



University of North Texas
College of Health and Public Service
Department of Rehabilitation and Health Services
PUBH 3025 Environmental Health

Welcome to the PUBH 3025 Environmental Health Fall 2023 online course. My name is Dr. Naomi Meier. I will be your instructor for this class. I look forward to working with you as we explore the role environmental factors play in human health.

Course Information

Course Number and Title: PUBH 3025 Environmental Health

Meets: Asynchronous

Location: Canvas

3 Credit Hours

Instructor Information

Naomi Meier, DrPH, MS

Office Location: Chilton Hall 218H

Phone number: (940)369-8096

Email: naomi.meier@unt.edu

Email will be the best way to communicate with me this semester. In most cases, I will reply to messages left at the department and emails within 48 hours.

Office hours:

By appointment

In-person or Virtual options are available

Teaching Assistant:

To be announced

Course Description

This course is designed to familiarize students with the branch of public health that focuses on the natural and built environment, environmental health. Students will learn how those involved in environmental health work to understand and improve the relationship between humans and the environment. Students will also learn how humans are impacted by physical, chemical, biological, social, and psychological factors in the environment. This course will introduce students to the skills necessary to identify and understand health hazards, implement steps to mitigate environmental dangers, and find alternative solutions to meet the needs of populations while limiting negative impacts on the environment. Students will learn to conceptualize the environment at the local, regional, and global scales.

Pre-requisites

Recommended prerequisite(s): None

Course Objectives

- Understand the relationship between people and their environment
- Detail environmental factors that affect the health of all living organisms
- Describe the role the environment plays in the risk of disease
- List and describe the disciplines that contribute to our understanding of environmental health
- Describe the basic concepts of environmental toxicology
- Understand approaches for assessing, preventing, and controlling environmental hazards
- Explain the importance of environmental justice to health equity
- Understand the role federal, state, and local regulatory programs and authorities play in ensuring environmental safety

Required Materials

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

I will not use any of the supplemental material from the publisher. A used copy will meet your needs for the course.

Any additional required readings will be posted in Canvas each week and will be available electronically.

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

Telephone availability:

Monday-Thursday: 8 am-midnight

Friday: 8am-8pm

Saturday: 9am-5pm

Sunday: noon-midnight

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 have to access 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 such as videoconferencing. 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 and webcams for students to check out.

Course Requirements

A student's performance in this course will be assessed in four different ways including weekly participation and quizzes, three case studies, and a final exam. 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
Journal Entries	10 @ 20 points each Total 200 points	20%
Quizzes	6 @ 25 points each Total 150 points	15%
Discussions	6 @ 25 points each Total 150 points	15%
Case Studies	3 @ 100 points each Total 300 points	30%
Exams	2 @ 100 points each Total 200 points	20%
Total Points Possible	1000 points	100%

Journal Entries:

Students will be required to read a current news article that focuses on the topic presented the week of the assignment. For each, submit at least a 100-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. I recommend the [Environmental Health News](#) website which provides a daily annotated listing of links to news stories related to environmental health. Submissions are due on Sundays of the assigned week at 11:59 pm.

Quizzes:

Students are required to complete six quizzes in Canvas. The quizzes will usually include questions from the material presented in the course. Each quiz will be posted Monday and students will have until Sunday at 11:59 pm of the same week to complete the quiz. Quizzes can only be taken once. A student may be able to make up quizzes, depending on the situation.

Discussions:

Participation points are earned by participating in six discussions. Students are required to post and respond to another student's post. Questions will be posted on the Monday of each week. Students are required to submit their original post by Thursday at 11:59 pm each week. Students will have until Sunday at 11:59 pm of the same week to reply to another student's original post.

Case Studies:

Over the semester, you will complete three Case Studies, each worth 100 points. Each will focus on a different topic related to the course material. Students will be required to submit the assignment and comment on one other assignment. Details for each Case Study will be posted in Canvas.

Exams:

Students will be tested on the information presented throughout the course. Questions will be taken from the course material.

