I. Course Description

This course is an introduction to the field, current issues, and interventions for solving environmental health problems. The course will assist the student in becoming aware of the scope of the field of environmental health and the ideas on which environmental health interventions are based. Students will review scientific literature to learn about interventions for environmental health problems, and practice identifying environmental health problems and interventions in their communities. The focus is on the interaction between humans and the environment and how this interaction affects the health of humans and communities.

One hundred thirty five hours of student effort is anticipated for an average student to achieve an average grade for this 3 credit semester based course (45 hours reading online content; and 90 hours reading the textbook, reviewing online resources, and completing assignments). This course is offered in an online learning environment via a password protected site. No face-to-face attendance on campus is required; however electronic attendance will be taken and students are expected to complete all activities as scheduled.

The online course is available for credit at the 3000 level for those who have not previously taken the graduate course Issues in Environmental and Occupational Health PubH6102 (or PubH5201 prior to fall 2005).

II. Course Prerequisites

None
III. Course Goals and Objectives
Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify the major sources of environmental contaminants, the ways in which humans are exposed to them, and the effects they have on human health
2. Determine the nature of environmental health problems by identifying, locating, and using appropriate reference materials
3. Discuss local history and community demographics and their impact on environmental health
4. Identify key individuals, organizations and agencies in their community that impact environmental health interventions

IV. Methods of Instruction and Work Expectations
Much of the learning in this course will be student initiated. Students are required to make thoughtful and timely contributions to online discussions based on their knowledge of environmental health problems in their communities. In addition, students are expected to complete reading and writing assignments, and to ask questions/seek clarifications when topics or concepts are unclear.

V. Course Text and Readings
The required text is available for purchase at the University of Minnesota Coffman Bookstore. It is:

Nadakavukaren, A. Our Global Environment: A Health Perspective, Sixth Edition. Waveland Press, Inc. PO Box 400, Prospect Heights, Illinois 60070. 2000. ISBN 1-57766-098-6. Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-9, 12, 15-16 are required; all other chapters are encouraged in order to understand the full scope of environmental health.

Supplemental Readings
In addition to the assigned text the following references are recommended for study and are major resources for class outlines and discussion:


All registered students will automatically receive access to the online course through their University Student Internet Account. However, it can take up to 48 hours for registration information to be updated on the WebCT server. You will be notified of access by email via your University of Minnesota X500 email address. All email correspondence between students and instructor must be through your University of Minnesota Email account. Also, each student will be assigned to an online discussion group. Go to the home page and click on the "discussion group assignment" link to see which group you are in. If you can't find your name in a group, contact the TAs at PubH3102@umn.edu.

VI. Course Schedule
Work on your own time “24-7”, however you MUST follow the weekly schedule laid out in the online course calendar. Check the online calendar for the due dates of quizzes, writing assignments, and online discussion postings. Your progress will be monitored electronically and my teaching assistants (TAs) will participate in the required online discussions. If you post late you may not get a quick response to your questions or ideas – so keep up on a weekly basis! My TAs will evaluate your overall participation in online discussions and document completion of online activities. The approximate order of course is:

Week 1: Complete pretest, read syllabus, and class album
Week 2: Complete introduction module (reading and activities)
Week 3: Complete water module (reading and activities)
Week 4: Complete air module (reading and activities)
Week 5: Complete land module (reading and activities)
Week 6: Complete assignment 1 (details below) and quiz 1

Quiz 1 will be posted at the end of week 6 and covers all materials up to that point. Watch for the announcement on the homepage, but you MUST check the calendar to plan ahead. Quizzes will only be available online for a limited period of time. Failure to finish during that time means you lose the points for the quiz.

Week 7: Complete housing module (reading and activities)
Week 8: Complete pest module (reading and activities)
Week 9: Complete workplace module (reading and activities)
Week 10: Complete food module (reading and activities)

Week 11: Quiz 2 will be posted at the end of week 11 covering all materials up to that point. Watch for the announcement on the homepage, but you MUST check the calendar to plan ahead. Quizzes will only be available online for a limited period of time. Failure to finish during that time means you lose the points for the quiz.

