



University of North Texas
College of Health and Public Service
Department of Rehabilitation and Health Services
PUBH 4015 Ethics in Public Health

Welcome to the PUBH 4015 Ethics in Public Health Spring 2025 course. My name is Brinta Thomas. I will be your instructor for this class. I look forward to introducing you to the concepts and processes of ethics in public health.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Number and Title: PUBH 4015 Ethics in Public Health
Meets: TuTh, 11:00-12:20 PM, Gate 137
3 Credit Hours

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor Name: Brinta Thomas
Phone Number: 405-875-9609
Email: brinta.thomas@unt.edu
Office Hours: MWF 12-3 PM by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class provides students with the chance to examine ethical concerns within the field of public health. Students will gain an understanding of fundamental ethical frameworks and how they are employed in public health activities. The interconnections between public health and medical ethics will be deliberated. Various ethical dilemmas linked to public health, such as interventions, distributive justice, equitable treatment, governmental responsibility and powers, surveillance, screening, disease containment, immunizations, individual rights, environmental health, health communication, and other pertinent topics, will be explored.

PRE- REQUISITES

None

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify ethical issues in public health
2. Apply critical thinking skills in resolving ethical issues in Public Health
3. Identify historical events that have shaped public health ethical guidelines
4. Understand the political and legal context of public health ethics
5. Apply social justice and human rights principles in public health practice
6. Evaluate policies with attention paid to the impact on health, equity
7. Differentiate individual and population ethical considerations
8. Describe how societal, organizational, and individual factors influence and are influenced by public health communications.

9. List and describe public health professional codes of ethics

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Required Textbook:

Essentials of Public Health Ethics 1 st Edition 2015 Ruth Gaare Bernheim, JD, MPH; James F. Childress, PhD; Alan Melnick, MD, MPH; Richard J Bonnie, JD ISBN: 9780763780463 Additional Required Readings: Readings will be posted in Canvas throughout the semester

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

UIT Help Desk: [UIT Student Help Desk](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm) site (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Sage Hall, Room 130

(940)565-2324

Walk-in Availability: 8 am–9 pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328) (<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328>)

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

We will be using Canvas as our main platform for interaction this semester. You will need regular access to the internet, Canvas, and Zoom (including a webcam and microphone). We will be using programs in the Microsoft Office Suite including Word and PowerPoint. You will also need to have access to Adobe Acrobat Reader for pdf files. Finally, you will need to have the ability to upload and download files, send and receive emails with/without attachments, and communicate with fellow students in various electronic formats. Check the electronic resources available to students through the College of Health and Public Service as well as the library to see if they offer laptops for students to check out.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A student's performance in this course will be assessed in five different ways. See below for the points breakdown, details about the assignments, and late work policies. Additional information for each assignment will be posted in Canvas.

Assignment	Points Possible	Percentage of Final Grade
Participation	100 points	10%
Quizzes	15 @ 20 points each Total 300 points	30%
Case Studies	2 at 100 points each Total 200 points	20%
Midterm	Total 100 points	10%
Final Exam	Total 300 points	30%
Total Points Possible	1000 points	100%

COURSE REQUIREMENTS continued

Participation:

Participation points are earned by participating in weekly assignments in class. If a student is not present in class, they are not able to make up participation points.

Quizzes:

Students are required to complete 15 weekly reflections in Canvas. Some of the reflections are straightforward from material in the text and lecture material. In some cases, the reflections expand the information learned and ask you to apply the information to situational situations and scenarios in a management and leadership situation. **In general, quizzes are due Fridays at 5:00 pm.** If a student does not complete the reflection for the week, they will not receive any points. The reflections cannot be made up unless a student contacts me **before** the due date or has a valid reason for not completing the week's requirement (illness, death in the family, etc.).

AI IS NOT ACCEPTED IN THIS COURSE. IF THERE IS A DETECTION OF AI IN YOUR SUBMISSION, YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO.

LATE WORK POLICY

Late work is not accepted in this class.

GRADING

All the components of a student's grade will have a point value system, based on an A being equivalent to a 4.0. Points will be given based on a student's performance, such as the quality of information posted in the weekly discussions, writing skills, research skills, and ability to illustrate comprehension of all course topics. Each assignment will include a rubric for specific details on grading criteria.

Total Points Possible for Semester/Grading Scale = 1,000

1000 – 900 = A
899 – 800 = B
799 – 700 = C
699 – 600 = D
599 – 500 = F

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

As the instructor in this course, I am responsible for:

1. Providing course materials that will assist and enhance your achievement of the stated course goals

2. Providing timely and helpful feedback within the stated guidelines
3. Assisting in maintaining a positive learning environment for everyone

As a student in this course, you are responsible for:

1. Reading and completing all requirements of the course in a timely manner
2. Working to remain attentive and engaged in the course and interact with your fellow students
3. Assisting in maintaining a positive learning environment for everyone

UNT POLICIES

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. *Work submitted may be analyzed by software for academic integrity.*

ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. I aim to make success in this course attainable for all students. Please reach out to me about accommodation options. Students seeking accommodation should register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students 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. 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.

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

CALENDAR (

The semester calendar is posted below. It includes information for each week's topic, required weekly readings, and due dates for assignments. Be aware, weekly supplemental material is not listed in this calendar. It is your responsibility to go to Canvas to find the posted material for the week. Canvas is where you will find the weekly instructions, supplemental materials, weekly participation assignments, quizzes, case study instructions, the Midterm and Final exams, grades, and more. The material will be posted throughout the semester. These dates and topics are subject to change.

Week Dates	Module Topic	Materials to Review	Participation and Assignments
Week 1	Introduction to the course	N/A	Quiz #1 Due 1/17 at 5 PM
Week 2	What is Ethics?	N/A	Quiz #2 Due 1/24 at 5 PM
Week 3	Public Health Ethics	Chapter 1	Quiz #3 Due 1/31 at 5 PM
Week 4	Moral Considerations: Bases and limits for Public Health	Chapter 2	Quiz #4 Due 2/7 at 5 PM
Week 5	The political and Legal Context of Public Health Ethics	Chapter 3	Quiz #5 & Case Study 1 Due 2/14 at 5 PM
Week 6	Public Health Perspectives	Chapter 4	Quiz #6 Due 2/21 at 5 PM
Week 7	Resource Allocation and Priority Setting	N/A	Quiz #7 Due 2/28 at 5 PM
Week 8	Public Health Data: Surveillance and Case Finding	Chapters 5 & 6	Quiz #8 Due 3/7 at 5 PM Midterm in class
Week 9	SPRING BREAK, NO CLASS!	SPRING BREAK!	SPRING BREAK!
Week 10	Disease and Prevention Control	Chapters 7 & 8	Quiz #9 Due 3/21 at 5 PM
Week 11	Health Communication	Chapter 9	Quiz #10 Due 3/28 at 5 PM
Week 12	Public Health and the Environment	Chapter 10	Quiz #11 Due 4/4 at 5 PM
Week 13	Ethics Frameworks for Global Health	N/A	Quiz #12 Due 4/11 at 5 PM
Week 14	Public Health Research	N/A	Quiz #13 Due 4/18 at 5 PM
Week 15	Public Health Professional Organizations	N/A	Quiz #14 & Case Study 2 Due 4/25 at 5 PM
Week 16	Finals Week	Chapters 1-10	Quiz #15 and Final Exam Due 5/2 at 5 PM