

Course Syllabus

[Jump to Today](#) [Edit](#)

Course Syllabus

Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences

School of Public Health, University of Washington

ENVH 111

Exploring Environmental Health Connections

Autumn 2019

3 credit hours

Course Description

This course serves as a portal through which students can learn about the complex and multi-disciplinary field of Environmental Health Sciences. The natural environment presents a rich variety of hazards to human health: chemical, physical and biological. To these, our species has added its own assortment of hazards; for example, synthetic pesticides, industrial pollution and toxic waste. Environmental Health Sciences is the study of the health consequences of human-environment interaction. It is an applied science, with an emphasis on prevention or intervention to eliminate or reduce human health risks.

The course will focus on major environmental health hazards and controversies, raising issues of science and policy through lectures and discussions. The course is structured in modules, with each module devoted to particular environmental health issues. Tuesday and Thursday class sessions will be lecture/class discussion format. Friday class sessions will be class discussions of controversial issues in Environmental Health Sciences

Learning Objectives

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify major current and historic environmental health hazards
2. Describe the various approaches to identifying and studying these hazards
3. Describe the various exposure pathways and routes of human exposure to environmental hazards
4. Describe the various approaches to link environmental exposures to human health effects
5. Describe the major agencies, programs, and organizations involved in environmental and occupational health protection.
6. Describe the major public health policies that have been established to protect humans from exposure to environmental and occupational hazards.

Disability Notice

Access and Accommodations: Your experience in this class is important to me. If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please communicate your approved accommodations to me at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs in this course.

If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but not limited to; mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), you are welcome to contact DRS at 206-543-8924 or [uwdrs@uw.edu \(mailto:uwdrs@uw.edu\)](mailto:uwdrs@uw.edu) or [disability.uw.edu. \(http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs/\)](http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs/) DRS offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and/or temporary health conditions. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and DRS. It is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law.

Academic Integrity Statement

Students at the University of Washington (UW) are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic conduct, professional honesty, and personal integrity.

The UW School of Public Health (SPH) is committed to upholding standards of academic integrity consistent with the academic and professional communities of which it is a part. Plagiarism, cheating, and other misconduct are serious violations of the University of Washington Student Conduct Code (WAC 478-120). We expect you to know and follow the university's policies on cheating and plagiarism, and the [SPH Academic Integrity Policy. \(http://sph.washington.edu/students/academicintegrity/\)](http://sph.washington.edu/students/academicintegrity/)

Any suspected cases of academic misconduct will be handled according to University of Washington regulations. For more information, see the [University of Washington Community Standards and Student Conduct website \(http://www.washington.edu/cssc/\)](http://www.washington.edu/cssc/)

For this class, students must read the SPH Academic Integrity Policy and indicate that they have read the policy during the first week of class. Instructions for accessing the SPH Academic Integrity Policy are located on the Modules page of the class website.

Religious Accommodations

Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at [Religious Accommodations Policy \(https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/\)](https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/). Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using [the Religious Accommodations Request form \(https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/\)](https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/).

Class Recording

All class lectures will be recorded using Panopto. Recordings of the lectures can be accessed through the class website (see Panopto Recordings on the left side-bar).

Graded Assignments

Poll Everywhere Questions (10%): During the Tuesday and Thursday sessions, students will respond to questions in-class using Poll Everywhere. Questions will be from the assigned news articles. Some questions will be multiple choice and students will be asked to choose the correct answer. Other questions will be open ended for discussion (no correct answer). If you are in class and answer the questions correctly, you will receive full credit. If you answer the questions incorrectly, you will receive half the credit. For questions without a correct answer, all students answering the question in class will receive full credit. If you are not in class to participate, you will not receive credit. Students will need to register their email and mobile phone number in order for their class responses to be recorded via Poll Everywhere. Instructions on registering your Poll Everywhere account can be found on the Modules page of the class website. Please contact TAs with questions concerning Poll Everywhere.

Case Study Discussions/Presentations (10%): There will be two Case Studies.

During the 1st week of a Case Study, a background lecture will be presented regarding the Case Study Topic. Students will be provided two commentaries (A or B) that describe opposing views regarding the topic. Student will sign up via the Peoples page on the class website to be in a group that will read one of the commentaries. Students will read the chosen commentary and be ready to discuss the environmental health (EH) issues described in the commentary with their group on the 1st Friday of the Case Study. Each student in the group is expected to participate in the discussions. Students who do not participate will not be given credit, even if they are present. At the end of the discussions, two EH issues will be chosen (by the instructor) as the topics for the case study reports and presentations. Each group will be assigned one of the case study topics to work on during weeks 2 and 3 of the Case Study.

