



SYLLABUS: HLTH 4117

Course Information

Course: Practicum on Current Health Issues
Term: Spring 2018
Meeting time: Online Assignments due by 5:00 p.m. Wednesdays
Instructor: Dr. Bob Roush
Telephone number: 832-545-8512
Email address: rer022@shsu.edu
Office hours: By appointment
Office location: Per Arrangement in CHSS 242B

Course Description

Welcome to HLTH 4117, a Practicum on Current Health Issues. This is a 1.0 credit-hour course and should take students about 25 hours total for the semester. The course involves the reading and discussion of topical issues in the press and the literature pertinent to major health-related issues. The course will be a totally online one. Please check the Discussion Board and e-mail for bi-weekly class assignments due by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Since this is an online class and most of us will never have a chance to meet, I'd like for each student to post by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 24th, a short PP slide-set biosketch of your name, a photo, where you are from and something about your family, high school attended, major, your intended line of work, and any extracurricular activities or other interests you have at Sam Houston. I'll post one from this past semester to give you an idea of how to construct your biosketch. You can also read mine on Blackboard. If you like, we can also hold a brief FaceTime conversation to get to know each other or discuss any aspect of the class

Instructions for class assignments will be via e-mail by noon on Wednesdays preceding each class session. Class sessions will start on January 24th and every other week thereafter. (Spring Break is March 10-17; thus, there will be no assignment for March 14th.) The final class for your reflective essays will be May 2nd. There will be no final on May 9th per the published schedule during finals week.

Textbook and/or Resource Material Posted on Discussion Board

No textbook is required. You may report on any current issues you find interesting – e.g., the implications of attempts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, controversies regarding vaccines and the Autism spectrum, alternative or complimentary medical practices not approved by the FDA or major national medical associations, use of medical marijuana, restrictions on medically necessary abortions, teaching sexual health practices, mental health issues. Make sure the issue chosen was reported in the scientific literature and/or the popular press. Each posting is to be a minimum of 150 words not counting the reference(s). Please do not copy and paste from the source; use your own words to summarize the health issue you report on. Regardless of

source, please properly cite the piece using APA style and/or conventions of Internet use.

There will be seven posts to Discussion Boards, each will be worth 10 points; your writing counts as much as the nature of the posts themselves. Thus, please check the number of words, spelling and grammar. Also, each week, you should read the posts of the other students and respond to at least one of them with short comments. The four-page, double-spaced paper will be on one of the health issues posted by students, including you. It should be researched, well written, and properly cited. Since it is the culmination of the practicum, it is worth 30 points of the total 100 for the course.

Course Objectives

Curent Health Issues	Course Objectives <i>By the end of the course, you should be able to:</i>
Overview of Current Health Issues	<i>Explain various factors, behaviors, and health-care policies/ systems that influence one's health, illness, treatments, and health outcomes.</i>
	<i>Discuss the causes and extent of health disparities and explore future priority areas and strategies to eliminate health disparities.</i>
	<i>Understand laws, ethics and financing relating to health promotion and practices.</i>
	<i>Use models for health literacy and communication.</i>
	<i>Determine the accuracy of health information obtained from Internet sources.</i>
	<i>Find and use trusted sources from PubMed.</i>

Grading

MAJOR PROJECT

The major project mentioned above is a reflective essay on one or more of the current issues posted either by you or other students. The essay should be four pages, doubled-spaced with 12-point font in Times New Roman and properly cited using APA style. Begin with the title and your name at the top of the first page followed by a short background paragraph introducing the topic, this will be followed by the main body of your piece in which you present facts, ideas, and thoughts about the topic. Complete the four pages with a good summary statement followed by your references, which should be at least six in number. In essence, this will be your final exam and will be worth 30 points.

CLASS DISCUSSION BOARD

There will be a total of 7 discussions on Blackboard at designated dates that you will be required to participate in. The discussions are worth 10 pts each. The discussion board will be open for a period of 1 week (7 days) and then it will close. You will be expected to create 1 original thread pertaining to the discussion topic as well as comment on at least 7 of your peer's responses for a **total of 14 discussion posts**. Please ensure that threads and responses you create are well written and argued. Refrain from using simple comments such as "I agree" or "that's good", rather if you agree or disagree please explain why in several sentences.

PARTICIPATION

Please log into Blackboard on a weekly basis as well as check your email at least twice a week. I prefer this short response to each e-mail I send you: "Got it." That way, I know you have the information I sent you. Thanks for doing this.

Even though this is an online class with biweekly assignments I recommend logging in at the beginning of the week to check in as due dates are usually at the end of the week. Also I usually communicate with my classes and students regularly through email. I ask that you get into the habit of checking your email daily so that you will be able to aware of any changes in the class. I usually notify students when grading is done for a certain assignment or exam so you will want to keep track of your grades in case you thought something was submitted and that it is graded.

So read and post your material in a timely fashion so I can read it before class at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Grading system is this: With 100 possible points: 70 for timely, well-written posts, half for cogent replies to another student's posts, 30 for the reflective essay presented at the last class – an A will be 90+ points, a B = 80-89; C=70-79; and D=60-69; F=59 or fewer points. I sure hope everyone will make a B or better.

