

	<p>Department of Rehabilitation and Health Services  <b>University of North Texas</b>  <b>PUBH 3010: Social Justice &amp; Behavioral Foundations in Public Health</b>  <b>PUBH 3010, 3 credit hours, 100% ONLINE</b>  <b>SUMMER 2025</b></p>
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### **COURSE INFORMATION**

- **PUBH 3010:** Social Justice & Behavioral Foundations in Public Health
- **SUMMER 2025**
- **PUBH 3010-400     3 credit hours             100% ONLINE**
- **Virtual Office Hours:** Tuesday/Thursdays 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM by appointment

### **Professor / Instructor Contact Information**

- Brinta Thomas
- Phone: 405-875-9609
- Email address: [Brinta.Thomas@unt.edu](mailto:Brinta.Thomas@unt.edu)

### **Materials – Text, Readings, Supplementary Readings**

**Required Text:** Edberg, Mark. (2023). Essentials of health, culture, and diversity: Understanding people, reducing disparities. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) Jones & Bartlett Learning, Burlington: MA.

**Scholarly articles** (posted on CANVAS)

### **Course Description**

This course explores the social justice issues that shape health outcomes, with a focus on the intersections of culture, race, ethnicity, social class, gender, and migration status. Students will engage with the foundational concept of health equity and gain a comprehensive overview of health disparities in the United States and beyond. Through an examination of historical contexts, theoretical frameworks, empirical research, and intervention strategies, students will critically analyze the root causes of health inequities and the systemic factors that sustain them.

The course also emphasizes the multifaceted nature of promoting health equity and advancing social justice in health. Students will learn about past and ongoing public health efforts aimed at reducing disparities and improving health outcomes across diverse populations. Instructional materials—including scholarly readings, multimedia content, class discussions, and lectures—will provide diverse perspectives and real-world applications of key issues.

By the end of the course, students will be equipped with the knowledge to critically assess health disparities and contribute to efforts that foster equitable health outcomes for all.

### **Learning Objectives**

- Explain how various cultural theories are used to explain health disparities
- Apply theories and models to explain individual, community, and population health
- Understand the determinants of health disparities
- Generate ideas for programs and policies that can promote health equity
- Understand the importance of social justice in health among population groups
- Learn intervention approaches for some health-related behaviors
- Evaluate the importance of all the social determinants of health in creating health disparities.

#### **Core Competencies** (student will be able to ...)

- Describe the historical development of public health and its role in society
- Incorporate the determinants of health in the causation of disease and access to health services
- Identify and contrast cultural factors contributing to disparities in population health
- Articulate the social determinants of health status in population groups
- Understand health disparities and factors that explain the disparities.
- Describe a socioecological approach to how social factors play a role in health behaviors.

#### **Teaching Philosophy**

Online classes are very fast paced, thus, it is important for students to stay up with assignments and complete them on time. You **CANNOT** procrastinate. To do well in this class, students should ask questions whenever they have one, and do all the assignments **ON TIME** (discussions, quizzes, video evaluations, and exams). Please **PROOF-READ** your work before submitting it as your grades will be partially based on the clarity of your writing. Your grades in this course will be based on discussions, quizzes, video evaluations, and exams.

1. There will be three discussions.
2. There will be three video assignments.
3. There will be three exams.
4. Quizzes will be posted weekly.
5. Assignments **CANNOT** be made up after they turn off.
6. Your assignments **MUST** be posted during the allotted time.
7. No work will be accepted after the deadline.
8. **PLEASE do not e-mail me your assignment, I will not read it.**
9. I will read each and every post and provide feedback when necessary.
10. Please be courteous in the Course-room. Do not post anything offensive, threatening, inflammatory, or illegal. Also, do not call people names if you disagree with their views.
11. All assignments/assessments turn off at 11:59 pm.
12. Check **CANVAS DAILY**. Email me at [Brinta.Thomas@unt.edu](mailto:Brinta.Thomas@unt.edu) if you have questions.
13. Please do not e-mail me asking for additional extra credit assignments.

