

	<p>Department of Rehabilitation and Health Services University of North Texas PUBH 3010: Social Justice & Behavioral Foundations in Public Health PUBH 3010, Sections 900, 950 3 credit hours FALL 2022</p>
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COURSE INFORMATION

- **PUBH 3010:** Social Justice & Behavioral Foundations in Public Health
- **FALL 2022**
- **PUBH 3010, Section 900, 950 3 credit hours**
- **Office Hours:** Tuesday 3 pm to 4 pm; Friday 1:00 pm to 2 pm, by appointment.

Professor Contact Information

- Brinta Thomas, M.H.Sc., B.S., ACUE-EOTP
- Phone: (405) 875-9609
- Email address: Brinta.Thomas@unt.edu

This course is 100% online. I will be available during office hours to answer any questions. Please feel free to contact me at any time to ask any questions via email/text/call, you do not need to wait for office hours.

Materials – Text, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Required Text: Edberg, Mark. (2013). Essentials of health, culture, and diversity: Understanding people, reducing disparities. (1st ed.) Jones & Bartlett Learning, Burlington: MA.

Scholarly articles (See CANVAS)

Course Description

This course introduces students to social justice issues such as culture, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic class, gender, migrant status, and so on, all of which have an impact on human health and contribute to health inequalities. Students will be given an understanding of health inequalities as well as the notion of health equality. They will be educated on important cultural and historical concerns, ideas, empirical data, and research that explain health inequalities, as well as ways to changing risk and health behaviors. Students will also learn about the complexities of health inequalities, as well as the promotion of health equality and social justice. They will also learn about the health initiatives and progress achieved to enhance health promotion among all individuals, regardless of background.

Prerequisites

None

Learning Objectives

- a. Describe the determinants of health disparities.
- b. Describe the roles of culture in health, health behavior, and health disparities.
- c. Describe the relationship between ethnomedical systems and health disparities.
- d. Discuss research methods for health data.
- e. Explain how various theories are used to explain health disparities
- f. Apply theories and models to explain individual, community, and population health
- g. Generate ideas for programs and policies that can promote health equity
- h. Discuss the importance of social justice in health among population groups
- i. Explain intervention approaches for some health-related behaviors
- j. Evaluate the importance of all the social determinants in creating health disparities.

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

- k. Describe the historical development of public health and its role in society
- l. Incorporate the determinants of health in the causation of disease and access to health services
- m. Identify and contrast factors contributing to disparities in population health
- n. Articulate the social determinants of health status in population groups
- o. Discuss health disparities and factors that explain the disparities.
- p. 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 four discussions.
2. There will be four video assignments.
3. There will be three exams.
4. There will be 10 quizzes.
5. Each assignment will turn on at a particular time and be available for one week.
6. Assignments **CANNOT** be made up after they turn off.
7. Your assignments **MUST** be posted during the allotted time.
8. No work will be accepted after the deadline.
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. Students will have graded assignments within a week from due dates.
13. You can check exam and quiz questions after the end of due dates.

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, 4 discussion fora, and 4 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. 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

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: (20 points).** There will be 10 quizzes with 20 points each. A quiz will be given weekly, starting September 6th, 2022. 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.).

The quiz will be posted for a week. However, you will have between 5 and 20 minutes to take the quiz (depending on the number of questions) once you begin.

Learning objectives a through j are achieved through these activities.

2. **Video Evaluations: (100 points total)**--Four 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, scholarly articles, videos, notes, etc. to substantiate your views. **(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, articles, 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)**
- e. Did you find anything problematic? Please explain. **(1 point)**

You must complete video assignments during these times.

- 3. Discussions: (100 points total).** Discussion questions are posted. 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!!! While discussion assignments will be available for a week, students will have **Fridays from 11:59 pm to Mondays 11:59 pm** to post their response to my original discussion questions. **You will lose some points if you post your response to my original discussion questions after 11:59 pm on Mondays.** Use the rest of the week to read all the posts of classmates and reply to TWO of your classmates’ posts. 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/article material –concepts and theories.

