



College of Health Sciences  
Department of Population Health  
Syllabus: Environmental Health  
HLTH 4390-Section 1(Online), Spring 2018



## COURSE INFORMATION

<i>Meeting Time:</i>	Online instruction via Blackboard will be January 17 <sup>th</sup> – May 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2018. Course materials will be posted each week on Thursdays and due the following Wednesday.
<i>Instructor:</i>	Dr. Dhitinut Ratnapradipa (Dr. DT)
<i>Contact Information:</i>	For appointments — Email: <a href="mailto:dxr070@shsu.edu">dxr070@shsu.edu</a> For class-related emails to me, make sure to include “HLTH 4390/01 Spring 2018” in the subject line. Failure to do so may delay response.
<i>Office location &amp; hours:</i>	CHSS 432 E; T/W 11:30-1:30pm, TH 12:00-2:00pm I am regularly available by email; however, I am not online 24/7. I will usually get back to you within 24 hours on weekdays, but allow up to 48 hours on weekends. It will be to your disadvantage to contact me at the last minute about something that is due. Most student questions are related to technical issues (such as how to utilize Blackboard to access course materials, submit assignments/quizzes/exams), and you may get faster response by contacting the IT Front Desk at 294-2780 for technical issues.

### **TIPS TO REMEMBER (How to get a better grade in this class)**

1. Read the **ANNOUCEMENTS** on the Blackboard regularly. This class uses ANNOUCEMENTS as a tool for main communication, including lecture materials or notes, especially for core areas of environmental health.
2. Read this **SYLLABUS** entirely and follow it, especially the DUE DATES. They are set at the beginning of the class to benefit you. Plan your time accordingly. Due dates will NOT change. Individual excuses for missed work do NOT represent the entire class.
3. Set your own reminders for assignment **DUE DATES**. The BB system does NOT always send you reminders for due dates (assignments, discussions, quizzes, tests). Therefore, do not depend on reminders from BB to submit, and do not wait until last minute.
4. This SYLLABUS clearly lists all points available. There is **NO extra credit** in this class.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Environmental health impacts our daily life. This course leads students through a critical review and examination of the impact of the physical, biological, and biochemical environment on human health. The primary goal of this class is to provide a broad overview of key areas of environmental health as a public health discipline. Topics include ecosystem balance, population dynamics, sanitation, toxic substances, environmental diseases, and environmental pollution/ hazards.

The course should contribute to your understanding of the impact of environmental concerns in your role as a future public health practitioner. Using the perspectives of population and community growth, the goals of this course are threefold:

1. to understand the core principles and concepts of environmental health disciplines;
2. to understand the environmental factors impacting human and ecological health; and

3. to explore environmental health tools (epidemiology, toxicology, policy and regulation) through their application to current issues of concern to government agencies.

### **COURSE TEXTBOOK/REQUIREMENT**

Friis, Robert, H. (2012). *Essentials of Environmental Health*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Jones and Bartlett Learning, LLC. Sudbury, MA, ISBN: 978-0-7637-7890-3

Required documentary viewing: *Gasland* (2010), directed by Josh Fox.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

#### *Knowledge:*

- define and discuss the history of environmental health;
- gain a basic knowledge of science that is fundamental to understanding environmental health issues;
- discuss the association between population growth and dissemination of environmental pollutants;
- describe methods used in epidemiology and toxicology to assess environmental exposures.

#### *Abilities:*

- analyze policies, regulations, and guidelines that have been developed to manage health risks associated with exposures to environmental hazards;
- advocate effectively using scientific and non-scientific aspects of environmental health practice;
- identify chemical, physical, and microbial agents that originate in the environment and can impact human health;

#### *Skills:*

- identify challenges and propose potential ways to deal with them in environmental health practice, with particular attention to issues of environmental justice and equity; and

#### *Behaviors:*

- take steps in their personal life and in the community to reduce environmental hazards.