#### **Requirements**

Please familiarize yourself with the technical requirements to complete this online course:

- [Hardware and Software requirements for Canvas](#)
- [Canvas Browser Check](#)

## **Skills**

Minimum technology skills for successful completion of this course include:

- Sending and receiving email
- Creating, sending, and receiving Microsoft Word documents
- Posting to discussion boards
- Printing Word documents OR opening and printing pdf files (using free [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#))
- [Navigating Canvas](#)

## **Being a Successful Online Student**

-What Makes a Successful Online Student?

-Self Evaluation for Potential Online Students

## **How the Course is Organized**

Twelve chapters are covered during the semester in addition to a series of scholarly articles. There are weekly quizzes, 3 exams, 3 discussion fora, and 3 video evaluation assignments.

## **What Should Students Do First?**

First, make sure you read the syllabus and understand its content. Make note of the deadlines. Ask the instructor questions if you have any.

## **How Students Should Proceed Each Week for Class Activities**

There are weekly readings that you need to keep up with in order to do well in this class. If you have problems or questions, email me at [Brinta.Thomas@unt.edu](mailto:Brinta.Thomas@unt.edu) Make note of **deadlines** which are organized **weekly** in this class.

## **Student Technical Support**

The University of North Texas provides student technical support in the use of Canvas and supported resources. The student help desk may be reached at:

Email: [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)

Phone: 940.565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Regular hours are maintained to provide support to students. Please refer to the website (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/hours.htm>) for updated hours.

## **Student Support Services**

Also known at the University of North Texas campus as SSS. All activities and services provided by SSS are intended to help students progress through their degree to an *on-time graduation*. Please refer to the website (<https://trio.unt.edu/sss>) for detailed list of services.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Readings and Assignments:** Students are expected to do all assigned readings for each week and be prepared to share their views on the different issues raised in the readings.

1. **Quizzes: (50 points).** There will be NO make-up quizzes. A quiz will be given weekly, starting May 19th, 2025. The quizzes are designed to test your knowledge and help you study for the exams. You will decide on the score that you want to earn on each quiz because you have multiple attempts until you earn a perfect score if that is what you want. Questions will be drawn from materials covered (textbook, articles, etc.). **You must complete the quiz during the allotted time.**

**QUIZ 1 covers chapters 1 and 2 + assigned articles.**

**QUIZ 2 covers chapters 3 and 4**

**QUIZ 3 covers chapters 5-7**

**QUIZ 4 covers chapters 9-12**

2. **Video Evaluations: (75 points total)**--Three videos will be shown in this class. The purpose is to provide students with an opportunity to think about and comment on particular issue(s) that is/are being covered. You are required to submit at least a one-page **typed-written (font size =12)** reaction paper of the video **(300 words)**.

### *General guidelines for all the video evaluations*

While you're viewing a video, think about and write down the following:

- a. What are the most important points or ideas in the video? **(2 point)**
- b. What significance do these ideas have for a course of this nature? **(2 point)**
- c. Write a brief response to at least one major issue discussed. Use your critical thinking skill here. Make sure you integrate relevant concepts and theories that you learn in the textbook, videos, notes, etc. to substantiate your views. **(13 points).**  
**Make sure you clearly address this point because your answer is worth 13 points.**
- d. Do you think the video is relevant to the class topic under discussion (here you state if the video presents anything to illustrate or explain a point raised in the text or in class discussion? Did the video make you look at anything differently?) If you think the video is not relevant to the topic, feel free to say so but you must be certain to explain your position. **(7 points).** **Make sure you clearly address this point because your answer is worth 7 points.**
- e. Did you find anything problematic? **(1 point).**

**Note: Your grade will be based on the breadth and depth of your answers.**

Video 1—**Monday, May 26 to Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> 11:59 PM**

Video 2---**Monday, June 2 to Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> (11:59 pm)**

Video 3---**Monday, June 9 to Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup> (11:59 pm)**

**You must complete video assignments during these times.**

- 3. Discussions: (75 points total).** Discussion questions are posted in the Discussions tab. You are required to POST in your comments, read all of the posts of your classmates, and reply to two of the posts that you read.

