

**New Mexico State University
Department of Health Science**

HLS 100-01 Introduction to Health Sciences

Spring 2008, Location: CHSS Room 318

Wednesday: 7:30 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.

January 16 – March 5, 2008

(8 week class)

Course Syllabus

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Office Hrs: Heather – Tuesdays 10-12a.m., Wednesdays, 9:30-11:15 a.m. & by appointment
Sue - Tuesdays, 1:15 – 4:00 p.m., Thursdays, 9:00–11:30 a.m. & by appointment

Course Description:

This course presents an overview of the Bachelor of Community Health (BCH) degree and professional career opportunities in the area of health sciences, to include the functional roles of practice, education, administration, and research.

Setting: The course will be conducted using a variety of teaching methods to include group discussions, lectures, and individual, independent electronic searches. All students are expected to be prepared for class and actively participate. The class is WebCT enhanced and much information will be available on the WebCT site for this course. Students are ***strongly urged*** to check the site at least two times each week for discussions, review posted grades, and read email announcements.

This is a WebCT (or hybrid) course. Class will meet for formal class lectures on the specified dates throughout the semester. Students are not required to have a personal computer with Internet access, as both on- and off-campus students can use the computers in the NMSU Library or the computer labs available across the main NMSU campus.

To log on to WebCT:

When you are logged on to the Internet, go to <http://salsa.nmsu.edu>. This is the home page for WebCT @ NMSU. If you do not have a global login – follow the instruction under the section entitled Create Your ID and obtain one.

If you have a global login, type it into the box for NMSU Global LoginID and your NMSU Global Password. You will then proceed to the main WebCT page where you will see the entire set of courses, which you are enrolled in, which utilize WebCT. If you see courses that you were enrolled in, in past semesters, you can email the instructor and ask that they update their student list so you will not see the old course(s).

Under the HLS 100, it will be noted if you have unread mail or if there are new discussion postings, etc. When you click on the blue HLS 100 you will go to the web site for this course. At the sight you will see an icon for the syllabus, communication, etc. Clicking on the different icons will reveal additional information. Take some time to browse through the different icons and the information that lies underneath them.

Test/update your Browser

On the home page for WebCT, towards the bottom, on the right side, there is an option to Test Your Browser. Each student is *strongly recommended* to click on this link and take the necessary time to make sure your browser is in sync with that of the WebCT. If your browser is not supported by WebCT, you will run into endless “challenges” throughout the semester. Optimize your browser as early in the semester as possible. If you are having problems you can contact the ICT Help Desk, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at 575-646-1840. They may also be contacted at help@nmsu.edu.

Course Objectives: *The following professional area, competency, and sub-competencies, based upon the NCHEC, SOPHE, and AAHE document entitled “A Competency-Based Framework for Health Educators – 2006” to be met by this course includes:*

Area VI: Serve as a Health Education Resource Person

Competency A: Use health-related information sources

Sub-competencies:

1. Match information needs with the appropriate retrieval systems
4. Access health information resources
5. Employ electronic technology for retrieving reference

Class Text: Information will be obtained by each student from a variety of sites and sources to include:

- the NMSU Health Sciences Department website:
www.nmsu.edu/~hlthdpt,
- the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing:
www.nehec.org,
- the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),
- and others as assigned and directed.

Tentative Course Outline:

- January 16 **Class meets** to conduct introductions, overview of course and syllabus, and instructions for logging on to the web.
- January 23 **Class meets** in the Branson Library in Room 125 - (Electronic Instruction Classroom).
- January 30 Class does not meet. Read #1 reading “The Power of Prevention: Reducing the health and economic burden of chronic disease.” PDF link on web site.
- February 6 **Class meets** for the Health Science Department overview.
- February 13 Class does not meet. Students are to research the National Commission of Health Education Certification (NECHE) web site and answer questions.
- February 20 **Class meets** to complete the writing assignment (Conventions of Written English/BCH Application/Personal Interest Statement) OR alternate in-class writing assignment.
- February 27 **Class meets** to discuss resume assignment and guest speaker. Students are to review for the final exam. Complete #2 reading – Review the NM Department of Public Health web site, linked from the home page.
- March 5 **Class meets** and takes the final exam.

