

University of Florida
College of Public Health & Health Professions Syllabus
HSC 4507: Environmental Toxicology Applications in Public Health (3 credit hours)
Fall 2023

Delivery Format: On Campus/Online with synchronous sessions (HyFlex)

Location: HPNP G-114

Time: Thursdays from 5:10 pm to 7:05 pm

Instructor Name: Joseph H. Bisesi Jr, PhD
Phone Number: 352-294-4703
Email Address: jbisesi@phhp.ufl.edu
Office Location: Center for Environmental and Human Toxicology (Building 471/470) Room 105
Office Hours: Wednesdays 8:30-9:30 am (via zoom)

Preferred Course Communications: The “Inbox” in Canvas will be used for all email correspondence. While the instructor is reachable through their UF email, the Canvas email inbox is preferred to ensure timely responses to course questions.

Prerequisites

BSC 2005 or BSC 2010 required

PURPOSE AND OUTCOME

Course Overview

Environmental toxicology examines exposure to chemical, biological, and physical agents and associated health effects in humans and wildlife. The course covers environmental fate of chemicals, routes of exposure, mechanisms of toxicity, and approaches that are commonly used by public health officials when dealing with toxicants.

Course Objectives and/or Goals

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

1. Describe the role of toxicologists in public health, methods used to quantify toxicity, regulations that govern toxic substances, and assessment of risks posed by exposure to toxicants
2. Differentiate the properties of chemicals, biological toxins, and physical agents that influence fate and toxicity in humans, animals, and the environment
3. Defend the use of common environmental toxicology applications in the practice of public health disciplines
4. Identify current toxicological issues in society and discuss these issues with a lay audience.

Relation to Program and Learning Outcomes

Competencies primarily gained in this course

1. Understanding of effects of toxic substances on humans and the environment
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and assess risks using a community-centered framework
3. Inform, educate, and empower people about the potential hazards of toxic substances to environmental and human health
4. Understand laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
5. 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, community, and population health
3. Conduct research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

Instructional Methods

1. Lectures: Students are responsible for all the material presented. This will be the main source of content in this course.
2. Readings: There are recommended readings each week. In addition to the recommended text, supplementary readings and resources will be posted in the course. The reading list may be supplemented during the course.
3. Student Presentations: Students will present on current events.
4. Assessments: The primary assessments will be written assignments, a presentation, and a mid-term and final examination.

Course Format

This course will be taught in a concurrent on-campus/on-line format known as HyFlex. What this means is that students enrolled in the on-campus sections of the course will attend class on-campus, Thursdays from 5:10 pm-7:05 pm in HPNP Room G-114. Students that are registered for the online sections will have the option of either coming to class on the day and time described above or participating in the course via live stream. The course will combine both asynchronous content delivery (lectures) as well as weekly synchronous meetings. The weekly synchronous meetings will be on Thursdays from 5:10 pm -7:05 pm. The weekly synchronous meetings will allow time for students to ask questions about lectures or assignments. Additionally, we will use this time for activities that enhance learning such as student presentations and discussions. There will be times when students (on-campus and on-line) will be required to be present at these synchronous meetings (physically or through conferencing software) to facilitate discussions of student presentations. The dates and times for these activities will be posted on canvas.

This course also utilizes a blended learning format. 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

This course is taught as a series of modules, each covering one specific aspect of environmental toxicology. 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.

Topical Outline:

Week	Date(s)	Topic(s)	Class Meeting	Recommended Readings	Assignments due
Section I: Introduction to Environmental Policy and Enforcement					
1	8/24/2023	Introduction and History of Toxicology	Syllabus Review	Chapter 1	None
2	8/31/2023	What Makes a Chemical Toxic	Lecture Review	Chapters 2-4	None
Section II: Environmental Fate of Toxicants					
3	9/7/2023	Environmental Fate of Chemicals in Water	Lecture Review Current Events	Chapter 5	Current events group 1 presentations
4	9/14/2023	Environmental Fate of Chemicals in Soil/Sediment	Lecture Review Current Events	None	Assignment 1 due Current events group 2 presentations
5	9/21/2023	Environmental Fate of Chemicals in Air	Lecture Review Environmental Disasters	None	Environmental Disasters Discussion 1
Section III: Exposure and Response					
6	9/28/2023	Understanding Relationships Between Exposure and Effects	Lecture Review Environmental Disasters	Chapter 6	Environmental Disasters Discussion 2
7	10/5/2023	Exposure Dynamics	Lecture Review Environmental Disasters	Chapters 8-9	Assignment 2 due Environmental Disasters Discussion 3
8	10/12/2023	Organ Specific Toxicity	Lecture Review Exam Review	Chapters 12-18	
9	10/19/2023	Mid-Term Exam (Online)	No Meeting	None	
Section IV: Environmental Toxicology Applications in Public Health					
10	10/26/2023	The Role of Toxicologists in Public Health	Environmental Disasters	Chapters 19 and 23	Assignment 3 due Environmental disasters discussion 4
11	11/2/2023	Laws and Regulations Governing Toxicants	Lecture Review Environmental Disasters	Chapter 20	Environmental disasters discussion 5
12	11/9/2023	Toxicity Testing Techniques	Lecture Review	Chapter 21	
13	11/16/2023	Epidemiological Approaches to Toxicants	No Meeting (Dr. Bisesi out of town)	Chapter 18	None
14	11/23/2023	None	No Meeting (Thanksgiving)	None	None
15	11/30/2023	Informed Decision Making and Public Safety	Exam review	Chapters 24-25	Assignment 4 due
16	12/7/2023	Emerging contaminants of public health concern	No Meeting (Reading Days)	None	None
17	12/14/2023	Final Exam	No Meeting	None	None

