PHC3603/PHC6937 Critical Issues in Public Health (3 hours)

Fall 2019
Delivery Format: On-Campus/Canvas/Top-Hat
elearning.ufl.edu

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Preferred Course Communications: email

Prerequisites

Students must be enrolled in the Bachelor of Health Science or the Bachelor of Public Health Program

Purpose and Outcome

Course Overview

The purpose of this course is to provide students the opportunity to learn multiple ways to view current controversial topics in public health. The course covers current public health topics encompassing biomedical issues, social and behavioral factors related to health, and the environment.

Course Objectives and/or Goals

During this class, students will:
- Compare and contrast the most current complex public health issues and challenges in society
- Analyze peer-reviewed publications addressing controversial public health issues
- Integrate, compare, and articulate multiple perspectives of public health issues from both a proponent view and an oppositional view.
- Comprehend the influence of personal bias on how public health issues are presented.
- Synthesizing and discussing multiple viewpoints of the assigned public health issue based on current evidence and societal trends.

Instructional Methods

1. **Quizzes:** Following each online lecture, students will complete a 5-question quiz through canvas (10 quizzes total). You will have **ONE** chance to take each quiz and the quizzes will be timed. Each quiz will be assigned 10 minutes. You must complete the quiz for your assigned module before coming to class.

2. **Weekly Readings:** Each week you will have assigned readings directly related to the current Week's controversial public health topic. Details of the reading assignments will be provided through Canvas.

3. **Group Participation/Discussion Activities:** We will meet one day per week as outlined below. Every Tuesday will involve a discussion of the controversial issues and the class will engage in a "reasoned discourse" (like a debate, but without the contentious connotations) about a controversial public health issue. You are responsible for reading the assigned material prior to the discussion. You will be assigned into one of eight groups. Each group will be assigned a position to argue: four groups on the pro side, four groups on the con side.
    Full participation within these discussions will count towards your participation grade. Points will be deducted from your group participation grade for the following (but not limited to): not involved in the group discussion, performing activities other than the course discussion such as texting, studying for other exams, etc.., frequent absences, and unprofessional behavior. Additional points will be based on your participation on Top Hat and Kritik course activities.

4. **Exams:** There will be two exams in the course. Each exam will consist of up to 50 questions (short answer and multiple choice). The exams will not be cumulative and will cover the main ideas from the reading as well information communicated during class discussions. Please note all exams will be taken during class using Canvas. This means that you must bring a device that will allow you to take the exam.

    Lock down browser- You are required to download the lock down browser for your exams. This has to be done BEFORE exam 1. If you do not have this set up on your device, you will not be permitted to take the exam until you have the browser set up. The details for the lock down browser are on Canvas.

    A note about make-up exams: Make-up examinations are not normally given in this course. The only circumstances in which a makeup exam will be given are:
    a. An official, University sponsored event requires you to be off campus during the exam
    b. A medical emergency prevents you from attending class
    c. A family emergency prevents you from attending class
    d. Jury duty
    e. Military service, a religious observance, or a similar obligation prevents you from attending class.
    If you miss an examination for any reason, you must contact us before the exam and you must provide written documentation of the event in order to schedule a make-up exam.

5. **Main Points Paper:** Students will be required to complete two main points paper for selected issues by reading about the topics on ProCon.org, Top Hat materials, and other available evidence. The goal of this assignment is for students to review important points relevant to both sides of the issue. You must state and analyze the main points of each section on ProCon.org: Background, Pro and Con (See rubric in canvas). Assignments to be submitted through Canvas prior to the topic being discussed in class. For example, if you picked the topic Vaccines for paper 1, your Paper will be due on 8/27/2019 @ 8:30 am given that Vaccines is taught on 8/27/2019. Five points will be deducted for each day the assignment is late (no exceptions). This allows you plenty of time to write your paper and also ask questions.

    You will use the groups tab in canvas to choose your topic. You are allowed to pick only one topic in each group set and are required to participate in BOTH the group sets. Please contact the TA or the instructor should you have questions or concerns.