Course Requirements:

Assignments

Assignment #1:

Due: January 23, 2008

Students are to seek out four (4) jobs related to health education. Copy the entire job announcement. Note the section: Roles & Responsibilities OR Duties OR Qualifications. With each job announcement, list one or two items from this section that might disqualify you from obtaining this particular position.

Assignment #2: **Due: January 30, 2008**
Interview a health professional of your choice, preferably a health educator.

Assignment #3: **Due: February 6, 2008**
Use electronic resources from NMSU library and on-line databases to find and print off one abstract and one full text article.

Assignment #4: **Due: February 13, 2008**
Visit the web site of the NMSU Department of Health Science for a “scavenger hunt” about information regarding the role of community health educators.

Assignment #5: **Due: February 20, 2008**
Students are to log on to the APA web site, and use the examples to format information in APA format.

Assignment #6: **Due: February 27, 2008**
Visit and extract information for the homepage of the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing (NCHEC).

Assignment #7: **Due: March 5, 2008**
Build a one-page resume.

Assignment #8: **Due: March 5, 2008**
Personal Interest Statement and Application to the BCH program are due not later than March 5, 2008.

Readings:
A set of readings is linked to the home page for the class. Keeping up with the readings are the responsibility of the students.

In addition to the assignments and readings, those wishing to apply to the BCH degree program are also required to complete a 35-minute writing assignment and write a personal interest statement describing their reasons for wanting to pursue the BCH degree. Both are required as admission steps prior to being considered for entry into the BCH degree program. Those not wanting to make formal application to the BCH program will be given the opportunity to complete an alternative writing assignment, in class. Details will be provided later in the semester regarding the subject matter of this assignment.

Final exam: A comprehensive final exam, will be given during the last class period, based on the material provided for the course’s reading assignments, web activities, and class discussion.

Attendance and participation:

Although this is a web-based course, attendance and participation in the class is expected and required. Tardiness and early departures are not advised and can impact your final grade.

Papers and other assignments:

All assignments are due on the dates indicated. If you know in advance that you will have to miss a class, it is the student’s responsibility to arrange with the instructor to turn the assignment in early.

Grade of incomplete or a withdrawal:

An incomplete grade is only given if a student has successfully passed the first half of the class and is unable to successfully complete the second half due to a documented illness or family crisis that the instructor genuinely believes will not permit the student to go on and successfully complete the course at this time. Those who take incompletes are responsible for completing the course within one year.

If a student decides to withdraw from the course, that individual must process the paperwork on or before the established drop date for this semester; a faculty signature is not required. In order to receive a W on one’s transcript, the student must withdraw by the deadline indicated by NMSU for the specific semester.

As this is a mini-course, the last day to apply for a refund, to withdraw from the course, and/or the university (if this is the student’s only course) is less than half the normal time.

Grading:

This course is graded S (satisfactory) or U (unsatisfactory).

Grading scale: 85-120 points = S
 84 points and below = U

The student’s final grade for this course will depend upon their successful completion of:

✓	eight (8) assignments @ 10 points each	80 points
✓	completion of a personal statement of interest in pursuing the BCH degree	15 points
✓	<u>comprehensive final exam</u>	<u>25 points</u>
	Total	120 points

Assignments, Abstract and Reserve Readings:

Eight (8) assignments are required in this course. For complete assignment instructions, click on the “Course content” on the HLS 100 Homepage.

Academic integrity:

In all matters, this class is governed by the formal NMSU policies and standards on academic integrity. Students are referred to the NMSU Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct located at <http://www.nmsu.edu/~vpsa/SCOC/index.html>. All parties who are involved in the submission of a plagiarized or copied work are equally guilty of academic misconduct under all circumstances.

Students with Disabilities:

If you have (or believe you have) a disability and would benefit from classroom accommodation(s), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Office located at Garcia Annex [Phone: 575-646-6840; TTY: 575-646-1918].

If you have a condition that may affect your ability to exit safely from the premises in an emergency or that may cause an emergency during class, you are encouraged to discuss any concerns with your instructor.

