

**Department of Public Health  
PH 385 Environmental Health  
Spring 2011  
Web Course -- Blackboard  
Course Credit: 3 Hours**

- I. **Instructor:** J. David Dunn, MPH, Dr.Sc. in Hyg., RS  
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- II. **Text:** Friis, Robert. Essentials of Environmental Health. Second Edition, Jones and Bartlett, LLC, 2012 ISBN 9780763778903
- III. **Course Description:** This course examines the environment and its relationship to health status. Physical, chemical, biological, and behavioral sociological factors of man's environment will be discussed. Areas of emphasis include air, water and land pollution, food protection, hazardous wastes, and noise and radiation hazards. **Prerequisites:** PH 384, 3 hrs. Chemistry and 3 hrs. Biology
- IV. **Course Purposes and Objectives:** This course covers a myriad of environmental factors that may adversely impact human health or the ecological balances essential to long-term human health and environmental quality. Roles and responsibilities of local, state and federal public health agencies are integrated throughout the course. It is designed specifically for students majoring in community health, health education, environmental science and other areas where understanding of the environmental impact on human health is important. All students with appropriate prerequisites and interest in environmental issues will find this course a valuable adjunct to their academic programs. The primary objective of the course is to provide an understanding of the complex environmental variables which impact health status and ecological balance. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Describe basic concepts of ecology and human's role in altering their ecosystem.
  2. Describe the direct and indirect human, ecological and safety effects of major environmental and occupational agents.
  3. Describe environmental factors that are related to communicable and non-communicable diseases, as well as injuries and other physical disabilities.
  4. Discuss various risk management and risk communication approaches in relation to issues of environmental justice and equity.
  5. Function as a member of a team of public health professionals engaged in promoting a healthful environment.
  6. Discuss the political, economic, and administrative complexities of environmental control.
  7. Describe the relationships and the respective roles of local, state,

and federal environmental health agencies.

**V. Online Access:**

This course utilizes WKU's Blackboard academic software. Blackboard can be accessed at: <http://ecourses.wku.edu>

**VI. Grading Procedure:**

**Outside Learning Activities:** Each student is required to complete and write a short report on three outside learning activities (25 points each for a total value of 75 points). Guidelines for this activity, as well as, suggested and approved topics for outside learning activities are posted on Blackboard in the Course Documents section. Students may also choose their own topic but must have prior approval from the instructor.

**On-line Quizzes:** Quizzes will periodically be given on Blackboard. Quizzes will cover assigned materials and will be worth 20 points each. These quizzes must be completed by the posted due dates.

**Outside Reading:** Each student is required to write and submit three abstracts (summaries) of environmental health related journal articles. Abstracts must be original and not copied from the journal or internet. Abstracts must address one of the following topics: ecology, food protection, radiation, water pollution, waste water treatment, solid waste, air pollution, and insect vectors or rodents, and must be submitted in accordance with the dates given in the course outline. Only one abstract may be submitted on each topic. Only recent (published within the last three years) scholarly or peer reviewed journal articles are acceptable. Newspaper articles and news or entertainment magazine articles cannot be used. Please indicate the topic addressed, along with your name, in the upper right hand corner of each abstract submitted. Next, include a complete citation followed by the abstract. Abstracts are worth 15 points each, for a total of 45 points.

**Written Assignments:** Three written assignments are required during the semester. The assignments will generally consist of short essay style questions covering assigned materials. The written assignments will be posted on Blackboard in the Written Assignments section and must be submitted on Blackboard after completion. Each assignment will be worth 50 points for a total of 150 points.

**Discussion Boards:** Questions or activities will be posted to the Blackboard Discussion Board throughout the semester. Students are expected to actively participate in discussions. Points will be assigned based on participation. A maximum of 50 points may be earned during the semester.\_

**Final Project:** Each student is required to research and investigate a local environmental health issue, agency, or problem. Students' topics must be approved by the instructor in advance and each student must conduct their

own applied research. Topics must be submitted for approval by February 20 on a discussion board the instructor will create. The research results must be prepared in a PowerPoint presentation that will be uploaded to the Written Assignments section of Blackboard no later than May 11, 2011. Guidelines for this project are posted in the Course Documents section of Blackboard. A maximum of 50 points may be earned.

**Assignment Due Dates:** All assignments must be submitted electronically via Blackboard. The instructor must receive the student's completed assignment by the due date given on the Weekly Schedule given at the end of this document. No credit will be given for assignments submitted after the due date.

**Plagiarism & Cheating:** Please refer to WKU's policies on plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism or cheating will be considered a serious offense and will result in a score of zero points and may lead to further action. (Note Section X of this syllabus, Academic Offences.)

