



HHPH 536.01W: Professional Development in Public Health Seminar

COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Wachira, Associate Professor
Office Location: Dallas Northpark Site (Room 2068)
Office Hours: MW 9-2pm (Scheduled Appointments*)
Office Phone: 903-886-5349
Office Fax: 903-886-5365
University Email Address: Elizabeth.Wachira@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: **Email; Scheduled appointments**
Communication Response Time: 48 business hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Value: One (1) Credit Hours
Course Location/Time: Online

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

NONE -- Any reading provided on D2L

Optional Texts and/or Materials: All course written assignments are to be submitted in APA format style unless otherwise noted in the assignment directions. All students are encouraged to have a current copy of the APA Publication Manual: ***Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, (7th ed.)***.

Course Description

This seminar is designed to meet the professional development needs of MPH students by focusing on key aspects of their academic journey and career preparation. The course covers MPH curricular requirements, the development of professional identity, best practices in public health professionalism, available resources for professional growth, and preparation for internships. Through interactive discussions, assignments, and self-assessments, students will gain the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate their academic and professional paths successfully.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, the successful student should be able to:

1. Identify and understand the MPH applied practice experience requirements and how they align with career goals in public health.
2. Develop a professional identity and unique personal brand that reflects their aspirations and values.
3. Create an educational and career portfolio, including tailored cover letters, resumes, and personal statements that reflect their qualifications and career goals.
4. Demonstrate effective networking skills and use professional networking platforms to build and maintain valuable connections such as an LinkedIn profile
5. Demonstrate professionalism in public health practice, including communication, ethical decision-making, and collaboration.
6. Utilize professional development resources such as career services, mentorship programs, and continuing education opportunities.
7. Apply effective job and internship search strategies, including networking techniques, using career platforms, and attending public health-related events.
8. Reflect on personal and professional growth, setting goals for continued development in the public health field.
9. Prepare for internship placements by understanding the process, identifying suitable opportunities, and meeting necessary requirements.
10. Develop a comprehensive proposal work plan for their internship, outlining goals, tasks, and timelines aligned with their professional aspirations.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Using the learning management system, using Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel, using university email, and using Google Docs / Slides.

Instructional Methods

We will study the creation, implementation, and evaluation of health promotion programs. The activities in the course support each student in developing skills in these endeavors as well as fostering analytical skills in determining reliable sources of information and support for health promotion. The final project will be a health promotion project of the student's design, using information learned throughout the course. All assignments (discussion boards and written assignments) will prepare the student for this final project.

The instructor has the right to modify the outline of the course.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Strong reading and writing skills:

- Most of the material in the online environment will come from your textbooks, discussions, lectures, and videos; therefore, strong reading, writing and critical thinking skills are very important for success in an online course.
- Success in this class will come from independent reading of textbook chapters as well as other assigned material.

Self-motivated and independent learner:

- While online courses can offer more flexibility in scheduling, they require more self-discipline and independence than on-campus courses.
- In the online environment, you have to be able to start and to work on tasks on your own, without someone keeping you focused, and you have to be self-disciplined in order to follow the class schedule and meet deadlines.

Time commitment:

- Online classes take as much time as regular on-campus classes. You need to set aside sufficient time for study. Plan to spend at least as much time working on the assignments and studying as you would with a traditional course. **This class is 4 hours.** You should plan to spend approximately 10 hours study time per week to accomplish your readings and assignments inclusive of discussion board, written assignments, final project and exam.
 - **As the semester progresses, more time may be required to complete the components of the Pilot Program Report Assignment.**
 - I encourage you to be proactive and budget your time wisely. Spend the first few days of each module reviewing what the workload entails and budget your time wisely. Some students may require more time. You know your study habits and abilities, so encourage you to be wise so all work is completed by the due date.
- **Late Work Policy for written assignments ONLY:**
 - **0-24 hours late: 50% credit possible**
 - **24+ hours late: No credit possible**
- **81W students:** Even though you may not have to "be" in class on some specific day and time, you still have to follow the course schedule provided. Remember that online classes are not independent study courses; you are still required to "show up" and participate actively (e.g. regularly logging into the course website, actively participating and turning in assignments on time).

