

**COURSE SYLLABUS****Course Description:**

The course introduces students to the history of public health, the structure of the public health system, and the various sectors of public health practice, in order to gain an understanding of the complex factors that determine the health status of a community. Lectures will draw from the public health field, but also related disciplines such as behavioral sciences, health care management, medical ethics, and social work. National, state, and local level practices will be analyzed, as well as the role that law and government play in the public's health. This course is also intended to stimulate student interest in other public health course and program offerings.

**Course Credit Hours: 3 (100% ONLINE)**

**Instructor Name and Contact Information:**

- Dr. Denise Curtis, Faculty [dcurtis@uwf.edu]
- Dr. Daudet Ilunga Tshiswaka [daudeti@uwf.edu]
- Dr. Melanie A. Sutton, Faculty [msutton@uwf.edu]

**Prerequisites or Co-Requisites:** None.

**Required texts:**

**Public Health 101: Healthy People - Healthy Populations** by Richard Riegelman and Brenda Kirkwood, **CHOOSE ONE:**

- Second Edition, 2014 [ISBN-13: 9781284074611] [ISBN-10: 1284074617]

**- or -**

- Third Edition, 2018 [ISBN-13: 9781284118445] [ISBN-10: 1284118444]

You may purchase a used textbook with no access code for this course.

The textbook is also available on Reserve at the Circulation Desk at the John C. Pace Library for a 2-hour loan period (books must stay in the Library). Please take advantage of this resource, but keep in mind that copies of textbooks for each course are limited and may be in use by another student, particularly right before an assignment or reading is due, so plan your textbook use accordingly.

**Recommended texts/online guides:**

This course will draw upon a variety of reading materials to cover the course topics, with electronic versions of relevant articles provided via the UWF library course eReserve system when appropriate.

Expectations for professional writing in terms of required in-text citations and referencing of scholarly work within assignments are based on:

- **[APA Formatting and Styling Guide](#)**

The course is also supplemented with these codes of ethics:

- **[CITI Human Subjects Research Training Modules](#)**

**Required Materials:**

- Activated UWF ArgoNet email account
- Access to UWF's [ArgoApps](#) interface
- Basic knowledge of spreadsheets and tabulations - no prior knowledge of computer programming is required

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**Course Goals:**

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This course is open to students from any major.

Students will have the opportunity to explore current events in the course related to their career goals. Students will also complete assignments involving data analysis with public health data. Upon completion of the course, students should be able to readily apply their knowledge and skills to data-driven tasks to enhance their communication and interpretation of case studies in public health.

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**Program Goals:**

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This course meets the following core program goals:

- **Content and Critical Thinking**
    - Students will be able to apply critical thinking and decision-making skills in analyzing or developing public health program or policy options.
    - Students will identify and use appropriate concepts, theories, and principles in regards to the prevention of disease, disability, and dependency in a community.
    - Students will understand the interrelation between health and the rest of a region's economy.
    - Students will understand how basic tools of public health are used in assessing the health of a community and how to examine and control infectious or non-infectious threats to health.
  
  - **Communication**
    - Students will be able to communicate in a knowledgeable and well-versed manner with others in their field, regarding public health.
    - Students will be able to discuss issues of public health in a clear, concise, and easily understandable manner with the general public, mass media outlets, and government officials.
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**Topics:**

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This course covers the following topics:

1. Public Health: The Population Health Approach; Evidence-Based Public Health, 4 hours
2. Public Health Data and Communications, 4 hours
3. Social and Behavioral Sciences and Public Health, 4 hours
4. Health Law, Policy, and Ethics, 4 hours
5. Noncommunicable Diseases, 4 hours
6. Communicable Diseases, 4 hours
7. Environmental Health and Safety, 4 hours
8. Health Professionals and the Health Workforce; Healthcare Institutions, 4 hours
9. Health Insurance and Healthcare Systems, 4 hours
10. Public Health Institutions and Systems, 4 hours
11. Food and Drugs as Public Health Issues, 4 hours
12. From Single Solutions to Systems Thinking -The Future of Population Health, 4 hours

**Total instructional hours:** 48 hours

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

- Identify eras in the historical development of public health and ways that public health affects literature and the arts, current events, and everyone's daily life
- Illustrate the interdisciplinary, cross-cutting, or ecological character of public health and the contributions of a range of disciplines and professions to improving health
- Explain the basic principles of epidemiology, including rates, risk factors, disease determinants, causation and public health surveillance
- Explain how public health assesses the options for intervention to improve the health of a population
- Explain how public health can utilize health information and health communications to improve the health of populations
- Explain how public health can utilize social and behavioral interventions to improve the health of populations
- Explain how public health can utilize health policy and law to improve the health of populations
- Explain the impact of the environment and communicable diseases on the health of populations
- Explain the burden of chronic diseases on morbidity and mortality and approaches to prevention and early detection
- Describe the basic organization of health care and public health systems and the contributions of health professionals
- Identify the basic payment mechanisms for providing health services and the basic insurance mechanisms for paying for health services
- Identify criteria for evaluating health systems including issues of access, quality, and cost.
- Identify the roles of public health in addressing the needs of vulnerable populations and health disparities
- Identify the roles of public health in disaster prevention and management
- Articulate relationships between the determinants of health and health outcomes
- Explain ethical procedures for engaging in research in public health