Week 12-14: Complete and submit assignment 2 (details below) and any outstanding online activities

I must receive a hard copy of your Assignment II paper by 3:30 PM (CST) on the due date!! Points will be taken off for lateness!!

Mailing Address:
Dr. Paul Allwood
Division of Environmental Health Sciences
School of Public Health
University of Minnesota (MMC807)
420 Delaware Street S.E., Minneapolis, MN
55455

Delivery address: You can also drop off your paper in the box marked "PubH6102" that will be placed in main office of the Division of Environmental Health Sciences, School of Public Health, which is located on the 12th floor of the Mayo building. The box will be placed in the office approximately a week before the assignment is due and will be picked up at 3:30 PM CST on the day the assignment is due (Check the online course calendar for the due date!!).

Week 15: Complete post test
VII. Evaluation and Grading

- Syllabus quiz (2 bonus points if all correct)
- Pretest and Posttest (3 points total if you do both)
- Class Album (2 points)
- Assignment 1 (10 points)
- Required online group discussions (12 points; details below)
- Respectful and analytic responses to at least 5 discussions from your group members (3 points)
- Quizzes (15 points each)
- Assignment 2 (40 points)

In order to receive a passing grade (A, B, C, or P), all assignments must be completed and turned in no later than the due date assigned. You are responsible for checking the course calendar for exact due dates and times. As a general rule, work will only be accepted after this date in exceptional cases, and with a written agreement between the instructor and the student. For assignment 1 one point will be deducted each day the assignment is late, and for assignment 2, 2 points will be deducted for each day past the due date. NO work WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE LAST DAY OF THE SEMESTER!!! Academic dishonesty in any portion of the academic work for this course shall be grounds for receiving an N or F. Grading Criteria: Letter grade will be determined by total effort as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95 - 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 94</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 - 89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 - 86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 - 82</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 - 79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73 - 76</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 - 72</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60 - 69</td>
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Satisfactory (S): Signifies achievement that is satisfactory based on the student completing all assignments and earning a minimum of 70% of the grade points.

Failure or no credit (F or N): Signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2), not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an “incomplete” grade.

I - (Incomplete): An incomplete grade is permitted only in cases of extraordinary circumstances and requires a specific written agreement between the instructor and student specifying the time and manner in which the student will complete the course requirements. Extension for completion of the work will not exceed one year, after which time the “I” converts to an “F” or “N”. For more information consult the University of Minnesota uniform grading and transcript policy at onestop.umn.edu.

Assignment I

In assignment 1 you will examine how information is presented by the mass media for a better understanding of the ways environmental health risk is presented in the media and the potential effect of the mass media on the consumers of public health information. Click on the Assignment 1 link on the course home page for detailed information and instructions.

Assignment II

For this assignment you will complete and submit (in hard copy) a 7-10 page (not including bibliography pages or appendices) paper on an environmental health issue in a community of your choice. You will need to have a firm grasp on the course materials to do well on this assignment, so wait to until you have done all the readings and assignment I to start your work on assignment II. However, you should think about potential topics and start collecting useful information as you go through the semester. The assignment is not a "normal" observation report of environmental health issues; rather, it is an assessment and evaluation of the issues as well as the agencies and programs that are in place to address them. Click on the Assignment II link on the course home page for detailed information and instructions.
Evaluation criteria for assignments I and II

Review the following questions carefully before submitting assignments I and II:

1. Content
   a. Does the paper respond to ALL questions in the assignment?
   b. Does the author indicate any areas of further work or missing information?
   c. Is the purpose, problem or question clearly stated in the introduction?
   d. Are statements in the paper adequately supported with data and citations?
   e. Does the background information familiarize a reader without overwhelming them?
   f. Is the body of the paper organized and easy to follow?
   g. Are the findings summarized?
   h. Do the conclusions directly relate to the purpose, question or problem stated in the introduction?