- ❑ In order to stay current with the course, please complete assignments/exams/projects early. **No late assignments / projects will be accepted unless accompanied by medical, legal, extracurricular excuses.**
- ❑ If an assignment seems unclear, it is your responsibility to talk to the instructor early.
- ❑ If you desire academic accommodation for a documented disability, contact the instructor ASAP.
- ❑ *Plagiarism* means using someone else's work or writing without giving proper credit or permission. This is a serious infraction of commonly expected practice standards. If you copy a paragraph, sentence or even a phrase from someone else's work, you must paraphrase in your own words and cite the author. If you borrow an idea from someone else, but don't quote them exactly, you don't need to add the quotes, but you still must cite the author. When citing an author, use either the APA style (**Brown, 2014**) or the AMA style (superscript number¹) immediately after the statement. Then, in the Endnotes give the entire reference: **1. Brown, S (2014). Best article. Journal of Cool Stuff; 4(2), p.3-7. N.B.** If you borrow without giving credit you will get **zero points** for the post.

Sam Houston State University Policies

Attendance and Make-up Policies

The University views class attendance as the responsibility of an individual student. Attendance is essential to complete the course successfully. University rules related to excused and unexcused absences are located on-line at [SHSU Attendance Policy](#)

You will be graded during each one of the course sessions. For these reason, it is imperative you be in class every day we meet.

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

Other Pertinent Course Information

Every effort will be made to ensure that power point lecture files, notes, articles and assignments are available online in a timely manner. Written assignments will be delivered thru the Blackboard course website. Handouts, changes in assignments or the schedule of class modules will be announced on the Bb course webpage. E-mail contact will be initiated with all students the first week of class. If you do not have access to your assigned SHSU e-mail account, it is your responsibility to make the instructor aware of that fact so that other arrangements may be made. You are expected to use SHSU e-mail address for all official correspondence.

Blackboard (Bb Statement)

Blackboard (Bb): This course will be supported via Blackboard, your online learning community, where you will interact with your classmates and with me. Within the course Blackboard site you will access the learning materials, tutorials, and syllabus; discuss issues; submit assignments; take quizzes; email other students and the instructor; participate in online activities; and display your projects.

In order to access the course material you will need to go to <https://shsu.blackboard.com> or look for Campus Tools on the top of the University's homepage. **Please do not contact your instructor with technical problems.** If you are having a technical problem with the course, review the support resources at <http://distance.shsu.edu/tech-support/>. You will need to possess the required computing technology to be successful in an online course. **Important!!!** Save your work as you go along. Nothing is more discouraging than to lose an assignment due to a computer hang ups! You may want to also make hard copies of your work to have "proof" and save yourself time and trouble!

Plagiarism Virtual Course

Plagiarism is the leading form of academic dishonesty that the Department of Population Health has to address. As a SHSU student, you are responsible for knowing what plagiarism is and how to avoid it.

End of Course Evaluation

Constructive feedback from students on course evaluations is taken very seriously at the College of Health Sciences. I ask for your assistance in helping the Department in its assessment of courses and faculty through your participation in the evaluation of your courses. As health professionals you will one day have the responsibility to evaluate colleagues and health initiatives. The College views providing feedback on the Department's courses as part of your professional responsibility.

DPH Mission

The mission of the Department of Population Health is to foster student-centered learning for early and advanced health professionals; to conduct applied, evidence-based research in population health; and to improve health and wellbeing through community engagement at the local and global levels.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities that may affect adversely their work in this class should register with the SHSU Counseling Center and talk with their University supervisor and classroom mentor teachers about how they can help. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until registration with the Counseling Center is complete.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified individual with disabilities shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Students with disabilities may request help with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities from their instructors, school/department chair, or by contacting the Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and Director of the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex, or by calling (936) 294-1720.

Academic Integrity

According to the administration's guidelines: "All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials."

"Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, [chewing gum], using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with the university policy."

The full policy for "Code of Student Conduct and Discipline" is found at the following link:
<https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

FERPA

The Federal Education Rights & Privacy Act requires that we advise students that by registering for this course, their SHSU assigned e-mail address will be revealed to classmates and the instructor. By continuing your enrollment in the course you acknowledge your understanding of this policy. By enrolling in this course you agree to the following statement: "I understand that as a result of registering for this course, my SHSU/Blackboard assigned e-mail address will be revealed to classmates and the instructor."

Equal Opportunity Statement

Sam Houston State University is an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Institution.

DISCLAIMER

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

Title IX

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in education.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Sam Houston State University complies with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act. Sexual misconduct, as defined in the University's Sexual Misconduct Policy, constitutes a form of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX and Title VII.

TITLE IX CONTACTS

Sex discrimination includes sexual harassment and sexual assault. While it is often thought of as a law that applies to athletics programs, Title IX is much broader than Athletics and applies to many programs at Sam Houston State University. While compliance with the law is everyone's responsibility at SHSU, below is a list of staff members that have primary responsibility for Title IX Compliance.

Title IX Coordinator--Jeanine Bias
Associate Dean of Students --Lowman Student Center, Suite 215
936-294-3026 or jbias@shsu.edu