**Grading/Evaluation:**

You will complete this course by proceeding through a set of modules, completing a set of assignments and associated course projects. You will complete quizzes and exams online. Fulfillment of the programmatic goals described above will be assessed as follows (**not all graded items carry the same number of points - see the Gradebook in eLearning for final, official weighting for each graded item during your semester of enrollment**):

- ~40% - **Quizzes and Exams** (completed individually)
  - There will be one or more quizzes associated with each course module. These quizzes will be based on module materials, readings, and associated assignments. Expect to see true/false, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and essay questions. The number of questions on each quiz/exam will vary based on the material in each module.
- ~30% - **Participation/Critical Thinking/Professional Writing** (module exercises and associated assessments, completed individually unless otherwise indicated)
  - Module exercises and associated assessment in the form of discussion participation provide the hands-on component to the course. In some exercises requiring participation, you will be investigating case studies related to public health research or learning how to use globally accessible systems or data. The goal is to motivate you by showing you the excitement of emerging tools, while also helping you to develop a better understanding of "good" user interfaces which can impact the final utility of these products to solve current problems in public health. To emphasize the importance of developing your ability to communicate public health information effectively, participation in selected discussions will be graded using APA-style guidelines. Grading of reading progress in various discussion forums may also form part of your participation grade. The number of activities within each module will vary based on the module material.
- ~30% - **Course Projects** (completed individually unless otherwise indicated)
  - Information on projects will be made available within the corresponding module. If needed, links to tutorials developed by the UWF Library and others to help you correctly include professional referencing within your project write-ups will also be provided. The weighting of projects within the course will vary based on the project requirements.

**Required Tutorials:** Tutorials will be posted in many modules for assistance. Review and be willing to RE-REVIEW these tutorials to facilitate your efforts to complete assignments in a timely manner, and CORRECTLY!

**Discussion Participation.** All discussion postings must use proper grammar and spelling to receive credit. If you are asking questions for assistance, you must clearly state the question and what errors you are experiencing.

**Graded Assignments:** You can expect to receive a grade and feedback for any graded assignment within 3-5 days of the due date.

**Calculation of Grades and Final Grade:** Due to the distance learning nature of this course, all requirements must be completed within the time scheduled, unless *prior* arrangements are made with the instructor. Your final grade will be weighted based upon the percentages indicated above. Online facilities will be provided so students can monitor their own progress. All grades (including the final course grade) will be based on this scale:

**Grading Scale**

		<b>A</b>	94-100	<b>A-</b>	90-93
<b>B+</b>	87-89	<b>B</b>	84-86	<b>B-</b>	80-83
<b>C+</b>	77-79	<b>C</b>	74-76	<b>C-</b>	70-73
<b>D+</b>	67-69	<b>D</b>	64-66	<b>D-</b>	60-63
		<b>F</b>	<=59		

**Please note:** Some academic programs require a final course grade of **C** or greater for a course to count for credit in a graduation audit. In other words, a grade of C- or lower may require you to retake the course for academic credit. You are responsible for seeing your academic advisor to confirm the final course grade requirements for your program. In fairness to all students in the course and to ensure consistency in grading, retroactive grading or submitting new assignments or extra credit after deadlines to improve your grade cannot be done. Please consider all extra credit opportunities in the course as a way to accrue bonus points as you progress in the semester, and prior to the calculation of your final course grade. These opportunities will not be reopened after closing. Please also note that failure to submit assignments and projects in this course can lead to a drop of one or more letter grades, based on the weighting of these items.

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#### **Attendance Policy:**

All students are expected to take full responsibility for their academic work and progress in accordance with [UWF's Attendance Policy](#). This is a fully online course within UWF's eLearning system, taken by students local to the main UWF campus in Pensacola, Florida, and by students from across the U.S. and from overseas. In fairness to all students enrolled in this course, there are no face-to-face lectures - all course materials and assistance will be provided electronically.

This course assumes a workweek ending each **FRIDAY**, with deadlines indicated on the **COURSE SCHEDULE** link in eLearning. Using this schedule, you would log into the course site weekly to complete assignments. You should also look ahead to see scheduling dates for any tests, assignments, or forum participation sessions. Online exams should be taken during the time frames indicated. Similarly, assignments should be posted or uploaded during the times indicated.