### **COURSE EVALUATION**

<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>Available Points</b>
1). Class Participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Syllabus Review (5 pts)</li> <li>• Discussion Board (5 pts x 5 topics)</li> </ul>	30
2). 5 Quizzes (5 pts each quiz)	25
4). <i>Gasland</i> (2010) documentary	20
3). Final Exam	25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

### **GRADING SCALE**

90%-100% = A, 80%-89.9% = B, 70%-79.9% = C, 60%-69.9% = D, <60% = F

**Final grades will NOT be rounded.**

### **ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS**

**1. Class Participation (30 points):** Class participation is *required* and accounts for 30% of your final grade. Active class participation is an integral part of your learning experience and will be assessed as follows:

- **Syllabus Review (5 pts; due 10:00 pm on Jan 31<sup>st</sup>):** Have you thoroughly reviewed the syllabus and acknowledged its contents? The syllabus is an important tool for guiding you through the course, assignments, due dates/times, and expectations. Therefore, students will be expected to complete & submit with electronic signature an acknowledgment on **Blackboard** that they are familiar with the contents of the syllabus.

- **Discussion Topics (5 topics worth 5 pts each, on 1/24, 2/7, 3/7, 3/28 & 4/4):** Active class participation through guided on-line discussions is important to assess understanding and synthesis of text and additional materials. Students will be required to **post** (3 pts) **and respond** (2 pts) for each topic. Both post and response are **due the Wednesday after assigned by 10 pm**. Beyond those minimum requirements, students are invited and encouraged to reply to additional postings to generate discussion. There is no specific length requirement for postings/responses, but thoughtful content will be considered when determining grades. Discussion content (instructor and/or student) may be incorporated into quiz or exam questions. Late submissions for post and/or response will be subject to 50% reduction in points available (see Late Submission policy below). Discussion postings should be typed as text in the submission box so it is easily visible by the class. Discussion submissions uploaded as file attachments will NOT be graded.

CONTENT: All of you are experts of your own environmental health experiences. Ideas of how to foster discussion include (but are not limited to):

- relate the topic to current events and ask probing questions to further the discussion
- bring in outside sources when relevant (such as posting links)
- make connections to what we've already covered, to the assigned readings, to your own experiences (work/personal), to other information that you've come across in other coursework, etc.
- If information is inconsistent across sources, highlight this and suggest reasons why.

**2. Quizzes (5 quizzes, worth 5 pts each on 2/14, 2/28, 3/21, 4/11, 5/2):** Quizzes will be used to assess your understanding of readings and lecture materials. Quizzes will be timed (30 minutes) and **will not be rescheduled**. All quizzes will be open book but you are not allowed to collaborate. Quizzes will be posted by 8 am Wednesday of the week listed, and are **due the same day by 10 pm** (due dates/times are listed on page 4). The quiz submission tab will lock at the due date/time, so late submissions will NOT be accepted for any reason. You are strongly encouraged to begin the quiz well before the deadline in the case of unforeseen computer/internet problems. It is your responsibility to assure your network and computer are functional. You are also encouraged to complete the quizzes on campus to ensure a good internet connection. All quiz dates are listed here, so plan your work/personal schedule such that you are able to complete the quizzes.

**3. *Gasland* (2010) Written Response (20 pts, due Feb 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 pm):** Media plays an important role in public perceptions of environmental health. Students will be required to view and submit a written response to *Gasland* (2010). This is available at the library (or rented from a movie outlet). Be aware that this is not a summary of the movie. You do NOT need to include an introduction or overview of the movie, just respond to the items listed below as bulleted lists or short answer (no more than 1 paragraph per item). Your submission should be no more than 2 pages.