During week 2 of the Case Study, students will search PubMed and select a scientific research article from a peer reviewed journal that provides data regarding the EH issue. Students will submit their selected peer reviewed journal article for approval by the instructor. After the article is approved, students will read the approved article and write a 2-page Case Study Report (see below) that responds to a series of questions provided by the instructor. The Case Study Report will be due prior to class on the Friday of the 2nd week of the Case Study. Students should be ready to discuss their Case Study Report with their group during the Friday session to begin work on their Case Study Presentation.

During week 3 of the Case Study, students will continue to work with their group to develop a 10-minute presentation (with visual aids) discussing the research articles that they have read. In-class time will be provided to work on the presentation on Tuesday and Thursday during the 3rd week of the Case Study, but time outside of class will most likely be required to complete the presentation. Each student in the group is expected to participate in planning the presentation and is expected to participate at some time during the presentation and question and answer session on Friday of the 3rd week of the Case Study. Students who do not participate will not be given credit, even if they are present.

Case Study Reports (30%)

As mentioned above, there will be 2 Case Studies, so 2 Case Study Reports. Case Study Reports will be required to respond to a series of questions provided by the instructor. These questions will be posted on the class website under the Modules page.

Case Study #1: DDT and Malaria

Case Study #2: Cell Phones and Brain Cancer

Exams (50%)

There will be two take-home exams during the quarter. The first exam will cover material from the first 6 weeks of class. The second exam will cover material from weeks 7-11 of class. Each exam is worth 25% of your grade, so 50% total.

Grading

The total number of points awarded for each of the assignment types will be divided by the total number of points available to calculate a final % score for each assignment type. These % scores will then be weighed according to the percentages listed below to calculate a final % score for the class. This final % score will then be translated into your GPA score using the table below. Once GPAs are calculated for all students, the instructor will "adjust" the grades depending on the distribution of grades for the entire class.







- Exam #1 25%
- Exam #2 25%
- Reports (2) 30%
- Poll Everywhere Questions 10% (Tues & Thurs)
- In Class Discussions/Presentations 10% (Fri, Case Studies)














Translating your Total Percent Scores to GPA Scores







GPA	<u>Minimum % Correct</u>	GPA	<u>Minimum % Correct</u>
4.0	97	2.3	78
3.9	96	2.2	77
3.8	95	2.1	76
3.7	94	2	75
3.6	93	1.9	74
3.5	92	1.8	73
3.4	90	1.7	72
3.3	89	1.6	70
3.2	88	1.5	69














3.1	87	1.4	68
3	86	1.3	67
2.9	85	1.2	66
2.8	84	1.1	65
2.7	83	1	64
2.6	82	0.9	63
2.5	80	0.8	62
2.4	79	0.7	60
		0.0	<60












Course Summary:














Date	Details	
Fri Sep 27, 2019	 9/27 Read -Course Syllabus (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875615)	due by 10:30am
	 9/27 Read -Instructions for Poll Everywhere and Lecture Recordings (Panopto) (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875617)	due by 10:30am
	 9/27 Read -Instructions for Searching for Scientific Articles Using PubMed (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/5019660)	due by 10:30am
	 9/27 Read and Respond -SPH Academic Integrity Statement (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875614)	due by 10:30am
Tue Oct 1, 2019	 10/1 Last day to Sign up for this Friday (10/4) Discussions on Environmental Epidemiology Articles (Deadline Today, 9 AM) (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875621)	due by 9am
	 9/27 First day to Sign up for next Friday (10/4) Discussions on Environmental Epidemiology Articles (Deadline 10/1, 9 AM) (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875618)	due by 9am