Student Responsibilities

1. Register with SSD and obtain accommodation documents early in the semester;
2. Deliver the completed accommodation and testing form(s) to the instructor(s) within the first two weeks of the beginning of classes (or within one week of the date services are to commence);
3. Retrieve the signed form(s) from faculty and return to SSD within five (5) days of receipt from faculty and at least one week before any scheduled exam; and,
4. Contact the SSD Office if the services/accommodations requested are not being provided, not meeting your needs, or if additional accommodation are needed. Do not wait until you receive a failing grade. Retroactive accommodations cannot be considered.

Faculty Responsibilities:

1. Sign the Accommodation Request Form and Testing Accommodation Form (when presented), retain a copy, and return the original to the student within five (5) working days of receipt;
2. Contact SSD immediately if there are any questions or disputes regarding accommodation(s), disruptive behavior, etc.; and
3. Refer the student to SSD for any additional accommodations.

Feel free to call Jerry Nevarez, Director of Institutional Equity, at 575-646-3635 with any questions you may have about NMSU's Non-Discrimination Policy and complaints of discrimination, including sexual harassment.

Feel free to call Michael Armendariz, Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities, at 575-646-6840 with any questions you may have on student issues related to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. All medical information will be treated confidentially.

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Cell Phones and respecting your colleagues:

During the course of each class, all phone and beepers will be turned off. No calls will be taken during class time, by anyone. Points may be deducted from those who do not comply.

When discussing topics in class, please respect other's ideas, comments, and input. Different views on topics are anticipated, and discussion is encouraged; yet respect for another's opinion will be most important.

The NMSU BCH Degree Program

The BCH degree program, like all undergraduate degree programs offered through the College of Health and Social Science (CHSS) main campus departments require that students first declare as a "Pre" major until they are formally admitted. When a student is seeking advisement through one of the advisors, the student must initially identify him/herself as a "Pre-BCH" major. Upon completion of the admission requirements which included completing the Health Sciences Departmental Application for the BCH and the required "Conventions of Written English" writing assignment, the student's application will be reviewed by the Health Sciences Undergraduate Admissions Committee for a final admission decision.

The advisement office is located in the CHSS Building, Dean's Office, Room 310. The advisors are available from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday-Friday. The phone number is 575-646-3526.

The NMSU BCH degree program is one of 20+ which are nationally approved by the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) and the American Association for Health Education (AAHE) Baccalaureate Program Approval Committee (SABPAC).

BCH Admission Requirements:

Students seeking admission to the BCH degree program are required to keep the Pre-BCH designation until they have met the following requirements:

1. A cumulative grade point average (GPA) at NMSU of at least 2.0 after completing 23 credits of general education course work (may include "CR" grades for equivalent courses accepted as transfer credit by NMSU). Refer to the "General Education Requirements" section in the most recent NMSU Undergraduate Catalogue for specific details.
2. A grade of "S" in this course (HLS 100) and a grade of "C" or better in HLS 150.
3. A grade of C or better in MATH 120 or EST 311 G or equivalent.
4. Submission of an application that includes:

- a) A brief personal statement of interest in the profession and in the BCH degree program;
- b) A copy of the student's most recent NMSU transcript indicating the most recent cumulative GPA; and
- c) The applicant's percentile score on the Department's writing assignment (College Board Exam's "Conventions in Written English") that is administered through the HLS 100 course.

Overview of BCH Degree Requirements:

In addition to completing the Department's required General Education requirements (minimum 41 General Education credits required) and the Health Science Core Requirements, students must select and complete the required and elective credits included as part of the BCH Option courses. Refer to the latest copy of the NMSU Undergraduate Catalogue for this information. Specific web sites include: http://www.nmsu.edu/Academic_Progs/Undergraduate_Catalog/2007-08-Ugrad-Catalog.pdf.

Minors:

The NMSU Department of Health Science offers five academic minors in 1) Community Health; 2) Health Administration; 3) Gerontology; 4) US-Mexico Border Health and 5) Environmental and Occupational Health. Required and elective courses for each of these minors are described in the curriculum guides for minors available through the NMSU Department of Health Science website or through the student's advisor.