

College of Public Health & Health Professions
PHC 6900
EGH Journal Club
Spring 2014, 1 Credit Hour
Wednesdays, 12:50-1:40PM, GPNP G-108

Instructor Information

Course director: Gregory C. Gray, MD, MPH
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Course Description: This is a one credit course for EGH graduate students. The course consists of discussions and development of high quality written and oral critiques of peer-reviewed journal publications.

After 2 introductory sessions, during each of the following weeks one student will present an oral presentation regarding a scientific publication/manuscript and the other students will offer written critiques as well as participate in the discussion of the scientific article.

Depending upon the class size students will have 2-3 opportunities to present. The purpose is to develop critical thinking (and writing skills) in evaluating the scientific literature.

Course Pre-requisites: Graduate school enrollment

Course Objectives and/or Goals: After completing this course, the student should be able to:

- Have a fundamental understanding of how to critically evaluate examples of environmental and global health (EGH) scientific literature
- Be familiar with presenting oral summaries of the scientific literature;
- Be familiar with leading critical discussions of the scientific literature;

- Be familiar with how to draft a critique of scientific manuscript for a scientific journal;

Course Materials (derived from PHC 6937, BSCH & EGH Journal Club): During the first class student assignments for presentations will be made. Readings will be selected each week by the student presenter with the guidance of the instructor.

Assignments (derived from PHC 6937, BSCH & EGH Journal Club):

Student presenters:

- >10 days before the student's journal club presentation date: the presenting student sends a proposed article in pdf format and 3 discussion questions to the course instructor(s) for approval.
- >6 days before the student's journal club presentation date: the instructor sends the approved article and 3 discussion questions to the class
- Presentation day: The student presents an oral presentation and leads the discussion regarding the article as follows:
 - 1) PowerPoint summary of scientific background (5 mins)
 - 2) PowerPoint summary of the scientific paper (5 mins)
 - 3) Lead discussion of the 3 discussion questions (40 mins)

EGH scientific topics include but are not limited to: Infectious agents, zoonotic diseases, environmental hazards (air, water, soil, food), toxicology, aquatic pathogens, airborne pathogens, vaccines, agricultural exposures, and global health.

Non-presenting students will prepare a 1-page review form (see last page of this document) and turn it in at the beginning of class.

Should a student be forced to miss class the instructor may ask the student to present a 2-page double-spaced review of the paper/manuscript in the following format:

- 1) Manuscript summary (1 page)
- 2) Major criticisms (at least 1/2 page)
- 3) Minor criticisms (at least 1/2 page)

Course Requirements/Evaluation/Grading: When students present more than 1 time their presentation scores will be averaged. Students will be evaluated by an average numeric grade score of their understanding of the topic/publication, oral presentation, use of visual aids, and discussion leadership (40%); an average numeric score of their weekly submitted written critiques (40%); and their class participation (20%).

Students who do their readings in advance of class, participate in discussions, and attend every session will earn an A for the class participation portion of the overall grade.

Final grades will be graded on a standard letter scale of A to E.

Percentage or points earned in class	93%-100%	90%-92%	87%-89%	83%-86%	80%-82%	77%-79%	73%-76%	70%-72%	67%-69%	63%-66%	60%-62%	Below 60%
Letter Grade equivalent	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E	WF	I	NG	S-U
Grade Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

For greater detail on the meaning of letter grades and university policies related to them, see the Registrar's Grade Policy regulations at <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

Late Assignments: Will have a 5% deduction for each day late unless other arrangements have been made ahead of the due date with the instructor.

Statement of University's Honesty Policy (cheating and use of copyrighted materials): Each student is bound by the academic honesty guidelines of the University and the student conduct code printed in the Student Guide and on the University website. The Honor Code states: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity." Cheating or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

Attendance: Students are expected to complete all reading and writing assignments and to come to class prepared for discussion and debate. Attendance is required

This course will adhere to UF's excused absence policy.

Students who anticipate they will miss a class **must** contact the instructor before class; students who have an emergency absence must contact the instructor as soon as possible. **Two unapproved absences will result in a 3% decrease in total class points and more than two unapproved absences will result in a 5% decrease in total class points unless there are extenuating circumstances.**

Class Schedule

Class	Date	Article
1	TBD	Introduction to course; selection presentation dates; examples of written critiques of published scientific reports
2	TBD	Example oral presentation and published article discussion
3	TBD	Student presentation
4	TBD	Student presentation
5	TBD	Student presentation

Class	Date	Article
6	TBD	Student presentation
7	TBD	Student presentation
8	TBD	Student presentation
9	TBD	How to perform a manuscript review for a journal
10	TBD	Student presentation
11	TBD	Student presentation
12	TBD	Student presentation
13	TBD	Student presentation
14	TBD	Student presentation
15	TBD	Student presentation
16	TBD	Student presentation
17	TBD	Student presentation

Critical Dates for Examinations and Other Work: On the first day of class the instructor will distribute an updated syllabus with class schedule as well as select dates for student presentations.

Policy Related to Make-up Exams or Other Work: *Attendance and Make-up Work* – I expect you to attend and be prepared to participate in all class sessions. Personal issues with respect to class attendance or fulfillment of course requirements will be handled on an individual basis.

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Expected Student Demeanor: Students are expected to be on time and to arrive in class ready to learn. The use of cell phones, pagers, or laptop computers (except for class assignments) is not permitted in class!

Statement Related to Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities- If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, you must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to you, which you then give to the instructor when requesting accommodation. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

Counseling and Student Health: Students may occasionally have personal issues that arise in the course of pursuing higher education or that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing problems affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and to seek confidential assistance at the

UF Counseling & Wellness Center, 352-392-1575. Visit their web site for more information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/>.

The Student Health Care Center at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services, including primary care, women's health care, immunizations, mental health care, and pharmacy services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 392-0627 or check out the web site at: www.health.ufl.edu/shcc

Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from:

Alachua County Crisis Center: (352) 264-6789.

<http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx>

BUT – Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.

EGH Journal Club Article Evaluation Form

Student name:

Date:

Article/manuscript lead author:

1) Study design:

2) Rationale for study (1-2 sentences):

3) Hypothesis (1 sentence):

4) Conclusion (2 – 4 sentences):

5) Strengths (2 – 4 sentences):

6) Weaknesses (2 – 4 sentences):

Other comments: