University of North Texas
Department of Rehabilitation and Health Services

PUBH 4015: Ethics in Public Health
Summer 2021

Instructor Name: Chisom Iwundu, PhD, MPH
Instructor Email: chisom.iwundu@unt.edu
Instructor Phone: 940-369-5356 or 859-951-6266
Office Hours: By appointment

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 lecture materials, reading assignments, 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 provided on Canvas

Course Pre-requisites: NONE

The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus, and all other course materials as deemed necessary.
Student Evaluation

1. **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.

2. **Discussions (5% each for a total of 50%)**: Ten discussion questions will be posted throughout the semester (see course schedule). You are required to first POST in your comments, read all of the posts of your classmates, and reply to two of the posts that you read. NOTE: You have to post your discussion FIRST before you see the posts of your classmates. 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.

3. **Case study paper/presentation (10%)**: For this project, students are required to prepare a case study that reflects an ethical dilemma, while taking a stance in defense or support of the notion being presented. Students must incorporate ethical theories and framework learned during the course of the semester to describe and assess the ethical issues involved. Details of paper will be provided on Canvas.

4. **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

**Time Requirements/Commitment**: In order to be a successful remote 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, paper, and exam.

**Submitting Assignments**: Assignments should be submitted through Canvas by the specified due date. Each assignment will have a submission link/dropbox. Assignments will be checked by Turnitin, and lockdown browser may be used for the exam, all within the Canvas system. The
The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus, and all other course materials as deemed necessary.

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

NOTE: Please contact me if you are unable to attend class or complete an assignment because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to a related issue regarding COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent or missing an assignment as to what may be preventing you from coming to class or completing course requirements so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class or an assignment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Due date By 11:59 p.m.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Week 1 | Chapter 1
Introduction of public health ethics
Ethical theories and principles – Utilitarianism | Discussion 1
Quiz 1 | 6/8
6/10 |
| Week 2 | Chapter 2
Ethical theories and principles – Kantianism, etc.; Tuskegee study | Discussion 2
Quiz 2 | 6/8
6/10 |
| Week 3 | Chapter 2 and 3
Ethical violations in public health research
Moral considerations: Bases and limits for public health interventions | Discussion 3
Quiz 3 | 6/15
6/17 |
| Week 4 | Chapter 3
The political and legal context of public health ethics | Discussion 4
Quiz 4 | 6/22
6/24 |
| Week 5 | The immortal life of Henrietta Lacks;
Chapter 4
Public health perspectives: Improving population health and population prevention | Discussion 5
Quiz 5 | 6/29
7/1 |
| Week 6 | Ethics and community-based participatory research | Discussion 6
Quiz 6 | 7/6
7/8 |
| Week 7 | Chapter 5
Ethical considerations in public health surveillance | Discussion 7
Quiz 7 | 7/13
7/15 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 8</th>
<th>Chapter 6</th>
<th>Discussion 8</th>
<th>7/20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Surveillance, Screening, testing, and contract tracing</td>
<td>Quiz 8</td>
<td>7/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Chapter 7 and 8</td>
<td>Discussion 9</td>
<td>7/27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Immunization and containing communicable diseases</td>
<td>Quiz 9</td>
<td>7/29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
<td>Discussion 10</td>
<td>8/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Public health and the environment: Ethical perspectives on environmental policies</td>
<td>Quiz 10</td>
<td>8/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Case study paper</td>
<td></td>
<td>8/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td></td>
<td>8/4 - 8/6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 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.

*The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus, and all other course materials as deemed necessary.*
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 work 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

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 log
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/](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](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-registration-guide).