**Grade Calculations:** Final grades will be calculated as indicated below:

Written Assignments 3 @ 50 pts.	150	A = 423-470 points
Outside Readings 3 @ 15 pts.	45	B = 376-422 points
Final Project pts.	50	C = 329-375 points
On-line Quizzes 5 @ 20 pts.	100	D = 282-328 points
Discussion Board Part. pts.	50	F = less than 282 points
Outside Learning Act. 3 @ 25 pts.	75	
Total Possible Points pts.	470	

#### **VIII. ADA Policy:**

Student with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aid or services) for this course must contact the Office for Disability Services (OFSDS), located in the Student Success Center in DUC A201. The OFSDS can be reached at (270) 745-5004 V/TDD. Please do not request accommodations directly from the instructor without a letter from the OFSDS.

#### **IX. Academic Offenses**

The maintenance of academic integrity is of fundamental importance to the University. Thus it should be clearly understood that acts of plagiarism or any other form of cheating will not be tolerated and that

anyone committing such acts risks punishment of a serious nature.

**Academic Dishonesty** - Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the course work in which the act is detected or a failing grade in a course without possibility of withdrawal. The faculty member may also present the case to the Office of Student Life for disciplinary sanctions. A student who believes a faculty member has dealt unfairly with him/her in a course involving academic dishonesty may seek relief through the Student Complaint Procedure.

**Plagiarism** - To represent written work taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense. The academic work of a student must be his/her own. One must give any author credit for source material borrowed from him/her. To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage without reference to the source after having changed a few words is also plagiarism.

**Cheating** - No student shall receive or give assistance not authorized by the instructor in taking an examination or in the preparation of an essay, laboratory report, problem assignment or other project which is submitted for purposes of grade determination.

**Other Types of Academic Dishonesty** - Other types of academic offenses, such as the theft or sale of tests, should be reported to the Office of Student Life for disciplinary sanction.

Source: *WKU Student Handbook*

[http://www.wku.edu/handbook/2009/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=59:academic-offenses&catid=36:academic-offenses&Itemid=60](http://www.wku.edu/handbook/2009/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=59:academic-offenses&catid=36:academic-offenses&Itemid=60)

**Scroll to next page for Weekly Schedule of course.**

<b>PH 385 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH Weekly Schedule</b>		
<b>Week of:</b>	<b>Assignments with due dates in red</b>	
#1 January 24	Orientation; Environmental Health Overview; Ecology and Population Dynamics <b>Discussion Board #1 Jan 30</b>	Ch. 1
#2 January 31	Environmental Disease; Toxicology; Environmental Epi <b>On-line quiz #1 Feb 2-8</b>	Ch. 2, Ch. 3
#3 February 7	Environmental Policy & Regulation <b>Journal Abstract #1 Feb 11</b> <b>Discussion Board #2 Feb 15</b>	Ch. 4
#4 February 14	Food Protection <b>On-line quiz #2 Feb 16-21</b> <b>Topic for Final Project Feb 20</b>	Ch. 11
#5 February 21	<b>Discussion Board #3 Feb 23</b> <b>Journal Abstract #2 Feb 25</b> Zoonotic & Vector-Bourne Disease	Ch 5
#6 February 28	<b>Written Assignment #1 March 4</b>	
#7 March 7	<b>Spring Break</b>	
#8 March 14	Water Resources & Water Treatment <b>On-line quiz #3 March 16-21</b> <b>Outside Learning Activity #1 March 20</b>	Ch.9
#9 March 21	<b>Discussion Board #4 March 22</b> Water Pollution & Waste Water Treatment ; Solid & Hazardous Wastes	Ch. 12
#10 March 28	Toxic Substances <b>Discussion Board #5 April 3</b>	Ch. 6, Ch. 7
#11 April 4	<b>Written Assignment #2 April 6</b> <b>Outside Learning Activity #2 April 10</b>	
#12 April 11	Air Pollution and Global Warming <b>On-line quiz #4 April 13-18</b>	Ch. 10
#13 April 18	<b>Journal Abstract #3 April 20</b> Radiation	Ch. 8
#14 April 25	Occupational Health; Noise Pollution Unintentional Injuries & Deaths <b>On-line quiz #5 April 27-May 2</b>	Ch. 13 & 14
#15 May 2	<b>Written Assignment #3 May 4</b> <b>Outside Learning Activity #3 May 8</b>	
#16 May 9	<b>Final Project May 11</b>	

The above schedule lists activities for each week. The dates indicate the date a specific assignment is due (i.e, must be submitted on Blackboard). In most cases assignments will be posted at least one week before due dates. The dates given for the quizzes indicate the date posted (first date) and the date by which it must be completed (second date). Certain circumstances may necessitate changes. If this is necessary the instructor will notify you in a timely manner.