2. Form
   a. Are spelling and grammar correct?
   b. Is word usage appropriate for the subject?
   c. Is the report or paper written in paragraphs, with ideas in a coherent order?
   d. Are footnotes and references (if appropriate) present and correctly cited?
   e. Has the paper been proofread?

Online Discussion

All the required discussion postings will be graded as “Completed”, “Incomplete” or “No posting” in the online grade book. Complete means that the posting is satisfactory. Incomplete means that you need to provide more information and “no posting” means that you have not posted by the due date on the course calendar. Click on “My Grades” in the course tools section of the course home page to see your grades. If you added or revised a post after an initial grade of “incomplete” or “no posting” the grade may not be changed until near the end of the semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Discussions</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Explore Healthy People:</td>
<td>(2 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laws:</td>
<td>(2 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value Case Study:</td>
<td>(2 points)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land Quality:</td>
<td>(2 points)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workplace Scope Of Problem:</td>
<td>(2 points)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workplace Intervention:</td>
<td>(2 points)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*****Posting and responding to comments on all learning modules is highly recommended to ensure full understanding and to help prepare for quizzes*****

VIII. Other Course Information and Policies

Grade Option Change (if applicable)
For full-semester courses, students may change their grade option, if applicable, through the second week of the semester. Grade option change deadlines for other terms (i.e. summer and half-semester) can be found at onestop.umn.edu.

Course Withdrawal
Students should refer to the Refund and Drop/Add Deadlines for the particular term at onestop.umn.edu for information and deadlines for withdrawing from a course. As a courtesy, students should notify their instructor and, if applicable, advisor of their intent to withdraw.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course after the noted final deadline for a particular term must contact the School of Public Health Student Services Center at sph-ssc@umn.edu for further information.

Student Conduct, Scholastic Dishonesty and Sexual Harassment Policies

Students are responsible for knowing the University of Minnesota, Board of Regents’ policy on Student Conduct and Sexual Harassment found at www.umn.edu/regents/polindex.html.

Students are responsible for maintaining scholastic honesty in their work at all times. Students engaged in scholastic dishonesty will be penalized, and offenses will be reported to the Office of Student Academic Integrity (OSAI, www.osai.umn.edu).

The University’s Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as “plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; or altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying of data, research procedures, or data analysis.”

Plagiarism is an important element of this policy. It is defined as the presentation of another’s writing or ideas as your own. Serious, intentional plagiarism will result in a grade of "F" or "N" for the entire course. For more information on this policy and for a helpful discussion of preventing plagiarism, please consult University policies and procedures regarding academic integrity: http://writing.umn.edu/tww/plagiarism/.

Students are urged to be careful that they properly attribute and cite others’ work in their own writing. For guidelines for correctly citing sources, go to http://tutorial.lib.umn.edu/ and click on “Citing Sources”.

In addition, original work is expected in this course. It is unacceptable to hand in assignments for this course for which you received credit in another course unless by prior agreement with the instructor. Building on a line of work begun in another course or leading to a thesis, dissertation, or final project is acceptable. If you have any questions, consult the instructor.

Classroom Diversity

You are by definition a very diverse group of students, even if on the surface you all may seem more or less homogeneous. Diversity is a strength in our society at large and here at the University of Minnesota. Please maintain an open mind to the differences around you, place a positive value on those differences. Points-of-view may be actively argued but be respectful to all contributors. Check the Netiquette page within the online orientation for guidelines for a web based environment.

Disability Statement

It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have a documented disability (e.g., physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, or systemic) that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services to have a confidential discussion of their individual needs for accommodations. Disability Services is located in Suite180 McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street. Staff can be reached by calling 612/626-1333 (voice or TTY).