Date	Details	
Thu Oct 3, 2019	 10/3 Reading for Today -"Banned in Europe, Safe in the US" (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875622)	due by 10:30am
Fri Oct 4, 2019	 10/4 Discussion of Environmental Epidemiology Articles (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875623)	due by 10:30am
Tue Oct 8, 2019	 10/4 - First Day to Sign Up for Example Case Study Commentaries (Deadline 10/8, 9AM) (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/5018564)	due by 10:30am
Tue Oct 8, 2019	 10/8 - Last Day to Sign Up for Example Case Study Commentaries (Deadline 10/8, 9AM) (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/5023161)	due by 10:30am
Tue Oct 8, 2019	 10/8 Reading for Today "EPA committed to regulating mercury 17 years ago. Now it's having second thoughts" (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875626)	due by 10:30am
Fri Oct 11, 2019	 10/11 Week one of Case Study -Instructions for Discussion of Commentaries for Example Case Study (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/5023220)	due by 10:30am
Fri Oct 11, 2019	 10/11 Week Three of Case Study -Instructions for Example Case Study Group Presentation (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875639)	due by 10:30am
Fri Oct 11, 2019	 10/11 Week Two of Case Study -Instructions for Example Case Study Report (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/5020417)	due by 10:30am
Tue Oct 15, 2019	 10/11 First Day to Sign Up for Case Study #1 Commentaries (Deadline 10/15, 9 AM) (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875638)	due by 9am
Tue Oct 15, 2019	 10/15 Last Day to Sign Up for Case Study #1 Commentaries (Deadline Today, 9 AM) (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875649)	due by 9am
Tue Oct 15, 2019	 10/15 Reading for Today -Case Study #1: "WHO Backs Use of DDT Against Malaria" (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875650)	due by 10:30am
Thu Oct 17, 2019	 10/17 Reading for Today "In Echo of Flint Lead Crisis, Newark Offers Bottled Water" (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875627)	due by 10:30am
Fri Oct 18, 2019	 10/18 Discussion of Commentaries for Case Study #1 (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875651)	due by 10:30am

Date	Details	
Tue Oct 22, 2019	 10/18 First Day to Submit PDF for Chosen Research Article for Case Study #1 (Deadline 10/22, 9 AM) (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875652)	due by 9am
	 10/18 First Day to Submit PDF for Chosen Research Article for Case Study #1 (Deadline 10/22, 9 AM) (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/5050402)	due by 9am
	 10/22 Last Day to Submit PDF of Chosen Research Article for Case Study #1 (Deadline 10/22, 9 AM) (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875630)	due by 9am
	 10/22 Last Day to Submit PDF of Chosen Research Article for Case Study #1 (Deadline 10/22, 9 AM) (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/5050411)	due by 9am
	 10/22 Guest Speaker, Marguerite Pappaioanu: Reading for Today -"A one-health solution to the toxic algae problem. Protecting animals and people from lethal cyanotoxins" (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875655)	due by 10:30am
Thu Oct 24, 2019	 10/24 Guest Speaker, Liz Dykstra: Reading for Today -"How a wildlife biologist became a plague-chaser in the American Southwest". (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875637)	due by 10:30am

Date	Details		
Fri Oct 25, 2019	 10/25 Instructions for Submitting Report for Case Study #1 (Deadline 10/25, 9 AM) https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875647	due by 9am	
	 10/25 Instructions for Writing Report for Case Study #1 (Deadline 10/25, 9AM) https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/5043942	due by 9am	
	 10/25 Instructions for Writing Report for Issue #1 (Deadline 10/25, 9AM) https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/5050716	due by 9am	
	 10/25 Instructions for Writing Report for Issue #2 (Deadline 10/25, 9AM) https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/5050735	due by 9am	
	 11/15 Instructions for Writing Report for Case Study #1 (Deadline 10/25, 9AM) Copy https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/5064482	due by 9am	
	 11/15 Instructions for Writing Report for Issue #1 (Deadline 10/25, 9AM) Copy https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/5064483	due by 9am	
	 11/15 Instructions for Writing Report for Issue #2 (Deadline 10/25, 9AM) Copy https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/5064484	due by 9am	
	 10/25 Instructions for Discussion for Issue #1 https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/5057540	due by 10:30am	
	 10/25 Instructions for Discussion for Issue #2 https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/5059302	due by 10:30am	
	 11/15 Instructions for Discussion for Issue #1 Copy https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/5064480	due by 10:30am	
	 11/15 Instructions for Discussion for Issue #2 Copy https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/5064481	due by 10:30am	
	Tue Oct 29, 2019	 10/29 Reading for Today -"A CEO just got 28 years in prison after 9 people died from his salmonella-tainted peanuts" https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875636	due by 10:30am
	Thu Oct 31, 2019	 10/31 Reading for Today -Documents That Changed the World: John Snow's Cholera Map, 1853 https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875634	due by 10:30am

