
SEMESTER: Fall 2026

Course Title: Special Topics: Current [Critical] Topics in Public Health

Course Number: ALHS 5300.060

Credits: 3 Hours

Prerequisites: None

Course Format: Virtual/Online

Days/Hours of Class: Thursdays (5.30 pm – 7.30 pm via Zoom/ selected dates/modules) * See below

Instructor Information

Name and Title: Fletcher Njororai, Ph.D., MPH, MCHES, ACUE

Office Location: HPC Suite 3105

Phone Number: (903) 566-7058

Email Address: fnjororai@uttyler.edu. All communication should be through Canvas inbox – (**Canvas Preferred email).

Office Hours: T/W 12.30 pm – 3.30 pm. (Virtual hours any other day/time by appointment only. Please send email to fix an appointment)

Course Description

This graduate-level seminar is designed to explore contemporary, emerging, and often controversial issues affecting public health locally and globally. The course provides a flexible and responsive platform for examining a wide range of public health challenges from a broad perspective to capture the multidisciplinary nature of these challenges. The seminar format encourages active participation, critical thinking, and scholarly dialogue/discourse. Students will lead discussions, present research findings, and collaborate on group projects that reflect the complexity and interdisciplinary nature of public health practice. Guest speakers, policy briefs, and media analysis may be incorporated to enrich learning and connect theory to practice.

Course Goals

The aim of this course is to provide graduate students with a dynamic and critical understanding of contemporary and emerging issues in public health. Through a seminar-style format, students will explore diverse topics, apply theoretical frameworks, demonstrate critical thinking skills, and engage in collaborative learning to develop practical and policy-relevant insights.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. **Critically analyze** emerging and complex global population health issues using theoretical and evidence-based frameworks.

2. **Synthesize interdisciplinary perspectives** to evaluate the social, political, economic, and cultural determinants of population health in global perspectives.
3. **Engage in scholarly discourse** through presentations, debates, and written reflections on critical population health topics.
4. **Define and elucidate roles and structures** of interdisciplinary health professional teams and their importance in different global health settings.
5. **Discuss the scope** of technological advancement on higher education, translational research career opportunities in academic, governmental, and non-governmental organizations.

Required Textbook(s)

None.

Various resources will be used for required readings. These include published peer-reviewed articles, opinion reviews/papers, grey literature from various websites (such as WHO, UN, World Bank etc.), book chapters, and resources from guest speakers.

Methods of Instruction

Online/Virtual via Canvas the LMS and zoom meetings in selected weeks.
Student learning experiences to include but not limited to a) Selected videos, and/or recorded lectures with related PowerPoint slides, b). Guest-speaker sessions; c) problem solving assignments, d) analytical engagement with content, e) various readings, f) online engagement through a variety of assignments, discussions, quizzes/tests, and video recordings.

Course Policies (Brief)

Academic Integrity: Adhere to university policies; cite all sources (APA 7).
Accessibility: Contact Accessibility Services for accommodation; coordinate with instructor.
Late Work: ≤48 hours late: -10%; >48 hours late by prior approval only.
Attendance & Participation: Regular, prepared engagement expected in seminar format.

Academic Obligations

Each student is required to read the entire syllabus, course schedule and related documents (including various guidelines and university policies) well in advance and ensure you comprehend what is always expected of you.
Consult with the course instructor well in advance for any clarifications including clarifications of any course announcements or class/assignment instructions.

Failure to do so does not constitute a reason on your part to fail in fulfilling your obligations or require exemption(s). Personal commitments (even in seemingly clear emergencies) will not exempt you from fulfilling your academic obligations in a reasonably timely manner.

Artificial Intelligence Statement

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

For this course, AI is encouraged during the course, and appropriate acknowledgment is expected.

