

**Faculty of Health Sciences
American University of Beirut**

**PBHL 305 (0 credit)
Seminar on Contemporary Issues in Public Health
Course Syllabus
Spring 2023-24**

Day/Time; Location: Wednesdays 1:30- 2:30 pm

Venue: VD class 203

Course Instructor: Dr. Judy Makhoul

Email: jm04@aub.edu.lb

Office Hours: by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The seminar provides a platform to discuss contemporary issues in public health. Students integrate previously acquired knowledge and skills into analyzing local, regional, or global contemporary issues and their impact on public health and the environment. Course content will vary each year in light of salient issues and student interests. Throughout the semester, students are expected to be active learners and to participate in the selection of relevant academic articles/media resources in consultation with the course instructor, and to facilitate class discussions.

PREREQUISITES

Completion of all core and at least three concentration courses.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

LO1: Analyze local, regional, and global contemporary issues through a public health lens

LO2: Apply critical thinking in evaluating social, political, and economic determinants of health and the ways in which they contribute to health inequities

LO3: Articulate the role of evidence in evaluating and proposing solutions for specific public health problems

LO4: Engage in multidisciplinary discussions with participants from different public health concentrations

LO5: Assess the determinants of and possible solutions for a public health problem through an ethics lens

FOUNDATIONAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES

CEPH 1. Explain public health history, philosophy and values

- CEPH 6. Explain the critical importance of evidence in advancing public health knowledge
- CEPH 7. Explain the effects of environmental factors on a population’s health
- CEPH 10. Explain the social, political and economic determinants of health and how they contribute to population health and health inequities
- CEPH 11. Explain how globalization affects global burdens of disease

ASSESSMENT METHODS:

- **Attendance and in-class participation (50%):** Consistent and meaningful participation in class discussions is important. This requires that students read selected articles prior to seminar meetings and critically reflect on the interlinkages between public health disciplines and public health broadly. *LOs 1-5*
- **Class facilitation (50%):** Each student will facilitate seminar discussion once in a pair during the semester. Facilitation includes: 1) identifying relevant readings (or other multimedia sources) on the selected local, regional, or global issue identified by the instructor; 2) engaging students in an active discussion about the issue’s impact on public health and the environment. *LOs 1-5*

See rubric for grading class facilitation in appendix 1.

Modes of assessment mapped to course LOs

Mode of assessment	Learning Objectives				
	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5
1. Attendance and in-class participation (50%)	X	X	X	X	X
2. Class facilitation (50%)	X	X	X	X	X

Required Readings:

Required and recommended readings and resources for each session will be posted on Moodle at least one week before class.

Students work in pairs to present an introduction pertaining to the topic assigned in the session they chose to lead and then facilitate the discussion of the relevant reading for that week. The students will choose a reading in consultation with the course instructor a week before the class. The readings will be posted on Moodle for everyone to read *prior* to class. The introduction should not be more than 5 minutes to warm the class up around one or two salient issues and should include a few (3 to 4) questions that would help facilitate the discussion.

Skill	Addressed in course
Study Skills	Yes
Academic Integrity and Plagiarism	Yes

Skill	Addressed in course
Academic Writing	No
Academic Reading	Yes
Critical Thinking/analysis	Yes
Problem Solving	Yes
Searching for information	Yes
Time Management	Yes
Presentation skills	Yes
Communication skills: 1) interpersonal communication 2) Facilitation skills 3) Group dynamics	Yes
Gender sensitivity, diversity and inclusion	Yes
Public Health Ethics	Yes
Cultural Competence	No
Conflict Resolution: intergroup; root causes of conflict	Yes

Academic Integrity:

Is compliance with ethical and professional principles, standards, practices, and a consistent system of values that serves as guidance for making decisions and taking actions in education, research and scholarship (Tauginienė et al. 2018: 8). Education is demanding and students need to properly manage their time. Do not hesitate to use the resources around students but do not cut corners. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students should review the Student Code of Conduct and familiarize themselves with definitions and penalties. Cheating might earn students a failing mark on the assignment, at the very least. Students might fail the course in which they cheat, be warned, suspended or expelled from the University and a permanent mention of the disciplinary action might be made in the student's records. If students are in doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, ask your instructor because it is your responsibility to know. Remember that the American University of Beirut has a strict anti-cheating and anti-plagiarism policy. For further information, please visit AUB's Policies and Procedures or <http://pnp.aub.edu.lb/general/conductcode>.

All persons, sources and tools that influence the ideas or generate content should be properly acknowledged. Unauthorized content generation, including contract cheating, and inappropriate use of AI (UCG) is the production of academic work, in whole or part, for academic credit, progression or award, whether or not a payment or other favor is involved, using unapproved or undeclared human or technological assistance is unacceptable in this course. Appropriate use of services, sources, and tools that

only influence the form is generally acceptable (e.g. proofreaders, proofreading tools, spelling checkers, thesaurus). The outputs of AI tools can include biased, inaccurate, or incorrect content that users should be aware of, so work submitted is the student's responsibility (taken from Foltynek, T., Bjelobaba, S., Glendinning, I., Khan, Z. R., Santos, R., Pavletic, P., & Kravjar, J. (2023). ENAI Recommendations on the ethical use of Artificial Intelligence in Education. *International Journal for Educational Integrity*, 19(1), 12.)

Inclusive Education:

Inclusive education is an approach that integrates students with special educational needs (including physical or sensory disabilities) into mainstream institutions and provides them with support to learn and participate in all educational activities. '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 disability, for which you may request accommodation in AUB classes, consult the website for more information and make arrangements with the Coordinator (http://www.aub.edu.lb/sao/Pages/Students_20with_20Special_20Needs.aspx). Also, please see the instructor of this course privately in regard to possible support services that can be provided to you.'

Non-Discrimination – Title IX:

'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 Ms 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.'

Course Etiquette



Be ready for class, by reading materials beforehand, make sure you are in class at **least 5 minutes** in advance.



Engage, by participating in the discussions, asking questions, and contributing actively to classroom activities.



Avoid distractions by silencing your phones and leaving them out of sight, not checking your emails, and closing open browsers. It is a matter of respect for the instructor and for other colleagues who want to follow the session.

Class discussion Etiquette: (10 norms)

- One speaker at a time
- Be concise
- Assume best intentions
- Share the space
- Show respect, friendship and assertiveness
- Speak with evidence
- Agree or disagree politely
- Have an open mind
- Move the conversation forward
- Have fun

Topics to choose from or add to:

- global justice and PH
- professionalism in PH
- the arms or other industry, profit and PH
- civic rights and PH
- Who can do PH?
- Health communication
- Risk communication and PH
- Vaccines and misinformation
- What is development: a myth or reality
- Youth health- does it matter?
- Road safety and PH
- AI and PH

Week	Dates 2024	Facilitators	Topics
1	Jan 24	JM	Intro to the course
2	Jan 31		
3	Feb 7		
4	Feb 14		
5	Feb 21		
6	Feb 28		
7	March 6		
8	March 13		
9	March 20		
10	Apr 3		
11	Apr 10		
12	Apr 17		
13	Apr 24		??