Your topic selections must be completed on or before 9/10/2018 @ 8 am. Failure to do so will result in reduction of possible points from your assigned paper grades.

Blended Learning *Delete if not applicable*
What is blended learning and why is it important?

A Blended Learning class uses a mixture of technology and face-to-face instruction to help you maximize your learning. Knowledge content that, as the instructor, I would have traditionally presented during a live class lecture is instead provided online before the live class takes place. This lets me focus my face-to-face teaching on course activities designed to help you strengthen higher order thinking skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration. Competency in these skills is critical for today's health professional.

What is expected of you?

You are expected to actively engage in the course throughout the semester. You must come to class prepared by completing all out-of-class assignments. This preparation gives you the knowledge or practice 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 occurring in the live sessions, 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

Each week, you will have the opportunity to debate the critical issue you from the perspective you were assigned. Following each class, I would like you to upload a one-paragraph summary of the opposing views based on what you have read and the class debate. This activity is for participation only and you will not be graded on the specific content. This is a peer review exercise and your fellow students will be evaluating your response as either acceptable or unacceptable based on the criteria below. Please note that each student will be responsible for evaluating two student summaries each week.

Descriptor	Level 1	Level 2
Clarity of Thoughts	Central idea and clarity of purpose absent or incompletely maintained	Central idea and clarity of purpose evident
Accuracy	Incorrect and unsupported information	Information based on evidence
Creative and Critical Thinking	Position was simplistic and obvious	Sharpened the focus, sorted ideas for relevance, focused on key points
Organization	The essay is disorganized and has ambiguities or irrelevance	The essay is organized in a logical sequence and flows perfectly

Topical Outline/Course Schedule

Week	Date(s)	Topic(s)	Readings
1	8/20/19	Course Overview	Syllabus/Top Hat Chapter 1 Introduction
2	8/27/19	Vaccines	Top Hat Chapter 2 and https://vaccines.procon.org/
3	**9/03/19**		**No Class**
4	9/10/19	Social Media	Top Hat Chapter 3 and https://socialnetworking.procon.org/
5	9/17/19	Marriage Equality	Top Hat Chapter 4 and https://gaymarriage.procon.org/
6	9/24/19	Right to die	Top Hat Chapter 5 and https://euthanasia.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=000136
7	10/01/19	Abortion	Top Hat Chapter 6 and https://abortion.procon.org/
8	**10/08/19**		**Exam One**
9	10/15/19	Obesity	Top hat Chapter 7 and https://obesity.procon.org/
10	10/22/19	Gun Control	Top Hat Chapter 8 and https://gun-control.procon.org/
11	10/29/19	Right to Health Care	Top Hat Chapter 9 and https://healthcare.procon.org/
12	11/05/19	Immigration	Top hat Chapter 10 and https://immigration.procon.org/
13	**11/12/19**		**No Class**
14	11/19/19	Marijuana	Top Hat Chapter 11 and https://marijuana.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=006868
15	11/26/19	Potpourri	Potpourri
16	**12/03/19**		**Exam Two**

Course Materials and Technology

Required Textbook
There is an online text for this class through Top Hat. Additionally, you will be using the website ProCon.org to complete reading assignments. ProCon.org is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization. The purpose of this website is to provide resources for critical thinking and to educate without bias. It promotes informed citizenship by presenting research on controversial issues in a straightforward, nonpartisan format.

Required Equipment
Computer, tablet, or smart phone with high speed internet access.
For technical support for this class, please contact the UF Help Desk at:Learning-support@ufl.edu, (352) 392-HELP (option 2), or https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml

Top Hat
We will be using the Top Hat (www.tophat.com) classroom response system in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message.
You can visit the Top Hat Overview (https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide) within the Top Hat Success Center which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system.
An email invitation will be sent to you by email, but if don't receive this email, you can register by simply visiting our course website: **https://app.tophat.com/e/409297**
Note: Our Course Join Code is: **409297**
Top Hat will require a paid subscription, and a full breakdown of all subscription options available can be found here: www.tophat.com/pricing.
Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time, due to the fact that they require specific user information to troubleshoot these issues, please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491.