In your discussions, be as detailed as possible. Refrain from simple answers like “I agree”, “yes, this is true”, etc. Please make sure you explain why you agree or think the posting is good or true. Whatever you say, make sure you explain why you think the way you do. What I will be looking for in the postings is how well students integrate concepts and theories learned in the text and articles into their discussions. **Show off your critical thinking skill!!!** Students will have **Fridays from 11:59 pm to Sundays 11:59 pm** to post and reply to two of their classmates’ posts. After 11:59 pm on Mondays, you will NOT be ABLE to post your answer to the discussion question. NOTE: **You have to post your answer for the discussion question(s) FIRST before you see the posts of your classmates.**

90%-100% -- Very detailed answer. Answer/post has an extensive use of relevant textbook material –concepts and theories.

80%-89% -- Detailed answer. Answer/post contains a high level of use of textbook material—concepts and theories.

70%-79% -- Moderate answer. Answer/post has a moderate use of relevant textbook material—concepts and theories

60-69% -- Basic answer. Answer/post contains a superficial knowledge of relevant textbook material --concepts and theories.

59% and below – Answer/post has little to no knowledge of relevant concepts/theories.

**Discussion assignments must be completed during these times.**

**Discussion 1: Due Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> 11:59 PM –**

**Discussion 2: Due Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> 11:59 PM**

**Discussion 3: Due Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> 11: 59 PM**

4. Examinations. (300 points total)—There will be three exams given during the semester on the dates specified in the schedule (see below). You have a 72-hour window for the exam. However, you will have a certain amount of time to take the exam once you begin it. Also, you will have only ONE attempt once you begin an exam.

**Exams must be taken during these times.**

**Exam 1: Due Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> before 11: 59 PM**

Exam 1 covers Chapters 1-4 + assigned articles for WEEK 1

**Exam 2: Due Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> before 11: 59 PM**

Exam 2 covers Chapters 5-8 + assigned articles for WEEK 3

**Exam 3: Final Exam Due Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> before 11: 59 PM**

Exam 3 covers Chapters 9-12 + assigned articles for WEEK 4

**(NOTE—no make-up for final EXAM)**

**Please Do Not Ask for extra work at the end of the semester. Note that your activity on Canvas can be tracked.**

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Information will be sent to students via their e-mail (please check your e-mail daily) and posted on CANVAS- check the Announcements tab daily.

***Interaction with Instructor Statement:*** The primary means to contact me will be via e-mail: e-mail: Brinta.Thomas@unt.edu. I try to respond to students within 24 hours, even on weekends. In case, I do not reply to your e-mail within 48 hours, please e-mail me again. I am also available during my office hours via Zoom. I will send out an e-mail in case I cannot hold office hours.

## ASSESSMENT & GRADING

### 1. Assessments

Quizzes: (50 points). There will be NO make-up quizzes. A quiz will be given every week, starting May 23, 2024. Questions will be drawn from materials covered (discussions, articles, textbook, videos, etc.).

However, you will have between 10 and 30 minutes to take the quiz (depending on the number of questions) once it begins. Also, you will have only ONE attempt once you begin a quiz. The quizzes will turn on from

Video Evaluations: (75 points total) --Three videos will be shown in this class. The purpose is to provide students with an opportunity to think about and comment on particular issue(s) that is/are being covered. You are required to submit at least a one-page **typed-written** reaction paper of the video (300 words).

2. Discussions: (75 points total). Discussion questions will be posted throughout the semester (see calendar). You are required to POST in your comments, read all of the posts of your classmates, and reply to two of the posts that you read.
3. Examinations. (300 points total)—There will be three exams given during the semester on the dates specified in the schedule. You have a 72-hour window for the exam. However, you will have a certain amount of time to take the exam once you begin it. Also, you will have only ONE attempt once you begin an exam.

*This course is made up of a series of assignments and assessments to assist you in achieving the course learning objectives/outcomes. You have readings for each week and will work on various combinations of assignments, video evaluations, discussions, etc. which will be made available to you on a specific date for 72 hours.*