For assignments, it is highly recommended that students do not wait until the last minute to complete assignments, discussion boards or exams. Communication is important! If you have questions, concerns, are struggling with understanding material, will be missing class, etc. please notify the instructor.

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GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

A = 495–550 B = 440–494 C = 385–439 D = 330–384 F = <330

- It is your responsibility to regularly monitor your points in the D2LGrade Center. If you notice a discrepancy, contact me immediately. Do not wait until the end of the semester to question your grades.
- **If you drop the class, and you are not passing the course, the grade assigned will be “Dropped Failing”.**


Please see a listing and description of all assignment grading criteria within the Course Grading Rubric folder.

Grading:

Category	Points
1. Orientation & Identity Development	50
2. Career Readiness	150
3. Internship Preparation	225
4. Final ePortfolio	125
Total	550

Assessments

The student will be responsible for obtaining all materials presented online, assigned readings from any outside assignments given by the instructor. All class assignments must be turned in online. You are responsible for making sure your assignments are in on time per the directions and in a file format (word/pdf) that can be viewed by the instructor and peers. All assignment details will be provided during each week/module section. No emailed work will be accepted.

 NOTE: Unless otherwise specified, all assignments are due ONLINE by 11:59pm on the date provided in the syllabus schedule with components submitted to the DB for peer review and responses.

ALL coursework/ assignments (unless otherwise stated) need to be written and formatted per APA Publication Manual (7th Ed)

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1. Orientation & Identity Development (50 points)

During the first two weeks of class, students will complete a series of assignments to ensure a successful start to the semester. These include reviewing the syllabus, familiarizing themselves with the D2L course shell, and submitting an introduction post. Students will also complete a personal brand statement designed to help articulate their values, strengths, and emerging public health identity. A final reflection at the end of the semester will provide students with the opportunity to synthesize what they've learned and how they plan to apply it in their internship journey. Specific directions for each assignment are available on D2L in the corresponding module folder.

2. Career Readiness Tools (150 points)

This set of assignments will prepare students with the essential tools needed for internship and job applications. Students will draft and finalize a professional resume, develop a tailored cover letter, and create a polished LinkedIn profile. Additionally, students will draft a detailed internship work plan outlining their goals, timeline, and expected contributions at their selected internship site. These assignments are meant to support students in being competitive applicants and in clarifying their career trajectory. Detailed instructions and templates for each component are available on D2L.

3. Internship Preparation (225 points)

Throughout the middle of the semester, students will begin actively preparing and applying for internship placements. Assignments include identifying 20 potential internship sites based on their interests and goals, submitting an application excel tracking sheet confirming they have applied to at least 10 of those sites, and completing a reflection after interviewing with a minimum of 3 organizations. These assignments are intended to help students take intentional steps toward securing their Applied Practice Experience and to reflect on how their public health skills translate in real-world settings.

4. Final ePortfolio (125 points)

As the final project for this course, students will compile a professional ePortfolio that includes their updated resume, a cover letter sample, statement of purpose, and 5–7 artifacts from their MPH coursework that demonstrate their skills and competencies (e.g., final papers, infographics, presentations, program plans). This ePortfolio will serve as a professional showcase for internship supervisors, mentors, and future employers. Specific guidelines and examples will be provided to assist students in organizing and polishing their portfolio for final submission.

See D2L for more assignments details

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

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LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

E-mail strategy: You are welcome to email your questions or concerns to me. There are, however, some caveats associated with email that you must remember:

1. A reasonable response time to emailed questions is 24 - 48 business hours.
2. Questions emailed on weekends may not receive a response until the work week begins.
3. As the instructor, I reserve the right to answer emailed questions regarding assignments, tests, discussion boards, etc., in a direct email/announcement post to everyone for the benefit of all students.
4. Please be courteous and professional in all of your interactions with fellow classmates and instructor.

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COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

The course is organized by modules, each formatted very similarly with a 2 to 3 week duration (except for Module 5). Each module will include module learning objectives, printable power point slides, additional reading materials and module assignments. A tentative course schedule with due dates is listed at the bottom of the syllabus on D2L. You will be responsible for managing your time to complete readings, post your discussion boards, and written assignments. All assignments should be submitted in the respective assignment link.

