University of North Texas
Department of Rehabilitation and Health Services

PUBH 4015: Ethics in Public Health
Spring 2020
Section 001: Tuesdays & Thursdays: 11:00 A.M. – 12:20 P.M.
Class Location: PEB 219

Instructor: Chisom Odoh, PhD, MPH
Office: Chilton Hall 238L
Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays: 12:30 P.M – 2:00 P.M, or by appointment
Phone: 940-369-5356
Email: chisom.odoh@unt.edu

Course Description: This course introduces students to ethical issues in public health, and examines frameworks and ethical issues related to public health practice and policy. Students will learn and appreciate principles of ethics and ethics-based frameworks. They will learn how values, ethical approaches, and evidence should inform policies. They will also understand the complex and at times controversial nature of ethics in public health policy and intervention. These goals will be achieved through lectures, reading assignments in the text, scholarly papers, case studies, and videos that are intended to illustrate various aspects of particular issues under consideration.

Learning Objectives
- Identify ethical issues in public health
- Describe moral theories as the basis of ethical analysis in public health
- Describe ethical cases and controversies in public health
- Apply critical thinking skills in resolving ethical issues in public health
- Articulate moral arguments for/against public health policies/practices
- Create a sense of ethical obligation and responsibility in public health

Core Competencies (student will be able to …)
- Understand the legal basis for public health services
- Ability to reason ethically by identifying and responding with integrity to public health issues in different settings
- Apply social justice and human rights principles in public health policies and programs
- Evaluate policies with respect to impact on health equity and social justice
- Differentiate individual and population ethical considerations

Required Text and Readings
- Additional readings will be made available on Canvas

The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus, and all other course materials as deemed necessary.
Course Pre-requisites

NONE

Teaching Philosophy: My teaching philosophy is centered on facilitating and enhancing student learning. Students are responsible for their own learning. Instructors can only provide opportunities to learn. To enhance student learning, active learning strategies will be used in every class, and formative feedback will also be used to tailor the course material and delivery for the class.

Course Materials (Software and Technology)

Required Equipment and Software
1. We will be using iClicker Reef for attendance, so each student must be registered to Reef and have a device (computer, smartphone or tablet) for polling responses for this course. Because iClicker Reef is flexible across devices, you may participate by choosing any option below:
   a) iClicker Reef app: You may use your own smartphone or tablet by downloading the app available for iOS and Android
   b) iClicker Reef website – app.reef-education.com (Links to an external site.) – for browser-based use.
2. With either option, you will create an account with iClicker, select University of North Texas as your institution, and enter your EUID in the Student ID (optional) space. Then click on “add course” and search for “PUBH4015” to enroll.
3. Kahoot may also be used.

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 website (https://trio.unt.edu/sss) for detailed list of services.

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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

Student Evaluation

1. Class attendance and participation (10%): Attendance is mandatory for this course, given the nature of the content and its purpose. Part of attendance is not only being physically present but includes being actively engaged in class discussions and activities.

2. Quizzes (3% each for a total of 30%): Ten quiz sets will be assigned periodically throughout the semester to assess individual assessment of course material. Questions will be drawn from materials covered in the textbook.

3. Discussions (4% each for a total of 40%): Ten 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. Please make sure you hit ‘QUOTE’ when you are replying to someone’s post or mention the name of the person whose post you are responding to, otherwise, I will not be able to follow what you are saying. Discussion may be in the form of case study reviews, podcasts, video evaluations, journal reviews, and reflections. Response posts are due two days after the original post is due.

4. Student-led discussions (10%): Beginning in Week 3, three students will each be asked to lead a discussion using a journal article/podcast/video/news articles/chapter case study that raises interesting public health ethics questions. Students will be evaluated based on the quality of the source and its connection to the course, implementation of core ethics framework, question development, and quality of class discussion management.

5. Final Exam (10%): A final exam will be given at the end of the semester. There will be no make-ups without prior consent or emergency situations that require a written excuse. In the rare case of make-ups, you will have approximately 1 week to make arrangements and make up the exam. The instructor reserves the right to change the specific exam content (i.e., different questions on make-up exams that assess the same knowledge) and format.

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

Course Policies – to assist learning: Students are responsible for knowing and adhering to all university and college dates and deadlines. Such dates and deadlines include those for enrollment

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(registration), adding and dropping of courses, academic holidays, payment and refunds, and applying for graduation. In a case of emergency, it is the student’s responsibility to keep posted on all official University alerts or closures.

**Student Responsibilities**

- Take care of yourself so that you can be present (physically and mentally) in class. Thinking actively, in real time, with the instructor and the other students— is the best way to learn the material! Therefore, attendance is required. Absences may be excused with a doctor’s note (covering the day of the class missed), but the student is still responsible for the material covered during that class period.

- Read the required materials prior to each class to prepare for class work and discussions.

- A student checks email and Canvas regularly for quizzes, discussions, and other course-related communications, and updates to the syllabus schedule.

- A student completes assignments by the due dates that are communicated in class and posted on Canvas.