## COURSE DESIGN

Week/Dates	Module Topic	Readings	Assignments
Week 1: May 19 <sup>th</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup>	Health Disparities and Importance of Culture & Health	Chapter 1 Chapter 2  Article: What is health equity  Article: Health Disparities PP	Due Sunday 5/25 before 11: 59 PM  - Quiz 1 -Discussion 1
Week 2: May 26 <sup>th</sup> - June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Ethnomedicine, Moral Dimension of Health, Syndemics	Chapter 3 Chapter 4	Due Sunday 6/1 before 11: 59 PM  -Quiz 2 -Discussion 2 -Video 1 - Exam 1
Week 3: June 2 <sup>nd</sup> - June 8 <sup>th</sup>	Sociocultural Ecology of Disease and Illness	Chapter 5 Chapter 6 Chapter 7 Chapter 8  Article: Cultural Reflexivity	Due Sunday 6/8 before 11: 59 PM  -Quiz 3 -Discussion 3 -Video 2 - Exam 2
Week 4: June 9 <sup>th</sup> - June 15 <sup>th</sup>	Culture and Public Health Challenges	Chapter 9 Chapter 10 Chapter 11 Chapter 12  Article: COVID 19 Culture War	Due Sunday 6/15 before 11: 59 PM  -Quiz 4 -Video 3
Week 5: June 16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	Final Exam	Chapter 9-12	Due Wednesday 6/18 before 11: 59 PM  -Exam 3



**NOTE: All assignments/assessments must be completed during their respective allotted times.**

### **Grading**

The final grade will be assigned based on the following scale which uses a point system:

A = 500—450 points

B = 449—400 points

C = 399—350 points

D = 349—300 points

F = 299 points & below.

### **SCHOLARLY EXPECTATIONS**

In keeping with the norms of higher education, any student found guilty of academic dishonesty may receive a failing grade for the course and be reported to their college dean. Refer to your student handbook for complete provisions of the policies and procedures set forth by UNT.

### **COURSE POLICIES**

#### **Assignment Policy**

*See the assignment schedule for due dates which are in this syllabus and also posted on Canvas.*

#### **Late Work**

*Late assignments will NOT be accepted in this class.*

#### **Class Participation**

*Students are required to login regularly to the online class site. The instructor will use the tracking feature in Canvas to monitor student activity. Students are also required to participate in all class activities such as discussion board.*

#### **Virtual Classroom Citizenship**

*The same guidelines that apply to traditional classes should be observed in the virtual classroom environment. Please use proper netiquette when interacting with class members and the professor.*

## **Incompletes**

I rarely give an incomplete. Please refer to UNT policy on requesting incompletes.

## **Policy on Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties**

### **Copyright Notice**

Some or all of the materials on this course Web site may be protected by copyright. Federal copyright law prohibits the reproduction, distribution, public performance, or public display of copyrighted materials without the express and written permission of the copyright owner, unless fair use or another exemption under copyright law applies. *[Additional sample statements can be located at: <http://copyright.unt.edu/content/sample-copyright-notice>]* Additional copyright information may be located at: <http://copyright.unt.edu/content/unt-copyright-policies>.

### **Undergraduate Online Course Attendance Policy**

*Information about the University of Texas' Attendance Policy may be found at: <http://policy.unt.edu/policy/15-2-5>*

### **Administrative Withdrawal**

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

### **Policy on Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties**

*[Sample statement: The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the UNT Student Help Desk: [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu) or 940.565.2324. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.*

## **UNT POLICIES**

**Student Conduct and Discipline:** [\*Student Handbook\*](#).

*Please refer to the UNT Faculty Handbook or your department regarding the Student Code of Conduct Policy.*

### **Academic Honesty Policy**

*Please refer to the UNT Faculty Handbook or your department regarding the Academic Policy. A sample statement may include the following:*

"You are encouraged to become familiar with the University's Policy of Academic dishonesty found in the [Student Handbook](#). The content of the Handbook applies to this course. Additionally, the following specific requirements will be expected in this class: (enter specific requirements). If you are in doubt regarding the requirements, please consult with me before you complete any requirements of the course."

## ADA Policy

**As per the Office of Disability Accommodation, a syllabus for a course SHALL include the following statement:**

*The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://disability.unt.edu/>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.*

## Add/Drop Policy

*Please refer to the UNT Faculty Handbook or your department regarding the Add/Drop Policy.*

## Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses:

### Federal Regulation

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website at <http://www.oea.gov/index.php/links/electronic-code-of-federal-regulations>. The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at "Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f) (6) (i) (G)" and can be found buried within this document: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2012-title8-vol1/xml/CFR-2012-title8-vol1-sec214-2.xml>

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F–1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through

distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

### University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

- (1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
- (2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email [internationaladvising@unt.edu](mailto:internationaladvising@unt.edu)) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.