



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

Welcome to PUBH 4015 Ethics in Public Health Spring 2024 course. My name is Professor 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: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:00 AM – 12:20 PM  
Location: Wooten Hall (Wh) Room 117  
3 Credit Hours

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Brinta Thomas, M.H.Sc., B.S., ACUE-EOTP

Phone number: (405) 875-9609

Office hours:

In-person after class

***Virtual office hours MWF 2:00pm – 3:00pm***

***OR by appointment***

Email: Brinta.Thomas@unt.edu

## 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<sup>st</sup> 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 SKILL REQUIREMENTS

Students will need access to Canvas, have the ability to download and upload files, send and receive emails, and communicate with fellow students in various electronic formats, including video conferencing.

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

**UIT Help Desk:** [UIT Student Help Desk site \(http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.html\)](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.html)

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

**Phone:** 940-565-2324

**In Person:** Sage Hall, Room 130

**Walk-In-Availability:** 8am-9pm

**Telephone Availability:**

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

**Laptop Checkout:** 8am-7pm

For additional support Visit: [Canvas Student Guide \(Student Guide - Canvas Community \(canvaslms.com\)\)](#)

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Here are the five major ways I will assess a student’s performance in this course. Students are required to attend class and complete the reading assigned in the textbook and the supplemental readings. Students are required to complete weekly reflections to assess their understanding of the material.

***The reflections center on the material presented the same week.*** A final exam will be held at the end of the semester. It will cover all material discussed during the semester and will be taken in Canvas. Finally, students will be given a chance to assess their work in the course.

Assignment	Points Possible	Percentage of Final Grade
Participation	100 points	10%
Quizzes	300 points (15 quizzes worth 20 points each)	30%
Case Studies	2 at 100 points each. Total 200 points	20%
Midterm	100 points	10%
Final Exam	300 points	30%
<b>Total Points Possible</b>	<b>1000 points</b>	<b>100%</b>

## GRADING

All of the components of a student’s grade will have a point value system, based on A being equivalent to a 4.0. Points will be given based on a student’s performance, such as the number of correct answers for each quiz, writing skills, research skills, and ability to illustrate comprehension of all course topics.

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

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

### Weekly Reflections:

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, reflections 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.).

### Late Work Policy:

**I do NOT accept late work.** If any submissions are turned late due to illness, injury, death, etc., you need to contact me **BEFORE** the deadline.

### Final Exam:

*The exam will be available from May 2<sup>nd</sup> to May 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.*

## 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.

The instructor and students will share responsibility for each other's learning. Much of the class time will focus on application and discussion of information in the assigned readings. **Therefore, students are expected to critically read and think about the assigned reading material, and be ready to raise questions and discuss issues relevant to the readings in class.** Required reading should be completed before class on the assigned day (*please bring your text and/or pertinent readings to class with you*).

## ATTENDANCE POLICY AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

**Students are required to attend classes. Attendance will be taken throughout the semester.** There will be in class assignments worth points every day we meet in person. If a student does not attend class, they will potentially lose the ability to get credit for the course. They will also miss important information related to the

course material, assignments, quizzes and the final exam. Students are encouraged to participate in class discussions and group work. If group participation cannot be shown, the student could lose points on the group work project.

## 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 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 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. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable 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](tel:940.565.4323).

### 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 Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

### Important Notice for F-1 Students

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website at <http://www.ecfr.gov/>. Please contact me if you have further questions.

**For all other UNT Policies, please go to the Student Handbook.**

## CALENDAR

Tentative calendar for the course, including information for each class date, each week's topics, required reading for each class, and the due dates for quizzes, assignments, projects and the final exam. Remember, supplemental readings are not listed here. It is your responsibility to go to Canvas to find the posted readings for classes. Readings will be posted throughout the semester. These dates and topics are subject to change.

	Module	Readings	Assignments
Week 1	Introduction to the Course	N/A	Quiz #1 Due 1/19 at 5 PM
Week 2	What is Ethics?	N/A	Quiz #2 Due 1/26 at 5 PM
Week 3	Public Health Ethics	Chapter 1	Quiz #3 Due 2/2 at 5 PM
Week 4	Moral Considerations: Bases and Limits for Public Health	Chapter 2	Quiz #4 Due 2/9 at 5 PM
Week 5	The Political and Legal Context of Public Health Ethics	Chapter 3	Quiz #5 Due 2/16 at 5 PM Case Study 1 Due 2/16 at 5 PM
Week 6	Public Health Perspectives	Chapters 4	Quiz #6 Due 2/23 at 5 PM
Week 7	Resource Allocation and Priority Setting	N/A	Quiz #7 Due 3/1 at 5 PM
Week 8	Public Health Data: Surveillance and Case Finding	Chapters 5 & 6	Quiz #8 Due 3/8 at 5 PM Midterm in class 3/7
Week 9	<b>SPRING BREAK, NO CLASS!</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK!</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK!</b>
Week 10	Disease and Prevention Control	Chapters 7 & 8	Quiz #9 Due 3/22 at 5 PM
Week 11	Health Communication	Chapter 9	Quiz #10 Due 3/29 at 5 PM
Week 12	Public Health and the Environment	Chapter 10	Quiz #11 Due 4/5 at 5 PM Case Study 2 Due 4/5 at 5 PM
Week 13	Ethics Frameworks for Global Health	N/A	Quiz #12 Due 4/12 at 5 PM
Week 14	Public Health Research	N/A	Quiz #13 Due 4/19 at 5 PM
Week 15	Public Health Professional Organizations	N/A	Quiz #14 Due 4/26 at 5 PM
Week 16	Final Exam	Chapters 1-10	Quiz #15 Due 5/3 at 5 PM Final Exam Due 5/8 at 5 PM