

PH 634
Environmental Protection

Syllabus — Spring 2008

Instructor: **Ken Calvert**

Contact Information

Office hours: Wednesday 8:00 am – 9:00 am
 PSFA 146

e-mail address: kcalvert@mail.sdsu.edu
students are encouraged to communicate by e-mail

Course time and place

Wednesdays 9 – 10:40 in HH 146

Course Objectives

This class will provide students with in-depth knowledge of issues central to environmental health concentrating on food protection, vector control, and solid waste. Students will acquire knowledge related to REHS certification with respect to these topics.

Food , Vector & Solid Waste

Students will:

1. Be able to understand key factors and public health control measures for foodborne and vectorborne disease
2. Understand the chain of infection, and how the transmission of foodborne and vectorborne diseases may be prevented
3. Know the major diseases which are transmitted by the foodborne or vectorborne route
4. Know the major chemical hazards and biosafety hazards in food
5. Understand the major risk factors for foodborne and vectorborne disease
6. Understand the major control measures for food protection and prevention of vectorborne disease
7. Be able to discuss current emerging issues in food protection, vector control, and solid waste
8. Be trained in public health practice and have contact with public health practitioners in environmental health

Research Paper

Students will:

1. Be able to rapidly and efficiently search and retrieve print, database, and internet information in the area of environmental health
2. Have the appropriate computer skills to store, analyze, and present information from print, database, and world wide web sources
3. Be able to interpret and discuss scientific findings and complete a formal scientific research paper describing and interpreting results
4. Be able to analyze and critique experimental research designs in environmental health science
5. Be able to identify significant gaps, areas of uncertainty, and barriers to understanding the health effects of environmental agents
6. Be able to present information in environmental health in a clear, orderly, and focused manner, and to be able to answer questions about environmental health during a presentation

Course evaluation

Midterm 1, 30 %,

Midterm 2, 20%,

Research paper 25 %, bibliography 5%, oral presentation 10 %

Class participation / short assignments 10 %

(NOTE: attendance and completion of short assignments are important for this class)

Text, Articles and Readings

The texts for this course are required reading:

Foodborne Pathogens: Risks and Consequences - CAST: Council for Agricultural Science and Technology 1994

Control of Communicable Diseases in Man, 18th edition APHA press (December 30, 2004) David Heymann. The 17th edition will be OK.

Other material will be handed out in class or available on the Blackboard web site (see **Blackboard Web Site**).

Note: if you have not already done so, please join the GSPH listserv to get important student announcements. Instructions for listserv may be found near student mailboxes.

Blackboard Web Site

The web site for this course may be found at <http://blackboard.sdsu.edu>. You must be able to access this web site and have a login password. Contact me if you have problems. If you have an old system on your home computer, you will need to access Blackboard from on-campus computing labs.

Privacy Issues:

Blackboard does not provide email addresses in the roster unless a student chooses to share one. To make email addresses visible to the rest of the class, students must go into the Personal Information area from either the Student Tools area of the course, or from the Tools box on the My SDSU page and click on Privacy Options.

Students can choose what information they would like to share with the class, or obtain a student email account, rather than share work email addresses.

The class website contains:

- Announcements and reminders
- Syllabus and updates
- Assignments
- Web links to assigned reading
- Discussion boards
- Exam scores (for your eyes only)

Field Trips

We will be taking field trips to practitioners in environmental health in this course. Students will need to sign a form provided in class in order to participate.

Research Paper

A research paper is required for completion of this course and is described in a separate document. That document is available on blackboard and is part of this syllabus.

Important Dates:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Feb 13 | Research Topics Due |
| Mar 19 | Draft Bibliographies Due |
| Apr 16 | Final Research Paper Due |
| Apr 23 & 30, May 7 | Class Presentations |

Changes to this Syllabus

Changes may be made to this syllabus, the research paper, the class schedule, and due dates at any time. Notice will be given on class blackboard and/or in class.