

ALHS3362 - BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
Spring Semester 2009

Instructor Name and Title: William Sorensen, Ph.D.

Office Location & Times: PAC Rm #3095, regular office hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 9:00-5pm (but please call/email to set a time).

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Required Text: Edberg, M, Essentials of Health Behavior. Jones and Bartlett, 2007 (or most recent edition).

Classroom Location: HPC 3055 (ITV)

Course Time and Dates: Jan 12 - May 8 (2 times/wk); 12:30-1:45 pm

Course Catalogue Description: Study of the effects of various aspects of behavior on health, including effects on disease risks and prognosis in selected disease states, and study of behavioral alternatives in relation to promotion of health of the individual.

Course Goal: The purpose of this course is to provide historical and theoretical information regarding the study of health behavior, and to investigation practical applications to individuals and communities.

Course Objectives: To accomplish the purpose of the course the student will be able:

1. to know the evolution of health modeling and its relation to other branches of science.
2. to understand individual health behavior models and differentiate between them.
3. to understand social health behavior models and differentiate between them.
4. to apply components of behavior models to a real situation..
5. to analyze applications of behavioral change models in past, example situations.
6. to know appropriate behavior/cognitive terminology through reading, speaking, and writing this terminology.

Student Evaluation

Grading Plan:

Project: Journal	25%
Project: Paper	10%
Project: DataMining	5%
Exams	50% (2 exams at 25 each)
Participation	10%

Letter grade-percentage transposition:

A: 91% - 100%

B: 81% - 90%

C: 71% - 80%

D: 61% - 70%

F: below 61%

Course Format: Classes will consist of a mixture of lecture, readings, class discussions, and individual reflection. Some sessions will include guest lecturers or DVDs; students should be prepared to write about insights from guest speakers or DVDs as well as in all sessions, or any part of the text. Students are expected to read selected text before the scheduled class that covers the material. Every student should have their own text. Students will be called upon during each class to provide insights into a particular issue. Your response-readiness and curiosity reflects on your grade.

Projects: There are three projects. The major project is a journal. This is an on-going project that will change direction and evolve as time progresses. Frequently, the instructor will interject about what to write, nearly on a weekly basis. Stay alert, observant. This is not a project to rush.

More information will be released on all projects when the time comes.

Late work: Unless you contact the instructor ahead of time late projects/papers will be penalized 50%. After one week, they will not be accepted at all.

Exams: A missed exam without a prior excuse receives an automatic zero. An excused, missed exam must be taken before the next class (arrange with instructor).

Learning Philosophy: I like a well-rounded approach-- reading, writing, discussion, even a little math. You are expected to participate in each of these branches of learning even if it is a struggle. You will find that many questions raised during discussion do not have a single right or wrong answer. As will soon be apparent, everyone in the class (including your instructor) is fallible and may not always have a "perfect" answer. This is not a reflection of their lack of study or expertise, but of the complexity of many behavioral questions. IF A TOPIC POINT OR ANSWER SEEMS INCORRECT OR IMPLAUSIBLE TO YOU, YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING THESE ISSUES UP FOR DISCUSSION. Your attention and participation in class is actually a good gauge to your learning.

UTT POLICIES

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

The ADA is a federal anti-discrimination law that provides comprehensive civil rights protection to individuals with disabilities. Among other things, this statute requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities.

If you have a disability, including a learning disability, for which you request disability support services/accommodation(s), please contact Ida MacDonald in the Disability Support Services office so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting disability support services/accommodation(s) must provide appropriate documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Support Services counselor. For more information, call or visit the Student Services Center located in the University Center, Room 282. The telephone number is 566-7079 (TDD 565-5579)." Additional information may also be obtained at the following UT Tyler Web address: <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>.

Academic Dishonesty:

At The University of Texas at Tyler, students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an environment that encourages academic integrity. Student and faculty members are required to report an observed or suspected case of academic dishonesty immediately to the faculty member in charge of an examination, classroom or laboratory research project, or other academic exercise.

Since the value of an academic degree depends on the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for the degree, it is imperative that the student maintains a high standard of individual honor in scholastic work. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and collusion:

"Cheating" includes:

1. Copying from the paper of another student, engaging in written, oral, or any other means of communication with another student, or giving aid to or seeding aid from another student when not permitted by the instructor;
2. Using material during an examination or when completing an assignment that is not authorized by the person giving the examination or making the work assignment;
3. Taking or attempting to take an examination for another student, or allowing another student to take an examination for oneself;
4. Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means, the whole or any part of, an unadministered examination or work assignment.

"Plagiarism" includes the unacknowledged incorporation of the work of another person in work that a student offers for credit.

"Collusion" includes the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work that a student offers for credit.

Grading Appeal Procedure

A student who wishes to contest a grade given by an instructor must initiate the procedure by contacting the instructor who assigned the grade. The instructor and the student should informally review the criteria for assignment of grades and the student's performance. The instructor may affirm the grade or revise the grade.

If the student is not satisfied after the informal discussion with the instructor, then the student may initiate a formal grade appeal by completing a Grade Appeal Form, which may be obtained from the Office of Student Records. Normal grade appeals should be filed at the earliest date possible, but no later than six months from the final date of grade assignment. The instructor and the student should complete the appropriate parts of the form clearly indicating the instructor's rationale for the grade given and the student's basis for the grade appeal.

At each administrative level of the appeal process, an attempt will be made to resolve the issue. If the instructor holds one of the administrative positions used in the appeal process, then that level is omitted. If no resolution is reached at a particular level, then the appeal is forwarded with the recommendation of the administrator at that level with all documentation.

If the appeal is to be considered by the Vice President for Academic Affairs, a copy of the Grade Appeal Form shall be forwarded by the academic dean of the student. The office of the president is the final step in the appeal process at The University of Texas at Tyler.

Grade Replacement

If you are repeating this course for a grade replacement, you must file an intent to receive grade forgiveness with the registrar by the 12th day of class. Failure to file an intent to use grade forgiveness will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. A student will receive grade forgiveness (grade replacement) for only three (undergraduate student) or two (graduate student) course repeats during his/her career at UT Tyler. (2006-08 Catalog, p. 35).