You can use AI programs (ChatGPT, Copilot, etc.) in this course. These programs can be powerful tools for learning and other productive pursuits, including completing assignments in less time, helping you generate new ideas, or serving as a personalized learning tool. However, your ethical responsibilities as a student remain the same. You must follow UT Tyler's Honor Code and uphold the highest standards of academic honesty. This applies to all uncited or improperly cited content, whether created by a human or in collaboration with an AI tool. If you use an AI tool to develop content for an assignment, you must cite the tool's contribution to your work. In this course, sections of assignments generated by AI should appear in a different colored font, and the relationship between those sections and student contributions should be discussed in a cover letter that accompanies the assignment when submitted. However, DB should be original student's work and not any AI generated or supported. The instructor will check on these and a "zero" will be given on such assignments. Integrity as a student and in all your work is of paramount importance.

Grading

- ✓ 25% Participation (attendance & participation in class discussions/presentations)
- ✓ 25% Written reflection papers/Application activities (clarity and quality of writing)
- ✓ 20% Group recordings and presentations
- ✓ 20% Discussion Boards
- ✓ 10% Final project

Grading Scale: A > 90% B 80-89% C 70-79% F < 70%

Note: The course syllabus is a general tentative plan for the course. Any changes will be announced to the class in advance by the instructor. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the course (for example syllabus, assignments, and grading plan) at any point in the semester though these will be minimized or avoided. You will be notified of any changes made to the syllabus in a timely manner.

Synchronous session meeting dates(Tentative):

<u>Session #</u>	<u>Date*</u>
Module 1	<u>08/27/2026</u> Guest speaker*
Module 2	Guest speaker*
Module 3	Guest speaker*
Module 4	Guest speaker*

***Dates for F2F class session will be confirmed for each module based on confirmation dates by the Guest speakers. This will be communicated to the class in a timely manner.**

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Student Resources and University Policies and Information are in Canvas accessed through the course Home Page. Please take time to read all the policies, understanding how each impact you as a student/person and your performance as well as requirements as a member of the UT Tyler community.

Reach out to the relevant authorities/persons as indicated in the policies for any questions you may have/need answered and aspects that need clarification. When not sure always ask.

UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: ***Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.***

Course Outline

Week	Topic	Readings*	Assignments**
Module 1: Foundations, Big Data & Technological Horizons in Population Health			
1	Population Health and Big Data	Galea, S., & Vaughan, R. D. (2019); Obermeyer, Z., et al. (2019).	<i>Course Overview & Orientation</i>
2	Artificial Intelligence & Ethics in Healthcare	Rajpurkar, P., et al. (2022); Char, D. S., et al. (2018).	
3	Infodemiology, Public Trust & Health Communication	Eysenbach, G. (2020); Loomba, S., et al. (2021).	Guest-Speaker Assignment 1 -Reflection Paper due
Module 2: One Health; Environmental, Ecological & Planetary Population Health			
4	Climate Change, Planetary Health & Eco-Migration	Romanello, M., et al. (2023); McMichael, C. (2020).	
5	One Health Frameworks: Humans, Animals & Ecosystem Interdependence	Adisasmito, W. B., et al. (2022); Cunningham, A. A., et al. (2017).	Assignment 2- Policy Brief
6	Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) & Biosecurity	O'Neill, J. (2016); Murray, C. J., et al. (2022).	Guest-Speaker
Module 3: Geopolitical Sphere in Population Health			
7	Globalization, Global Governance & Health Systems Financing	Lal, A., et al. (2021); Moon, S., et al. (2015/2016).	
8	Politics and Health	Wars and Humanitarian impacts	Assignment 3: Recorded video Defunding USAID
9	Health Diplomacy	Decolonizing GH	Guest-Speaker
Module 4: Global Vulnerabilities, Interprofessional Practice & Translation in Population Health			
10 -11	Inter-professionalism & Collaborative Team-Based Practice in Public Health	Interprofessional Education Collaborative. (2023); Fox, L. A., et al. (2021).	Team collaborative Project
12	Implementation Science & Translating Research to Policy Action	Bartels, S.M., et al. (2022); List, K., et al. (2024)	Guest -Speaker
13 -14	Global Governance and Surveillance	WHO Agrmt; Abdel-Motaal et al; Villanueva et al; Li et al	
15	Course wrap-up		Recorded Video presentations

***Full listings of readings given in Canvas. **Subject to adjustments necessary**