**Late Policy:** Do not submit assignments late. A late assignment holds up grading for the entire class and thus will earn a **0 or SIGNIFICANT point reduction per day** (at the instructor's discretion). Quizzes you forget to take are scored 0 points, and an assignment submitted one minute late is late. Please do not wait until the final moments of a module to begin the upload process. Since each module builds on the next and recurring skills are required for the course projects, you are **REQUIRED** to still attempt all assignments, even if you are late and no points will be awarded. Not completing or attempting weekly assignments in this course negatively impacts your ability to complete your course projects. **If you consistently fail to complete or attempt weekly assignments before the due dates, your inconsistent work ethic will earn an additional and significant penalty on course project grades at the end of the semester.**

**Discussion Postings:** Unless a problem is personal in nature, it is easier and faster for instructors to respond to a posting in the **MUDDIEST POINTS** forum so a response can be composed that helps everyone. Instructors cannot reply to every discussion posting in other forums, but will read every posting and always offer constructive responses when necessary. Always check the **ANNOUNCEMENTS** forum and the **CURRENT EVENTS** forum as well as any **FAQ** pages for information that will be helpful to everyone.

**Grading Questions/Concerns:** If a problem is related to a graded item, you will communicate with your instructor directly (e.g., through email). In this manner, all your correspondence related to a graded item in the course and records of any technical problems you experience are retained as part of permanent digital records.

**Online Test Taking Guidelines:** Save answers to quiz questions frequently to avoid loss of points. If you experience any technical problems or errors during any timed exam, you are required to notify the HelpDesk immediately at helpdesk@uwf.edu or (850) 474-2075. **Failure to contact the HelpDesk to report the problem will result in a grade of 0 automatically being assigned.** If you are unable to get immediate assistance from the HelpDesk during the exam, but have documented the problem in an **email or voice mail to the HelpDesk**, you may attempt to restart the exam using the same browser, or attempt to re-enter the exam with another browser. If you are still unable to restart the exam and continue with saving, please note that for your final submitted score to be recorded, you **MUST** still prove that you documented the original technical problem with the HelpDesk via helpdesk@uwf.edu or (850) 474-2075. Failure to do so will result in an **automatic grade of 0** being assigned.

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#### Compliance with UWF Policies on Satisfactory Progress:

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If you have a question regarding the UWF policies for assignment of grades of 'W' or 'I', please visit the [UWF Withdrawal Policy](#) or the [UWF Incomplete Grade Policy](#).

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#### Minimum Technical Skills and Special Technology Utilized by Students:

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This course is totally online. All instructional content and interaction takes place through eLearning. In addition to baseline word processing skills and sending/receiving email with attachments, students will be expected to search the internet and upload/download files. In addition, students may need one or more of these [technology plug-ins to access course materials and content](#).

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#### Expectations for Academic Conduct / Plagiarism Policy:

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Links to UWF's policies on academic conduct and avoiding plagiarism will be provided in eLearning.

It is the philosophy of the University of West Florida that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student, or the attempt to commit such acts.

In addition, any behavior that interferes with the conduct of a class is classified as disruptive behavior and will not be tolerated (e.g., inappropriate or threatening online postings or e-mails).

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#### Financial Aid:

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In compliance with federal regulations, financial aid can only be disbursed to students whose attendance has been confirmed by the Instructor of Record during the first week of the semester. Confirmed attendance in an online course is conducted by verifying the student has posted to one or more discussion forums. If a student has been approved for financial aid, funds will not be released until the instructor confirms attendance. To receive financial aid on the normal distribution timeline, student attendance must be confirmed within seven calendar days of the course start date. A student may review confirmed attendance status by using the "My Classes" app in MyUWF.

A student who stops attending class for any reason will not automatically be withdrawn and will still be responsible for any missed work. A student who stops attending class may be awarded a grade of NF. This grade may affect financial aid eligibility or require repayment of funds awarded.

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**Assistance for Students with Disabilities:**

The University of West Florida supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos and podcasts, reasonable accommodations can be arranged in accordance with UWF's policy on **Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the individual. For information, e-mail [sdrc@uwf.edu](mailto:sdrc@uwf.edu) or call **(850) 474-2387**.

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**Assistance for Military and Veterans:**

The University of West Florida is excited to have the **Military & Veterans Resource Center**, dedicated to supporting our military and veteran students. The goal of this center is to provide a "one-stop" location for all military and veteran students to simplify the transition process from the military to an academic environment. You may contact the MVRC at **(850) 474-2550**.

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**TurnItIn:**

UWF maintains a university license agreement for an online text matching service called TurnItIn. This service may be used at any time in the semester to evaluate the originality of student work. Instructors may also employ other services and techniques to evaluate student work for evidence of appropriate authorship practices as needed.

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**Weather Emergency Information:**

Official closures and delays related to severe weather or other emergencies are announced on the **UWF website** and broadcast on **WUWF-FM (FM 88.1 MHz)**.

In the event that **Hurricane and Tropical Storm Preparedness Procedures** are initiated, follow the instructions provided. Visit the **Emergency Operations and Procedures** site for information about other emergency procedures.

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**Health, Counseling, & Wellness Services:**

To help provide a balanced learning environment at UWF, the following services are offered to assist and educate students in living a healthier lifestyle and to encourage students to strive for mental and physical health:

- **Student Health Services** - primary health care - For more information on services, call **(850) 474-2172**.
- **Counseling and Wellness Services** - mental health care - For more information, call **(850) 474-2420**.