Kritik.io
We will be using Kritik.io, a peer-to-peer learning platform in this course. It is an engaging and gamified web technology that helps you develop your higher-order-thinking skills (HOTS) according to Bloom's taxonomy of cognitive thinking. It also improves your soft skills in feedback communication.
An email invitation will be sent to your school email account that contains the link to register an account on Kritik and enrol in the course. If you don't receive this email, you can register by visiting
http://app.kritik.io/course/enroll/5d56f914c57c5e415949e208 Please use the coupon code **gBaDjM23** to receive 25% discount.
Don't worry if you don't see any content in the course right away. I will make it available to you as we progress through the semester.
Please note that the app is currently accessible only in the browser. If you have any questions about Kritik, please contact their support team at support@kritik.io or use the live chat in the app. They usually respond promptly in a few hours. You can also visit Kritik Help Center at https://www.kritik.io/student-user-guidance-page, which outlines a brief overview to get you up and running on the system.

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

Assignments

Grading

Requirement	Points or % of final grade (% must sum to 100%)
Exam 1	100 points
Exam 2	100 points
Attendance/Professionalism	55 points
Group Participation	45 points
Group Participation	50 points
Total	**450 points**

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

Example:

Percentage Earned	Letter Grade	Total Points
93-100	A	418-450
90-92	A-	405-417
87-89	B+	391-404
83-86	B	373-390
80-82	B-	360-372
77-79	C+	346-359
70-76	C	315-345
67-69	D+	301-314
63-66	D	283-300
60-62	D-	270-282
Below 60	E	<269

Please be aware that a C- is not an acceptable grade for graduate students. The Bachelor of Health Science and Bachelor of Public Health Programs do not use C- grades.

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

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:
http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#grades
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Exam Policy

Policy Related to Make up Exams or Other Work

A note about make-up exams: Make-up examinations are not normally given in this course. The only circumstances in which a makeup exam will be given are:

1. An official, University sponsored event requires you to be off campus during the exam
2. A medical emergency prevents you from attending class
3. A family emergency prevents you from attending class
4. Jury duty
5. Military service, a religious observance, or a similar obligation prevents you from attending class.

If you miss an examination for any reason, you must contact us before the exam and you must provide written documentation of the event in order to schedule a make-up exam.

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

Class is considered an appointment. Students taking an advanced course in helping professions and public health are expected to keep appointments and arrive on time and remain for the entire class period. There will be attendance checks for each of the 11 topics discussed in class (5 points each). Attendance will be taken and recorded in Top Hat.

Faculty have received feedback from students and other colleagues regarding frequently arriving to class late. When a student enters the classroom late it is disruptive to the entire class. Class is considered an appointment. Students taking an advanced level course in a helping profession are expected to arrive to appointments on time and prepared to learn. Tardiness is not acceptable in public health and helping professions, and will not be tolerated in the classroom. If you are more than five minutes late three times, you will lose an attendance check worth five points.

We do realize that students may have a class directly before this course at a distant location, making it difficult to arrive to class on time. Students in this situation must provide written documentation to the instructors no later than the second week of class.

Missed Attendance Policy
Make-up for attendance are not normally given in this course. The only circumstances in which a makeup attendance check will be given are:
1. An official, University sponsored event requires you to be off campus during the exam
2. A medical emergency prevents you from attending class
3. A family emergency prevents you from attending class
4. Jury duty
5. Military service, a religious observance, or a similar obligation prevents you from attending class.

If you miss an attendance check for any reason, you must contact us before the class and you must provide written documentation of the event in order to schedule complete the make-up assignment.

The make-up assignment will entail a 10 minute recorded and uploaded presentation on a topic assigned by your instructor. **You will have one week to complete the make-up assignment in order to receive credit.** It your responsibility to notify your instructor to discuss the make-up assignment.

Requirements for class attendance and 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

Student Expectations, Roles, and Opportunities for Input

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 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, and 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. Link to full policy: http://facstaff.phhp.ufl.edu/services/resourceguide/getstarted.htm

SUPPORT SERVICES

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/ . It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, 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