1. *Using bullet points*, list at least 5 core areas of environmental health (refer to Week 1) addressed in the documentary. Provide an example of how each core area was addressed in the film (10 pts)
2. Referring to Ch. 4 of your text, *use bullet points* to list 5 major US environmental health laws, and provide an example of each from the film (10 pts)

**4. Final Exam (25 pts, Wednesday May 9<sup>th</sup> due by 10:00 pm):** The final exam will be comprehensive and will consist of matching, short-answer, multiple choice, True/False, and/or essay questions. You will have 3 hours to complete the exam. The exam will be **available between 8:00**

**am and 10:00 pm on Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>.** Schedule your time well in advance. As with the quizzes, you are strongly encouraged to begin well before the deadline in the case of unforeseen computer/internet problems. It is your responsibility to assure your network and computer function. You are also encouraged to complete the exam on campus to ensure a good internet connection. **The exam will lock at 10:00 pm and late submissions will NOT be accepted.**

## **COURSE POLICIES**

- **Grade Review:** Unless otherwise specified, students have **1 week** from the day an assignment/quiz/exam is returned to the class or a grade entered in the online Blackboard Gradebook to request a review of the grade; grades will not be adjusted beyond this time. When a grade is reviewed, I reserve the right to review the entire assignment/quiz/exam and adjust points as appropriate. Final grades will NOT be rounded. Students should be familiar with university grading policy.
- **Attendance:** As an online course without a set meeting time, attendance will be monitored via assignment submissions. You will have an assignment (discussion, quiz, paper) due almost every week. **See below for university attendance policies.**
- **Late Assignment Submissions:** Assignments are to be completed by the specified due date/time. This is typically on a Wednesday by 10 pm. Note that quizzes are set to lock at the specified time and late quiz submissions will not be accepted. **All assignments are to be submitted via Blackboard.** Submissions sent via email will not be accepted. In rare circumstances (e.g., medical or family emergency), proof of the extenuating circumstance may be required to allow for exceptions. Technology problems are NOT a valid excuse for late submissions, so you are advised to prepare your assignments well before the deadline. Be advised that **missing assignment submission deadlines will negatively impact your grade.** Any assignment turned in after the deadline is considered LATE. Assignments submitted 0-24 hours after the deadline will have the grade reduced by 50%. Submissions received more than 24 hours after the deadline will not be graded and will be recorded as “0” in the grade book.
- **Assignment formatting**
  - **Syllabus review:** Type the required text (including your name and date) in the assignment submission text box on Blackboard by clicking on the “write submission” button.
  - **Discussion postings:** Type your initial postings and your responses as a text submission (similar to the syllabus assignment). Do NOT upload your discussion text as a file attachment. You will receive “Zero (0)” for different submission format.
  - **Gasland response:** Document should be typed in 12-point Times New Roman font, single-spaced, with 1” margins and submitted as a WORD (.doc or .docx) or PDF (.pdf) document. Do NOT submit documents from google drive. Include a *header* with your name, course/section number, name of assignment, and date located at the top right side of the page. Include a *footer* with page numbering. Failure to properly format submissions will result in a 10% deduction. **Submissions without names will not be graded.**

- **Feedback on assignments** is intended to help students assess their progress in the course and to provide constructive input for future submissions. As such, prompt grading of assignments is important. For discussions and quizzes, I will make every effort to have them graded within a week. For larger assignments (papers), I will try to have them available for review within 2 weeks. In the rare event that these deadlines cannot be met, students should be informed of the delay and the extra time needed in providing feedback.
- **Communication:** I have an open-door policy and students are encouraged to contact me with any questions, concerns, or other issues related to the course or professional development. Emails should be professional and courteous. Include the course and section number in the subject line. Failure to do so may delay response.
- **Technology:** As an online course, you are expected to have the required computing technology and internet connection to access course materials and submit assignments. Communications and materials will be available through the Blackboard platform which can be accessed at <https://shsu.blackboard.com> or through the Campus Tools on the university homepage. The university offers excellent support services for online instruction. University technical support resources are available at <http://distance.shsu.edu/tech-support/> or 936-294-2780. They are better equipped to answer your technical questions than the instructor. Typically, you have a week to complete each assignment, so technological problems are not a valid excuse for missing deadlines or late submissions. Remember to start early and save your work often. You may want to save copies of your work in multiple locations in the event of computer problems.

