

	<p><b>University of North Texas</b> Department of Rehabilitation and Health Services</p> <p>Course Syllabus Environmental Health: PUBH 3025 Summer 2026</p>
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Office Hours: By appointment

**Course Description:** Environmental health is a branch of public health concerned with how both the natural and built environment affect human health by looking at the impact of physical, chemical and biological factors external to humans. This online course is designed to teach public health undergraduate students the fundamental concepts of environmental health including topics on environmental justice, air and water pollution, solid waste, built environment and occupational health. This course will also examine the sources, exposure routes, regulation and health outcomes associated with biological, chemical, and physical agents in the environment, both naturally occurring and man-made.

#### Learning Objectives

- Discuss the history and definitions of environmental health, highlighting major historical events and milestones that have shaped the field.
- Describe concepts related to national and global environmental justice issues, with a focus on the unique environmental challenges faced by marginalized communities.
- Describe methods used in epidemiology and toxicology to assess environmental exposures and hazards.
- Recognize and describe the breadth of environmental agents and hazards that impact public health, and how these transcend national borders.
- Describe specific applications of environmental health concepts to fields such as water quality control, food safety, and occupational health.
- Evaluate how different countries and cultures perceive and address environmental challenges.

Course Pre-requisites: None

Required text: Friis, R. H. (2019). Essentials of environmental health (3rd ed.). Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning. ISBN: 978-1-284-12397-5

Supplemental text: Howard Frumkin. Environmental Health: From Global to Local (Public Health/Environmental Health) 3rd Edition ISBN-13: 978-1118984765.

## Student Evaluation

1. *Environmental health in the news (2% each for a total of 20%):* To incorporate active learning and application of course objectives to real-world analyses, students will be required to read a **current news article** that focuses on an issue relevant to any area of Environmental Health. There will be 10 total in-the-news submissions. **Out of the 10 in-the-news summaries, students must select at least 5 that focus on international issues.** For each, submit at least a 150-word summary of the article. Acceptable sources (easily available to the general public) are official news media websites, standard newspapers or their web versions, magazines, government reports, non-profit or advocacy groups. Personal news stories and non-professional sites are not acceptable sources. I recommend the [Environmental Health News](http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/about.html) (<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/about.html>) website which provides a daily annotated listing of links to news stories related to environmental health, newly published scientific articles of interest, and new reports. **Submissions are due on Fridays of the assigned week at 11:59pm**
2. *Quizzes (2.5% each for a total of 15%):* To help ensure that students have reviewed and understood the online materials, quizzes (**six** total quizzes) will be assigned as shown in the schedule below. These quizzes are meant to be learning opportunities, giving you the chance to see how much of the material you understand, and where you may need to spend more time. All materials in lectures, videos and assigned readings are fair game in the quiz. You have only one attempt for each quiz, remembering that these are meant to be learning opportunities. **The quiz will open on Wednesdays at 12:00am and close on Fridays at 11:59pm.**
3. *Discussions (5% each for a total of 30%):* **Six** discussion question sets will be posted. These discussions should enable students to apply a broad-picture perspective to environmental health. Students are required to integrate lecture materials with specific current or historical issues. This will include ethical considerations, critical appraisals of specific issues, and integration with other public health disciplines. The specific discussion question(s) will be released at the start of the relevant module. You are required to first POST in your comments, read all of the posts of your classmates, and reply to at least two of the posts that you read. NOTE: You have to post your discussion FIRST before you see the posts of your classmates. **Discussions are due every Friday at 11:59pm.** Replies are due **two days** after the discussion post (i.e., Sundays at 11:59pm). More instructions for the discussion, including a rubric will be provided on canvas.
4. *Environmental Movie Review (5% each for a total of 15%):* Students will prepare **three** separate movie reviews of their own preference from a list of environmental movies posted on canvas, or select from other relevant environmental movies. **Out of the 3 movies to be completed, students must select at least 1 international film.** Students are required to submit at least a one-page **typed-written** (font size =12) reaction paper of the movie (300 words). More instructions for the movie evaluation including a rubric will be provided on canvas. Due dates for the movie review are listed on the course schedule (**Fridays at 11:59pm on assigned dates**).

5. *Exams (10% each for a total of 20%):* To provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their understanding of the course material, **two** non-cumulative exams will be given. Students are responsible for all lecture content and corresponding reading assignments covered on each exam. Each exam will be available for a 3-day testing window. You will have only ONE attempt once you begin the exam. Lock-down browser may be used for all exams. **The exams will open on Wednesdays at 11:59am and close on Fridays at 11:59pm on the dates shown in the schedule below.**

Grading Scale: Your final grade will be based on the following scale:

- A: 90.0 -100.0  
 B: 80.0 - 89.9  
 C: 70.0 - 79.9  
 D: 60.0 - 69.9  
 F: <60.0

#### Schedule

Week	Readings	Lecture topics	Activities/Due Dates
1	Friis Chapter 1 & 2	Introduction and history of environmental health & Environmental epidemiology	<b>May 22</b> In-the-news #1
2	Friis Chapter 3	Environmental toxicology	<b>May 29</b> In-the-news #2 Discussion #1 Quiz #1
3	Frumkin Chapter 10, 11	Ethics and environmental justice and vulnerable populations	<b>June 5</b> In-the-news #3 Movie review #1
4	Friis Chapter 6	Toxic metals and elements	<b>June 12</b> In-the-news #4 Discussion #2 Quiz #2
5	Friis Chapter 7 & 8	Pesticides and other chemicals & Radiation	<b>June 19</b> In-the-news #5 Discussion #3 Quiz #3
6	Friis Chapter 9	Water quality	<b>June 26</b> Exam #1 (June 24-26)

			In-the-news #6 Movie review #2
7	Friis Chapter 10	Air quality	<b>July 3</b> In-the-news #7 Discussion #4 Quiz #4
8	Friis Chapter 11	Food safety	<b>July 10</b> In-the-news #8 Discussion #5 Quiz #5
9	Friis Chapter 12 & 13	Solid and liquid wastes & Occupational health	<b>July 17</b> In-the-news #9 Discussion #6 Quiz #6
10	Friis Chapter 14 & 4	Injuries/Unintentional injuries & Environmental policies and regulations	<b>July 24</b> Final exam (July 22-24) In-the-news #10 Movie review #3

**Time Requirements/Commitment:** In order to be a successful online student, you should plan to log in to the course at least twice per week, possess excellent time management and organization skills, and avoid procrastination (risk of technology failure increases as the deadline for an assignment approaches).

**\*Technology/Internet issues is not an excuse for missed assignment.**

There are weekly readings that you need to keep up with in order to do well in this class. Make note of due dates for the quizzes, discussions, movie evaluations, and exams.

**Submitting Assignments:** Assignments should be submitted through Canvas by the specified due date. Each assignment will have a submission link/dropbox. **No assignments will be accepted via email.** Movie evaluation papers will be checked by Turnitin, and lockdown browser may be used for the exams, all within the Canvas system. The times used in this syllabus are all Central Standard Time. Modules open every Sunday at 11:59 pm. You will still have access to material after the end of the module.

**Late Assignments:** Late assignments will not be accepted in this class. No make-up is also available, unless proper documentation is provided.

**AI Statement:** Intellectual integrity is essential in both our academic community and this course. All submitted work must be your own and adhere to the University's Guidelines on Academic Integrity. The use of ChatGPT or any other generative AI applications is strictly prohibited in

this class. Any assignment found to involve AI reporting more than >30% will receive a score of zero.

### Online Course Technology Requirements & Skills

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

#### *Canvas*

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

1. [Hardware and Software requirements for Canvas](#)
2. [Canvas Browser Check](#)

#### *Technology Competencies/Skills*

Students enrolled in the course must be prepared to perform the basic tasks below.

1. Send and receive email
2. Attach files to an email message
3. Use of basic Microsoft Office programs
4. Save files to an external device (e.g., flash drive, CD, or DVD)
5. Post and reply to discussion forums

**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 [student support services website](https://trio.unt.edu/sss) (<https://trio.unt.edu/sss>) for detailed list of services. More student support information is also available on Canvas.

**Communication with the Instructor:** Personalized communication between instructor and student is important in enhancing the learning experience. The primary means to contact me will be via e-mail: [chisom.iwundu@unt.edu](mailto:chisom.iwundu@unt.edu) or via the Canvas inbox email.

#### **Instructor Response Time:**

- Questions via email will be answered within 24 hours during the work week, and 36 hours on weekends and holidays
- Feedback/grades will be posted within 7 days after the item's submission due date
- Final grades will be posted by the due date listed in the Academic Calendar

**Grades Incomplete:** In general, students will not be allowed to take an Incomplete in the course. If you find you have a legitimate reason for needing to take an Incomplete (refer to UNT policy on requesting incompletes), please discuss with me as soon as possible.

**Academic Integrity:** All works submitted for credit must be original works created by the scholar uniquely for the class. It is considered inappropriate and unethical, to make duplicate submissions of a single work for credit in multiple classes, unless specifically requested by the

instructor. You are encouraged to become familiar with the university's [Student Standards of Academic Integrity policy](#):

([https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003.AcadIntegrity.Final\\_.pdf](https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003.AcadIntegrity.Final_.pdf))

**Students will receive no credit for the assignment or assessment on which the student engaged in academic misconduct.**

*Syllabus Revision: The course instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus. Students are expected to be aware of any presented changes. Effort will be made to provide an opportunity for students to comment on a proposed change before the change takes place.*

UNT Policies

**Academic Honesty Policy:** You are encouraged to become familiar with the University Student Code of Conduct maintained by the Dean of Students in the Office of Student Affairs: Student Conduct Operations | Dean of Students. You are encouraged to become familiar with the University Student Code of Conduct maintained by the Dean of Students in the Office of Student Affairs: [Student Conduct Operations | Dean of Students](#).

**Add/Drop Policy:** The department adheres to add/drop schedule established and published by the UNT office of the registrar. See the [registration calendar for information](#) <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-registration-guide>.