

**University of Florida**  
**College of Public Health & Health Professions Syllabus**  
**PHC6900 Environmental and Global Health Journal Club (1 credit hour)**  
**Semester: Summer C 2023**  
**Delivery Format: On Campus**

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

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

Room Number: HPNP room TBD

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Email Address: amaurelli@phhp.ufl.edu

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 peer-reviewed paper and present the results of the scientific study to the class. The other students in the class are expected to read the paper and be prepared for a class discussion of the paper presented. 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. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of a scientific paper
5. Design, organize, 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.
2. Devise strategies to solve these scenarios using a One Health Approach.
3. Develop hypothesis driven research questions that address One Health issues
4. 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 you to prepare 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**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Paper(s) to be presented and discussed</b>
1	May 16	Tony Maurelli	How to read, critique and present a scientific paper
2	May 23	TBD*	Chosen by student and approved by instructor
3	May 30	TBD	Chosen by student and approved by instructor
4	June 6	TBD	Chosen by student and approved by instructor
5	June 13	TBD	Chosen by student and approved by instructor
6	June 20	TBD	Chosen by student and approved by instructor
7	June 27	No class, summer break	
8	July 4	No class; Independence Day	
9	July 11	TBD	Chosen by student and approved by instructor
10	July 18	TBD	Chosen by student and approved by instructor
11	July 25	TBD	Chosen by student and approved by instructor
12	August 1	TBD	Chosen by student and approved by instructor
13	August 8	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 2023

## 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 2023. 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](mailto: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. Each student will participate in 10 discussions, 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 at least one week before their scheduled presentation.

Each presentation will be in the form of a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation time allotted will vary between 30-40 minutes

A question and answer/discussion period with the class will follow the student's presentation.

The following grading rubrics will be used:

#### *Class participation (40% of final grade)*

- *Student is always engaged in learning, asks appropriate questions, and proactively contributes to discussion of the paper*
- *Student is often engaged in learning, asks appropriate questions, and proactively contributes to discussion of the paper*
- *Student is sometimes engaged in learning, asks appropriate questions, and proactively contributes to discussion of the paper*

- *Student rarely engages in learning, asking appropriate questions, and proactively contributing to discussion of the paper*

**Presentation Content (60% of final grade; 30 points for each of two presentations)**

- Background
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Organization
- Grammar and spelling

***Critical analysis of the paper (10 points)***

- Strengths and weaknesses
- Suggested modifications, alternative approaches, etc.
- Impact and significance
- Recommendations for “editor” (accept, modify, reject)

***Presentation skills (10 points)***

- Eye contact
- Speed, adherence to time limit
- Pronunciation
- Professionalism
- Use of pointer

***Discussion Q&A (10 points)***

<b>Percentage Earned</b>	<b>Letter Grade</b>
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

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Grade Points</b>
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.

### 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/>.

### **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.php.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](http://www.multicultural.ufl.edu).