## **SHSU POLICIES**

### **ATTENDANCE**

SHSU views class attendance as the responsibility of individual students. The university attendance policy (AP 800401) is located at: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/b719129b-9593-424f-9d5a-920e2eda6890.pdf> The student absence notification policy (for emergency situations) is located at <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/dean-of-students/absence.html>

**THE POLICY FOR RELIGIOUS HOLY DAY OBSERVANCES** ( AP 861001) can be found at: <http://catalog.shsu.edu/archives/2016-2017/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/degree-requirements-academic-guidelines/scholastic-requirements/scholastic-requirements.pdf> A more comprehensive list of university scholastic requirements can be found at <http://undergraduate-catalog-2014-2016.shsu.edu/home/scholastic-requirements.html>

### **USE OF TELEPHONES AND TEXT MESSENGERS IN ACEDMIC CLASSROOMS AND FACILITIES (AP 100728)**

This policy will be enforced and viewed at: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/6d35c9c9-e3e9-4695-a1a1-11951b88bc63.pdf>

### **ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS (AP 810213)**

The purpose of this academic policy statement is to provide for the resolution of student academic grievances in a prompt and equitable manner. For further information or need more information please visit: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/0bb1346f-b8d6-4486-9290-dba24123d0d8.pdf>

### **STUDENT WITH DISABILITIES (AP 811006)**

Students with disabilities that may adversely affect their work in this class should register with the SHSU Counseling Center. This is required if you request an accommodation. Students may request help with academically related problems by calling (936) 294-3512 or visit: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/disability/> You should also notify your instructor as soon as possible.

### ACADEMIC DISHONESTY (AP 810213)

According to Sam Houston State University's Academic Dishonesty statement, "*All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom.*"

Any students found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Students are encouraged to be familiar with the full policy by reviewing "Code of Student Conduct and discipline" at <http://online.shsu.edu/campus/policies/academic-integrity.html>

### - PLAGIARISM

Plagiarize is the leading form of academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for knowing what plagiarism is and how to avoid it. For more information, please be familiar with <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/dean-of-students/documents/2016-2018%20Student%20Guidelines.pdf>

### DISCLIMER:

This syllabus is representative of materiel that will be covered in this class, and is not a contract between the student and the institution. It is subject to change and the change will be communicated via email, in-class announcements or posted as announcements. If you have any problem related to this course, please feel free to discuss them with the instructor.

### TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE FOR HLTH 4390-01, SPRING SEMESTER 2018

Module	Date	Topic	Reminders	Reading
M-1	1/18	Introduction & Overview of Environmental Health	Discussion 1: Introductions due 1/24	Ch 1 Assigned articles
	1/25	Environmental Epidemiology	Syllabus Review due 01/31	Ch 2
	2/1	Environmental Toxicology	Discussion 2: Lead due 2/7	Gasland; Ch 3 Assigned articles
	2/8	Environmental Health Policy & Regulation	Quiz 1 (ch 1-4) due 2/14	Ch 4 Assigned articles
M-2	2/15	Toxic Metals & Elements	Gasland paper due 2/21	Ch 6
	2/22	Pests, Vector-borne disease, Pesticides	Quiz 2 (ch 5-7) due 2/28	Ch 5, 7
M-3	3/1	Water Quality	Discussion 3: Water due 3/7	Ch 9
	3/8	Emergency Preparedness	Quiz 3 (ch 9 & Emergency Prep) due 3/21	Assigned articles
M-4	3/22	Radiation	Discussion 4: Japan due 3/28	Ch 8
	3/29	Air quality	Discussion 5: Asthma due Apr 4	Ch 10
	4/5	Food safety	Quiz 4 (ch 8, 10-11) due 4/11	Ch 11
M-5	4/12	Waste management	-----	Ch 12 Assigned Articles
	4/19	Occupational Health & Injury Control	-----	Ch 13 & 14
	4/26	Environmental Health Justice	Quiz 5 (ch 12-14) due May 2	-----
M-6	5/3	Final Exam: timed, 3 hours	Available May 9 <sup>th</sup> from 8 am–10 pm	Final Exam: timed, 3 hours