See Canvas or the Course Calendar on page 11 for due dates

Late Work Policy

Any work submitted after the deadline will lose points. All assignments are set to close in Canvas 24 hours after the deadline. Once a quiz, assignment, or exam is closed, you may not submit work. Please contact me if you have any issues meeting a deadline.

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 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

COVID-19 Information

Mandatory Testing

As of May 2022, UNT is not requiring COVID-19 testing. Students can still access testing services at the Student Health and Wellness Center. Testing requirements are subject to change.

Face Masks

As of May 2022, UNT is not requiring individuals to wear masks while on campus. UNT face-covering requirements are subject to change due to community health guidelines. UNT will alert all students if changes are made. I will uphold any requirements put in place.

COVID-19 Vaccinations and Boosters

I also STRONGLY advise getting vaccinated. OVERWHELMING evidence suggests people with the vaccination can avoid serious illness and death. Please remember, even if you have been vaccinated you are still advised to wear a mask when case numbers in the area are higher. UNT has vaccines and booster shots available to students at the Student Health and Wellness Center <https://healthalerts.unt.edu/> (Links to an external site.) Booster shots are also available. I highly recommend getting the booster shot if you have gotten the vaccine.

COVID-19 Impact on Course Assignments

While attendance is expected as outlined above, all of us need to be mindful of our health and safety along with the health and safety of everyone in our community. Please contact me if you cannot complete your work for the week because you are ill or experiencing other issues related to COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me before the work due date.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or another health care provider. If you have COVID, wear a mask and avoid all contact with others until you recover. These actions are an important part of protecting your health and the health of others in the community.

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](tel: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.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail [Eagle Connect \(https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect\)](http://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect).

UNT Policies Continued

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's [Code of Student Conduct](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>) to learn more.

Sexual Assault Prevention

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off-campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

Transmission and Recording of Student Images in Electronically-Delivered Courses

This course employs lecture capture technology to record class sessions. Students may occasionally appear on video. The lecture recordings will be available to you for study purposes and may also be reused in future course offerings. I will provide accommodations for students who do not wish to appear in class recordings. No notification is needed if only audio and slide capture is used or if the video only records the instructor's image. However, the instructor is encouraged to let students know the recordings will be available to them for study purposes.

Class Recordings & Student Likenesses

Synchronous (live) sessions in this course will be recorded for students enrolled in this course to refer to throughout the semester. Class recordings are the intellectual property of the university or instructor and are reserved for use only by students in this class and only for educational purposes. Students may not post or otherwise share the recordings outside the class, or outside the Canvas Learning Management System, in any form. Failing to follow this restriction is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and could lead to disciplinary action.

UNT Policies Continued

Copyright Notice

Some or all of the materials on the course website may be protected by copyright. Federal copyright law prohibits the reproduction, distribution, public performance, or public display of copyrighted materials without the express and written permission of the copyright owner, unless fair use or another exemption under copyright law applies. Additional copyright information may be located on the UNT website.

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](http://www.ecfr.gov/) (<http://www.ecfr.gov/>). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

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 online or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to the completion of the class. An online 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 online 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, they 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.

Rules of Engagement

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. Here are some general guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis 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 will not be tolerated.
 - Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
 - Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
 - Speak from personal experiences. Use “I” statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individual’s experiences.
 - Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
 - Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as “YELLING!”
 - Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
 - Avoid using “text-talk” unless explicitly permitted by your instructor.
 - Proofread and fact-check your sources.
 - Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.
- See these [Engagement Guidelines](https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) (https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) for more information

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

Student Programs/Services/Organizations**Academic Support Services**

[Academic Resource Center](#)
[Academic Success Center](#)
[UNT Libraries](#)

[Writing Center](#)
[Math Lab](#)

Library Resources

[UNT Libraries](#)
[UNT Library Research Support](#)
Subject Librarian - Jennifer Rowe
Phone: 940-369-7815
Email: jennifer.rowe@unt.edu
[PUBH Subject Library Resources Page](#)
[PUBH 3025 Environmental Health Course Guide](#)