- In all course activities, students apply the intellectual standards, especially clarity, accuracy, relevance, significance, completeness, and logic.

- Students are responsible for and may be evaluated on anything in the assigned reading, anything in class presentations and discussions, and anything that can be extracted or extended from these sources using critical thinking and fundamental and powerful concepts.

**How I’m going to help:** As the instructor in this course, I am responsible for providing course materials that will assist and enhance your achievement of the stated course goals and guidance including:

- Providing timely and helpful feedback within the stated guidelines.
- Assisting in maintaining a positive learning environment for everyone.
- Treating you and your time with respect.
- A mid-semester feedback opportunity will be provided for you to give comments and suggestions about the course.
- Will try to respond to questions via email within 24 hours (M-F).

Note: Other materials may be handed out in class.

**Excused Absences, Make-Ups, and Late Submissions**

A student is excused from the in-class activities and participation provided he or she presents written documentation from an approved source that provides a valid reason for the student to have been unable to be present. Examples of approved sources are, without limitation, physicians, nurse practitioners, licensed therapists, licensed funeral directors, university athletic directors and designees, and university administration. The documentation must cover the timeframe for the activity.
Late assignments are accepted with a penalty of 5% of the points for the assignment for each day or part thereof late, up to a maximum of 4 days late. After 4 days, the assignment will no longer be accepted and the student will receive a score of 0.

**Communication with the Instructor:** Personalized communication between instructor and student is important in enhancing the learning experience. The course instructor welcomes conversations with students outside of class. Students may correspond with the instructor by email or set up an appointment. The primary means to contact me will be via e-mail: chisom.odoh@unt.edu. When sending an email, please put the course number and full name in the subject line (e.g., “Inquiries regarding PUBH 2010-Karen Smith). I am also available during my office hours. I will send out an e-mail in case I cannot hold office hours.

**One-week Rule:** It is the responsibility of the student to check his or her grade within one week after the grades have been posted. Any inquiry or appeal over the points posted must be made in writing to Dr. Odoh within 1 week after the scores are posted with a clear explanation about why you believe the points/grade you received was given in error. After the one-week period, changes to the posted graded will not be made.

**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.

**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, particularly at the graduate level, to make duplicate submissions of a single work for credit in multiple classes, unless specifically requested by the instructor. Work submitted at the graduate level is expected to demonstrate higher-order thinking skills and be of significantly higher quality than work produced at the undergraduate level. 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

Of particular interest are the following terms:

• Cheating
• Plagiarism
• Fabrication
• Facilitating academic dishonesty

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. A best 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.

*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:* 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.

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.ecfr.gov. 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://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getcfr.cgi?TITLE=8&PART=214&SECTION=2&TYPE=TEXT

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.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Lecture (Chapter readings prior to class)</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Due date By 11:59 p.m.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Syllabus review and course introduction</td>
<td>Class introductions</td>
<td>1/16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A framework for public health ethics</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>Discussion 1</td>
<td>1/28</td>
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<td>Moral considerations: Bases and limits for public health interventions</td>
<td>Quiz 1</td>
<td>1/30</td>
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<td><strong>Student-led presentation begins</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>Discussion 2</td>
<td>2/4</td>
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<td>Moral considerations: Bases and limits for public health interventions</td>
<td>Quiz 2</td>
<td>2/6</td>
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<td>Week</td>
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<td>Discussion</td>
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<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Discussion 3</td>
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<td>The political and legal</td>
<td>Quiz 3</td>
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<td>context of public health</td>
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<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Discussion 4</td>
<td>2/18</td>
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<td>The political and legal</td>
<td>Quiz 4</td>
<td>2/20</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td>Discussion 5</td>
<td>2/25</td>
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<td>Public health perspectives: Improving population health and population prevention</td>
<td>Quiz 5</td>
<td>2/27</td>
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<td>All day grant workshop – no class 2/27</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td>Discussion 6</td>
<td>3/24</td>
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<td>Ethical considerations in public health surveillance</td>
<td>Quiz 6</td>
<td>3/26</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Spring break – no class</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>The immortal life of Henrietta Lacks</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td>Discussion 6</td>
<td>3/24</td>
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<td>Ethics in screening, testing and contact tracing: Contact investigation and partner notification</td>
<td>Quiz 6</td>
<td>3/26</td>
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<td>Chapter 7</td>
<td>Discussion 7</td>
<td>3/31</td>
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<td>Immunization: Protection through vaccination</td>
<td>Quiz 7</td>
<td>4/2</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td>Discussion 8</td>
<td>4/7</td>
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<td>Containing communicable diseases: personal control measures</td>
<td>Quiz 8</td>
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<td>Chapter 9</td>
<td>Discussion 9</td>
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<td>Health communication: Ethical dimensions of government communication</td>
<td>Quiz 9</td>
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<td>Chapter 10</td>
<td>Discussion 10</td>
<td>4/21</td>
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<td>Public health and the Environment: Ethical perspectives on environmental policies</td>
<td>Quiz 10</td>
<td>4/23</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Final exam</td>
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