Attendance:

- Time spent on coursework is at your leisure (except for due dates).
- You can work at your own pace (except that due dates are absolute).
- Due dates are when coursework **MUST** be completed. You can work ahead, but ensure you don't get behind.

What Should Students Do First? Students should begin by:

- Thoroughly reviewing the syllabus
- Obtain reading materials (D2L)
- Familiarizing oneself with the course layout (watch welcome video)
- Introduce yourself in the Module 1 introduction discussion
- Review the major assignments information
- Proceed to Module 1

How Should Students Proceed Each Week for Class Activities?

- Read the "Module/week" check-in announcement post. This gives a summary overview on that module, what to do and what is due.
- The student will access and follow all course instructions found in the module content areas.
- The student will read associated module readings and lecture videos
- The student will then complete all module assignments by the respective due dates

Course Specific Policies

1. For 01W, attendance counts as logging in, completing work weekly.
 - a. Inclusive of active involvement in class discussions, assignments, quizzes and active participation in group activities.
2. This class has an "experiential learning" component that will require attendance and travel outside of class. For these activities/session, attendance for approved learning event is required as the grade is contingent on participation. Those assignments deadlines/dates will be clearly outlined in the syllabus schedule.
1. An "excused absence" is defined as a documented university approved activity. The instructor reserves the right to change the content or format of all make-up work. The student is responsible for making up missed class work or assignments. If the absence is one of the reasons listed below, you will be able to make up the work. Please notify me ahead of time if

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you know you will be absent and once back, provide appropriate written documentation via email:

- a. Participation in an activity appearing on the University's authorized activity list.
 - b. Death or major illness in a student's immediate family.
 - c. Illness of a dependent family member
 - d. Participation in legal proceedings or administrative procedures that require a student's presence.
 - e. Religious Holy Day (please let instructor know at the beginning of the semester so as to discuss alternative accommodations as appropriate)
 - f. Illness that is too severe or contagious for the student to attend class (to be determined by Health Center or off campus physician).
 - g. Required participation in military duty
2. NO PROFANITY. No inappropriate or offensive language or gestures. No inappropriate or offensive clothing. This will not be tolerated and you may be asked to leave and it will be considered an unexcused absence for the day.

Make-up Work

Make-up of coursework will follow university protocols as listed above. Life circumstances do happen and in those instances, I encourage you to reach out as soon as possible so we can review and discuss potential make-up/extensions. In most cases:

- Send a notification at least 48 hours business hours prior to the end of the course week a particular assignment is due in order to verify your reason for missing coursework (rare circumstances and/or excused absences).

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as course/student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.

<https://inside.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

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ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01](#)
<http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Graduate Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.etamu.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East Texas A&M University
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Student Disability Services](#)

<https://www.etamu.edu/student-disability-services/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from

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discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.etamu.edu/counsel

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>

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AI Use Policy

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed. (See Course Specific AI Policies)*

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.10 [Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty](#)

***Course Specific AI Policies**

Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all writing assignments should be prepared by the student. Developing strong competencies in this area will prepare you for a competitive workplace and ensure you are learning foundational knowledge. This foundational knowledge is what equips you with theoretical knowledge that can help you accurately assess the credibility and validity of any content related work you come across (publications, websites or AI generated responses). This policy ensures that students are actively engaging with the material and honing their own skills rather than relying on automated tools to generate writing that requires content specific knowledge to help develop critical thinking skills

- Therefore, in this class, AI use for generating writing is prohibited. This course assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do any of the writing of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and using artificial intelligence tools like Copilot, ChatGPT and Google Bard.
- If editing platforms including AI or Grammarly are used to help revise and edit your original work, you are required to submit two separate versions to the written assignment link (1) your original un-edited work and (2) the final version that includes the revised grammar corrected AI generated writing/text. If these two versions are different in regards to content, it will be assumed that AI was used for content generation and the graduate school policies and procedures for academic dishonesty will be followed (13.99.99.R0.10 [Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty](#))

*Edited from IOWA Office of Teaching, Learning and Technology.
See AI Policy Document in D2L for more

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