Course Materials and Technology:

Textbook (Recommended):

Principles and Practice of Toxicology in Public Health, *2nd edition*

Ira Steven Richards and Marie Bourgeois, Jones & Bartlett Learning, 2014 ISBN 978-1-4496-4526-7

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://elearning.ufl.edu/> and go to course site for HSC4507/PHC6304: Environmental Toxicology Applications in Public Health

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.

Getting Started

1. Visit <http://elearning.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 HSC4507/PHC6304: Environmental Toxicology Applications in Public Health
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 ensure that all students are aware of the curriculum requirements for this course. If you have ANY difficulty with this quiz, please send an email in the course using the Canvas "Inbox" as soon as possible.

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/>

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

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.

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 the correct file.

You will be graded in the course through the use of written assignments, presentations, graded discussions, and exams.

Written Assignments: (See course topical outline for deadlines)

There will be 4 assignments (4 assignments worth 50 points each; Total 200 points or 27% of final grade).

The written assignments are designed to reinforce the concepts of each section of the course. Students will be expected to apply knowledge from lectures, readings, and peer reviewed publications to answer questions about a given chemical, including its environmental fate, exposure pathways, effects, and methods used by environmental health professionals to assess the chemicals toxicity. Students will be evaluated on their ability to analyze data and apply concepts from the course to the real-world scenarios presented in the assignments. Assignments are typically 2-4 pages of short answer questions. Written assignments will be due at 11:55 PM on the due date. Late submissions will be subject to the late assignment policy below.

Current Events Presentation (See canvas for assigned deadlines)

Each Student will complete a presentation on a current event as it relates to your assigned topic (100 points or 13% of your final grade). Students will find an article that describes a current event and prepare a 5-minute presentation on the topic. The presentation will be given in class (in person or via zoom) during our regularly scheduled class meetings. Students will be evaluated on their analysis and summation of the article as well as their ability to apply what they have learned in class to provide suggestions or critiques of the event. More details on the formatting and grading rubric of this presentation will be given on the canvas site.

Environmental Disasters Discussions (See canvas for assigned deadlines)

All students will participate in discussions throughout the semesters (2 discussions worth 30 points each, 60 points total or 8% of final grade). There will be a series of environmental disaster presentations given

throughout the course by the graduate students. Undergraduate students are not expected to give an environmental disaster presentation, but they are expected to participate in 2 discussions following these presentations. Each student will be assigned to the presentations in which they will participate in discussions. Students will receive full credit for these discussions by actively contributing to the discussions. Discussions will be conducted as groups, and as long as students are active participants in the group discussion they will receive full credit. All discussions will take place during live synchronous sessions.

Exams (Week 9 and Week 17);

There will be two exams: a midterm (Week 9) and a final (Week 17) (200 points each; Total 400 points or 52% of your 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, short answer, and true/false questions. You will have 2 hours to complete each exam. Exams will be administered through the Canvas Online Learning System. We will utilize Honorlock proctoring service for all exams. More information on how to take exams will be provided on the course site.

Grading

Requirement	Due date	Points
Written Assignments = 4 @ 50 points	See Course Schedule	200
Discussions = 2 @ 20 points total	See Course Schedule	60
Current Event Presentation = 1 @ 100 points	See Course Schedule	100
Midterm Exam = 1 @ 200 points	See Course Schedule	200
Final Exam = 1 @ 200 points	See Course Schedule	200
TOTAL		760

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 62%
Points Earned	703-760	680-702	657-679	627-656	604-626	581-603	551-580	528-550	505-527	475-504	452-474	Below 452
Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E

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. Missed assignments will contribute zero points toward your final grade.

Special Circumstances

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>

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>

Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the undergraduate Catalog. Additional information can be found here: <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

It is preferred that you 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.

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.

Recording Within the Course:

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

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.php.ufl.edu/services/resourceguide/getstarted.htm>

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/>.

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.

However, it's important to note that this course requires live presentations and discussions during online synchronous sessions. To successfully complete these assessments participation via video and audio will be required. Therefore, if you do not agree to participate with video and audio you will be unable to complete these assignments and will not meet the requirements to complete this course.

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