

American University of Beirut
Faculty of Health Sciences/ Department of Environmental Health

ENHL 315: Environmental and Occupational Health Seminar
(0 credit)

Course Syllabus
Academic Year 2023/2024

Course Coordinators

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Class time:

This course will be offered in the Fall and Spring semesters starting Spring 2023-2024
Seminars meeting schedule: Third Thursday of every month, 6:00-7:30 pm Beirut time.

Course Description

The Environmental and Occupational Health (EOH) seminar series presents information on current research topics and emerging issues in the EOH field. It exposes students to a broad range of environmental and occupational research, practice, and policy issues. Throughout the seminar series, students will learn about and understand EOH-related topics of current importance to the health of workers and the general population via: (1) careful reading and evaluation of assigned journal articles and (2) active listening to EOH experts and participation during the seminar.

Seminar topics would cover multiple themes, such as occupational health and safety in different work settings, toxicology, qualitative and quantitative methodologies and tools used for the recognition, assessment, and evaluation of environmental and occupational hazards, and environmental and occupational health ethics. Issues related to environmental justice, sustainable development, and policymaking will run across the series.

Format

This seminar series will be coordinated by faculty engaged with the Global Environmental and Occupational Health Research and Training Hub for the MENA (GEOHealth-MENA), which is funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). All PhD and MS Epidemiology trainees supported by GEOHealth-MENA are required to attend this course. The course (seminar series) will be open to interested FHS and AUB students, and occasionally seminars will be announced through different media for a wider audience.

The Environmental and Occupational Health seminars will be held once a month. EOH experts, including the GEOHealth-MENA faculty at AUB, Yale University, University of Iowa, University at Buffalo, and University of Washington, will be invited to present about and discuss current EOH topics.

Seminars may follow one or a combination of two formats:

1. An international or regional EOH expert will be invited to deliver a presentation. The speaker will speak up to 45 minutes and then the floor will be open for comments, questions, and discussion for another 30 minutes.
2. A short presentation on an EOH topic (up to 20 minutes) will be given by one of the GEOHealth-MENA faculty. This will be followed by critical reviews of one or two peer-reviewed scientific publications on the same topic presented by GEOHealth-MENA trainees (40 minutes). Discussion will follow for 30 minutes.
 - Trainees will select relevant articles from the recent literature in coordination with the faculty lead of each session. Emphasis on the literature from the MENA region and low- and middle-income countries is encouraged.
 - Students' presentations should follow the format of most articles:
 - Background, Methods, Results, Discussion
 - Limitations and future directions of research suggested by the students.
 - Students are required to prepare their presentations and share them for potential feedback with the faculty lead for the seminar session at least one week prior to each session. Each GEOHealth-MENA trainee will present once or twice during their program studies.

For this semester (Spring 2023-2024), the seminar will adopt the first format, i.e., presentations by international and regional EOH experts.

Course learning objectives (LOs)

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

LO1. Discuss current regional and global topics in EOH research, including the impact of globalization on EOH.

LO2. Articulate priority issues and advances in the EOH field in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) and high-income countries (HIC).

LO3. Critically appraise the methodologies and research outcomes of peer reviewed research, systematic review, and meta-analysis.

Assigned Text Book and Readings

There is no required textbook for this course. Where relevant, scientific publications relevant to the topic of the session will be provided to students.

Students **MUST** read assigned articles **PRIOR** to each session and come prepared to actively engage in session discussion.

Selected Articles: *see detailed outline*

Course requirements and Student evaluation

Pre-requisites: There are no pre-requisites for this course.

Total Credits: The course is 0 credit.

Course delivery mode: Sessions will generally be held online via Zoom. A link will be provided to students at the beginning of each term.

Attendance and participation: Students are required to read assigned articles prior to each session; this will enhance students learning experience and enrich class discussions. **Students are required to attend all sessions.** Students who cannot attend a particular session should inform the course coordinator. Sessions may be recorded, but students are responsible to search for any announcements made regarding the seminars.

All students will receive a grade of Pass or Fail, based on attendance, article presentation, and participation. Students who miss more than one seminar a semester without an excuse or do not present when required to will receive a Fail.

Policies and other General Notes:

Academic Integrity:

Education is demanding, and time management is essential. Do not hesitate to use the resources around you but do not cut corners. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please review the Student Code of Conduct in your handbook and familiarize yourself with definitions and penalties. If you're in doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, ask your instructor because it is your responsibility to know. The American University of Beirut has a strict anti-cheating and anti-plagiarism policy. Penalties include failing marks on the assignment in question, suspension or expulsion from the university and a permanent mention of the disciplinary action in the student's records.

Students with Special Needs:

Staff members of the AUB Office of Student Affairs, Room 113, West Hall, coordinate accommodations and services for students with special needs. If you have a special need, for which you may request an accommodation in AUB classes, consult the website for more information and arrange with the coordinator resources for accessible education (<https://www.aub.edu.lb/SAO/Pages/Accessible-Education.aspx>). Also, please see the instructor of this course privately about possible support services that can be provided to you.

Non-Discrimination-Title IX-AUB:

AUB is committed to facilitating a campus free of all forms of discrimination, including sex/gender-based harassment prohibited by Title IX. The University's non-discrimination policy applies to, and protects, all students, faculty, and staff. If you think you have experienced discrimination or harassment, including sexual misconduct, we encourage you to tell someone promptly. If you speak to a faculty or staff member about an issue such as harassment, sexual violence, or discrimination, the information will be kept as private as possible. However, faculty and designated staff are required to bring it to the attention of the University's Title IX Coordinator. Faculty can refer you to fully confidential resources, and you can find information and contacts at www.aub.edu.lb/titleix. To report an incident, contact the University's Title IX Coordinator Mitra Tauk at 01-350000 ext. 2514, or titleix@aub.edu.lb. An anonymous report may be submitted online via EthicsPoint at www.aub.ethicspoint.com.

Student Portal

Students are encouraged to use the Public Health Education Office (PHEO) student portal link for further guidelines on policies and procedures, submission of petitions, career services, registrar announcements, and other student-related services/issues:

<https://sites.aub.edu.lb/fhspheostudent/>

Detailed Course Outline

Session	Topic	Guest Speaker
February 15, 2024	Occupational health in the Arab world- a lifetime experience	Mustafa Khogali
March 21, 2024	NIEHS environmental strategy 2025-2030	Rick Woychik
April 18, 2024	To be confirmed.	
May 16, 2024	To be confirmed.	