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

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

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

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

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Did not meet expectations	Needs significant improvement	Need some improvement	Exceptional
Post and reply Weight 40.00%	0 % Did not post or reply to the discussion questions.	30 % Posted comments, but did not reply to two posts.	60 % Posted comments, but replied to only ONE post.	100 % Posted a comment and replied to two posts.
Content Weight 50.00%	0 % Did not use relevant concepts or theories to support comments and	25 % Did not use relevant concepts or theories from text but made some relevant comments.	60 % Only used a few relevant concepts and theories from textbook.	100 % Extensive use of relevant textbook material.

Criteria	Did not meet expectations	Needs significant improvement	Need some improvement	Exceptional
	replies.			
Grammar and Typos Weight 10.00%	0 % More than 10 errors	25 % Five to 10 errors.	60 % Fewer than five errors	100 % Perfect writing skills.

4. **Examinations. (300 points total)**—There will be three exams given during the semester on the dates specified in the schedule (see below). The exam will be on for a week. 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. (Learning objectives a through j achieved

There is **no make-up quiz**. There is **no make-up exam for the final exam**.

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 (CANVAS messaging system) or telephone: 940.565.4267. However, I prefer e-mails since I try my best 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. You may call or just come in. I will send out an e-mail in case I cannot hold office hours. Nevertheless, I am in and out of the office most days, but it is always good to let me know ahead of time when you plan to meet with me.

ASSESSMENT & GRADING

1. Assessments

Quizzes: (200 points). There will be NO make-up quizzes. Questions will be drawn from materials covered (discussions, articles, textbook, etc.).

The quiz will be posted for a week. However, you will have between 5 and 20 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.

2. **Video Evaluations: (100 points total)**--Four 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). Video assignments will be on for a week.
3. **Discussions: (100 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. Discussion assignments will be on for a week.
4. **Examinations. (300 points total)**—There will be one final exam given during the end of the semester and 2 exams throughout the semester. 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 a week.

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 = 700—630 points

B = 629—560 points

C = 559—490 points

D = 489—420 points

F = 419 points & below.

COURSE EVALUATION

Course evaluation is usually conducted during the last 2 weeks prior to final exams. I will post information about the date for evaluation on Canvas and e-mail each student when it becomes available.

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.

Instructor Responsibilities and Feedback

- The primary means to contact me will be via e-mail or telephone: (405) 875-9609. However, I prefer e-mails since I try my best 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 (Online).

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-notices>]* 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

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 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. 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

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) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

Week	Readings	Assignments
Aug. 29 th – Sept. 4 th	Articles on Canvas	Introduce Yourself Discussion
September 5 th -11 th	Article: Mental health disparities (SEE CANVAS)	Video 1 (Due Fri) Discussion 1 (Due Fri) Quiz 1 (Due Sun)
September 12 th -18 th	Chapter 1 & Chapter 2	Quiz 2 (Due Sun)
September 19 th -25 th	Chapter 3 & Chapter 4 Articles on Canvas	Video 2 (Due Fri)
September 26 th – October 2 nd	Review Chapters 1-4	Exam 1 (Due Sun)
October 3 rd – 9 th	Chapter 5 & Articles on Canvas	Discussion 2 (Due Fri) Quiz 3 (Due Sun)
October 10 th -16 th	Chapter 6 & Articles on Canvas)	Quiz 4 (Due Sun)
October 17 th -23 rd	Chapter 7 & Chapter 8 Articles on Canvas	Discussion 3 (Due Fri) Quiz 5 (Due Sun)
October 24 th -30 th	Review Chapters 5-8	Video 3 (Due Fri) Exam 2 (Due Sun)
October 31 st - November 6 th	Read Canvas Articles	No assignments due this week ☺
November 7 th -13 th	Chapter 9	Quiz 6 (Due Sun)
November 14 th -20 th	Chapter 10 & Article on Canvas	Discussion 4 (Due Fri) Quiz 7 (Due Sun)
November 21 st – 27 th	Thanksgiving Break	No assignments due this week ☺

November 28 th - December 4 th	Chapter 11 & Chapter 12	Video 4 (Due Fri) Quiz 8 (Due Sun)
December 5 th -9 th	Review Chapters 9-12	Quiz 9 (Due Fri) Quiz 10 (Due Fri) Final Exam (Due Fri)