Student Support Services

[Registrar](#)
[Financial Aid](#)
[Student Legal Services](#)
[Career Center](#)
[Multicultural Center](#)
[UNT Care Team](#)

[Counseling and Testing Services](#)
[CARE Team](#)
[Student Health and Wellness Center](#)
[Pride Alliance](#)
[UNT Food Pantry](#)
[ALL Programs and Services](#)

Student Organizations

Did you know there are more than 400 student organizations at UNT? Joining an organization is a great way to meet other students with similar interests. There are clubs related to academics, recreation, advocacy, entertainment, and so much more. Many organizations offer students opportunities to gain leadership skills and network with others to expand career opportunities.

[Student Organization Homepage](#)

UNT Student Organizations Related to Public Health

For a full list of public health-related Student Organizations, go to the Student Organization page and search "public health"

[Public Health Alliance](#)
[Future Without Poverty](#)
[UNT Rotaract Club](#)
[Global Medical Brigades](#)
[Student Health Advisory Committee](#)
[Alternative Breaks](#)
[Alpha Epsilon Delta Health Pre-Professional Honor Society](#)

[Health Occupation Students of America](#)
[Pre-Physician Assistant Club](#)
[Collaborative Urban Planning Association](#)
[Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.](#)
[Public Administration Student Association](#)

Calendar

The semester calendar is posted below. It includes information for each week's topic, required weekly readings, and due dates for assignments. Remember, weekly supplemental material is not listed here. It is your responsibility to go to the course Canvas page to find the posted material for the week. The course Canvas page is where you will find the weekly instructions, supplemental materials, lectures, slides, assignments, grades, and more. Material for the course 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 8/21 – 8/27	Introduction and history of environmental health	Chapter 1	None
Week 2 8/28 – 9/3	Environmental Epidemiology	Chapter 2 Readings in Module 2	Journal Entry 1
Week 3 9/4 – 9/10	Environmental Toxicology	Chapter 3 Readings in Module 3	Discussion 1 / Quiz 1
Week 4 9/11 – 9/17	Ethics and environmental justice Climate Change	Readings in Module 4	Journal Entry 2 Case Study 1
Week 5 9/18 – 9/24	Zoonotic and Vector-Borne Diseases Toxic Metals and Elements	Chapters 5 and 6 Readings in Module 5	Discussion 2 / Quiz 2 Case Study 1 Review
Week 6 9/25 – 10/1	Pesticides and Other Organic Chemicals	Chapter 7 Readings in Module 6	Journal Entry 3 Discussion 3 / Quiz 3
Week 7 10/2 – 10/8	Ionizing and Nonionizing Radiation	Chapter 8 Readings in Module 7	None
Week 8 10/9 – 10/15	Exam 1	None	Exam 1
Week 9 10/16 – 10/22	Water Quality	Chapter 9 Readings in Module 9	Journal Entry 4 Case Study 2
Week 10 10/23 – 10/29	Air Quality	Chapter 10 Readings in Module 10	Discussion 4 / Quiz 4 Case Study 2 Review
Week 11 10/30 – 11/5	Food Safety	Chapter 11 Readings in Module 11	Journal Entry 5 Discussion 5 / Quiz 5
Week 12 11/6 – 11/12	Solid and Liquid Wastes	Chapter 12 Readings in Module 12	Discussion 6 / Quiz 6 Case Study 3
Week 13 11/13 – 11/19	Occupational Health	Chapter 13 Readings in Module 13	Case Study 3 Review
11/20 – 11/26	Fall Break		
Week 14 11/27 – 12/3	Injuries with a Focus on Unintentional Injuries and Deaths	Chapter 14 Readings in Module 14	None
Week 15 12/4 – 12/10	Environmental policies and regulations	Chapter 4 Readings in Module 15	None
Week 16 12/11 – 12/15	Exam 2	Exam 2 Available 12/12 – 12/14	Exam 2