmental agents
2. Analyze scenarios to determine which populations or species may be at risk based on knowledge of general mechanisms of toxicity associated with environmental toxicants, and associated health outcomes to various populations

3. Develop testable hypotheses and models to evaluate biological and chemical environmental exposures

PhD in Public Health, One Health Concentration

1. Examine complex scenarios involving pathogenic organisms that span across human, animal, and environmental health and develop strategies to solve these scenarios using a One Health Approach.
2. Develop hypothesis driven research questions that address One Health issues
3. Evaluate how environmental factors can influence the evolution of pathogens that cause diseases in humans

Instructional Methods

1. Individual class presentations
2. Class discussion of presentations

What is expected of you?

You are expected to actively engage in the course throughout the semester. You must come to class prepared by having read all papers assigned for discussion. Additional reading beyond the assigned paper is encouraged to help in preparation for discussion. This preparation gives you the knowledge needed to engage in higher levels of learning during the live class sessions. If you are not prepared for the face-to-face sessions, you may struggle to keep pace with the activities, and it is unlikely that you will reach the higher learning goals of the course. Similarly, you are expected to actively participate in the live class. Your participation fosters a rich course experience for you and your peers that facilitates overall mastery of the course objectives.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT

Topic Outline/Course Schedule

Week	Date(s)	Presenter	Paper(s) to be presented and discussed
1	May 13	Tony Maurelli	How to read and present a scientific paper
2	May 20	TBD*	Chosen by student and approved by instructor
3	May 27	TBD	Chosen by student and approved by instructor
4	June 3	TBD	Chosen by student and approved by instructor
5	June 10	TBD	Chosen by student and approved by instructor
6	June 17	TBD	Chosen by student and approved by instructor
7	June 24	None	No class, mid semester break
8	July 1	TBD	Chosen by student and approved by instructor
9	July 8	TBD	Chosen by student and approved by instructor
10	July 15	TBD	Chosen by student and approved by instructor
11	July 22	TBD	Chosen by student and approved by instructor
12	July 29	TBD	Chosen by student and approved by instructor
13	August 5	TBD	Chosen by student and approved by instructor

* Students registered for class will be assigned a date for their class presentation

Course Materials and Technology

There is no required textbook for this course. Pertinent journal articles and reading materials as they apply to each class meeting will be found on the course website. Other materials will be accessible on-line.

Getting Started

1. Visit <http://lss.at.ufl.edu> and login to e-Learning in Canvas using your Gatorlink ID and password.
2. Find the course website. It will be listed as PHC6900: Environmental and Global Health Journal Club, Summer 2021

Required Technology:

Canvas e-Learning 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 PHC6900: Environmental and Global Health Journal Club, Summer 2021. The syllabus, class schedule, reading/presentation assignments will be posted here. Once the course begins, all communication will take place during class time or through the Canvas e-Learning site. All course-related emails should be sent using Canvas. 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 for this class, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- helpdesk@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>

Additional Academic Resources

[Career Connections Center](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

[Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

[Teaching Center](#): Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

[Writing Studio](#): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.](#)

On-Line Students Complaints: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.](#)

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

General Information

Students will be graded on their individual presentation(s) to the class as well as their participation in class discussions.

Class participation (4 points per week x 10 weeks = 40 points or 40% of final grade)

All students will participate in discussions each week throughout the course. All students are expected to have critically read the paper in advance and come prepared to have a good discussion. Students will receive credit for these discussions based on their active contribution to the discussions, which will be conducted as a class group. All discussions will take place in the classroom (and live synchronous Zoom sessions, as applicable). Each student will participate in 10 discussion, and present/lead 1 discussion (discussed below). Points for discussions are awarded in all weeks except the week the student presents. Students who have been active participants in a given week's discussion will receive 4 points with a total of 40 points over the 10 discussions.

Class presentation (60% or 60 points)

Each student will present a research paper from the scientific literature during the course. Scientific articles must be chosen from one of the following areas of research within environmental and global health:

- One Health – the global intersection of human, animal, and environmental health
- Environmental toxicology
- Global environmental change
- Exposure science
- Emerging environmental hazards
- Nanoscience
- Mechanisms of environmental diseases
 - Infectious diseases
 - Chemical and non-biological agents
- Water quality and sanitation
- Global health nutrition
- Aquatic animal health
- Worker health and safety

Each student will submit the paper that they propose to present to the instructor for approval. A question and answer/discussion period with the class will follow the student's presentation. The following grading rubric will be used:

Presentation Content (30 points)

- Background
- Methods
- Results

Critical analysis of the paper (10 points)

Presentation skills (10 points)
Discussion Q&A (10 points)

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

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

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

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:
<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#grades>

Special Circumstances

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

Policy Related to Required Class Attendance

Class attendance is a part of the Professionalism component of this course. It is expected that you will notify the instructor in advance when you know you will miss or be late to class.

Attendance Policy

- > 10 minutes late = absence
- leaving > 15 minutes early = absence
- 2 unexcused absences = grade change

Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Graduate Catalog (<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#attendance>) and require appropriate documentation. Additional information can be found at <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 students in the class. While discussion is part of the class and is encouraged, aggressive or patronizing tone and language are unacceptable and unprofessional.

Communication Guidelines

You are encouraged to contact by email using the “Inbox” in Canvas for clarification and assistance with the course material and 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. While the instructors 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 Office of Student Judicial Affairs 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.

Online Faculty Course Evaluation Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. They can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

On Campus Face-to-Face

We will have face-to-face instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

- You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.
- This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
- Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.

- Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>), please use the UF Health screening system (<https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/screen-test-protect/covid-19-exposure-and-symptoms-who-do-i-call-if/>) and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class.
 - Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>).

Online Synchronous Sessions:

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

Policy Related to Guests Attending Class:

Only registered students are permitted to attend class. However, we recognize that students who are caretakers may face occasional unexpected challenges creating attendance barriers. Therefore, by exception, a department chair or his or her designee (e.g., instructors) may grant a student permission to bring a guest(s) for a total of two class sessions per semester. This is two sessions total across all courses. No further extensions will be granted. Please note that guests are **not** permitted to attend either cadaver or wet labs. Students are responsible for course material regardless of attendance. For additional information, please review the Classroom Guests of Students policy in its entirety. A link to the full policy is at: <http://facstaff.phphp.ufl.edu/services/resourceguide/getstarted.htm>

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 me as 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.
- **U 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>
- **University Police Department:** [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- **UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:** For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.](#)

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.