Date	Details	
Fri Nov 1, 2019	 11/1 Instructions for Developing Presentation for Case Study #1 (Deadline 11/1, 9AM) https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/5047367	due by 9am
	 11/1 Instructions for Developing Presentation for Case Study #1 (Deadline 11/1, 9AM) https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/5060374	due by 9am
	 11/1 Instructions for Submitting Presentation for Case Study #1 (Deadline 11/1, 9AM) https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/5047370	due by 9am
	 11/22 Instructions for Developing Presentation for Case Study #1 (Deadline 11/1, 9AM) Copy https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/5064490	due by 9am
Tue Nov 5, 2019	 11/1 First Day to Sign Up for Case Study #2 Commentaries (Deadline 11/5, 9 AM) https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875642	due by 9am
	 11/5 Last Day to Sign Up for Case Study #2 Commentaries (Deadline 11/5, 9 AM) https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875644	due by 9am
	 11/5 Reading for Today "Statement from Jeffrey Shuren, M.D., J.D., Director of the FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health on the National Toxicology Program's report on radiofrequency energy exposure" https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875645	due by 10:30am
Thu Nov 7, 2019	 11/7 Reading for Today -" A Strategy for Saving Lives: The National Radon Action Plan" https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875664	due by 10:30am
Fri Nov 8, 2019	 11/8 Discussion of Commentaries for Case Study #2 https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875659	due by 10:30am
	 11/1 Exam #1 Posted Today (Due 11/8, 5PM) https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/5021341	due by 5pm
	 11/8 Submit Exam #1 Here by 5 PM https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875643	due by 5pm

Date	Details	
Tue Nov 12, 2019	 11/12 Last Day to Submit PDF for Chosen Research Article for Case Study #2 (Deadline 11/12, 9 AM) (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875662)	due by 9am
	 11/12 Last Day to Submit PDF of Chosen Research Article for Case Study #2 (Deadline 11/12, 9 AM) (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/5064451)	due by 9am
	 11/8 First Day to Submit PDF for Chosen Research Article for Case Study #2 (Deadline 11/12, 9 AM) (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875660)	due by 9am
	 11/8 First Day to Submit PDF for Chosen Research Article for Case Study #2 (Deadline 11/12, 9 AM) (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/5064439)	due by 9am
	 11/12 Reading for Today -"The Role of Defeat Devices in Environmental Protection: Beyond The VW Scandal" (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875632)	due by 10:30am
Thu Nov 14, 2019	 11/14 Guest Speaker, Trevor Peckham: Reading for Today - "Workplace Injuries and Suicide" (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875646)	due by 10:30am
Fri Nov 15, 2019	 11/15 Instructions for Submitting Report for Case Study #2 (Deadline 11/15, 9 AM) (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875653)	due by 9am
	 11/15 Instructions for Writing Report for Case Study #2 (Deadline 11/15, 9AM) (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875654)	due by 1pm
Tue Nov 19, 2019	 11/19 Reading for Today -"Breathing Death" (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875663)	due by 10:30am
Thu Nov 21, 2019	 11/21 Guest Speaker Rebekah Petroff: Readings for Today - Guinea Worm (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875641)	due by 10:30am
Fri Nov 22, 2019	 11/22 Instructions for Submitting Presentation for Case Study #2 (Deadline 11/22, 9AM) (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875666)	due by 9am
	 11/22 Instructions for Developing Presentation for Case Study #2 (Deadline 11/22, 9AM) (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875665)	due by 10:30am
Tue Nov 26, 2019	 11/26 Guest Speaker, BJ Cummings: Reading for Today -"Will the Duwamish Ever Be Clean?" (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4963562)	due by 10:30am

Date	Details	
Tue Dec 3, 2019	 12/3 Guest Speaker, Tania Bush Isaksen: Reading for Today - TBD (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875656)	due by 10:30am
Thu Dec 5, 2019	 12/5 Reading -"New Screen Time Rules for Kids, by Doctors" (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/5016419)	due by 10:30am
Thu Dec 12, 2019	 12/12 Submit Exam #2 Here by 1 PM (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875661)	due by 1pm
	 12/6 Class review and discussion of Take-Home Exam #2 (Due 12/12, 1 PM) (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1320236/assignments/4875657)	due by 1pm