



## Public Health and Disasters

### **EOH-570** Fall 2006

### **Syllabus**

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**Course Description:**

This course examines the growing threat and potential public health consequences of disasters with emphasis on terrorism related disasters and emerging infectious diseases. On-line threaded discussions, audio lectures, and reading assignments will be used to introduce students to the diversity of public health challenges associated with disasters.

**Course Objectives:**

At the conclusion of this course a student will be able to:

1. Describe public health services and review how it works.
2. Define biological, chemical, radiological, and agricultural terrorism and explain why there is a growing concern over these threats.

3. Describe the primary biological, chemical, radiological, and agricultural agents of concern, the histories, methods of delivery, and unique public health challenges posed by each.
4. Describe the major emerging infections that have pandemic potential.
5. Review the public health consequences of naturally-occurring disasters.
6. Delineate the components of the U.S. Public Health Infrastructure and how each contributes to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.
7. Recognize the multi-disciplinary nature of the response to and recovery from a disaster and explain some of the public health challenges.

**Course Format:** Lectures, threaded discussions, and readings.

**Evaluation of Performance:**

- Five two page written assignments .....75%
  - Assignment 1 (Introduction to Public Health).....15%
  - Assignment 2 (Bioterrorism).....15%
  - Assignment 3 (Chemical Terrorism).....15%
  - Assignment 4 (Radiological Agricultural Terrorism).....15%
  - Assignment 5 (Emerging Infections and other Disasters).....15%
- Online Discussion .....25%

According to the Saint Louis University Graduate School, the only final grades allowed are:

- A (≥ 93 points)
- B+ (90 – 92 points)
- B (83 – 89 points)
- B- (80 – 82 points)
- C (73 – 79 points)
- F (≤ 72 points)

**Course Policies:**

- All e-mail to the instructor should be sent to [evansrg@slu.edu](mailto:evansrg@slu.edu) so that the instructor can respond quickly, do not use WebCt for e-mail.
- If you have a question you would like to ask openly so all students can see the question and answer, please use the seminar Discussion Board of WebCT.
- The course instructor will respond to e-mails within two days unless the students are notified that the instructor is out of town.
- All written assignments must be submitted through the Assignment section of WebCt.
- Students must notify the instructor in advance if some life event or obligation precludes them from submitting an assignment or participating in a discussion on time. Project due

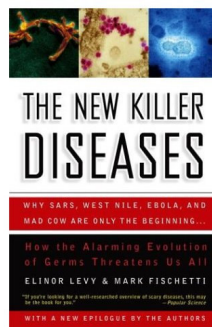
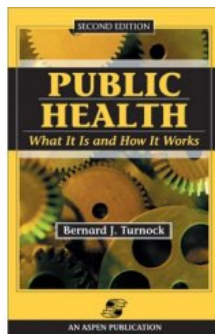
dates are very flexible for deployed military personnel; please discuss this with the instructor.

- It is at the instructor's discretion to allow students to make-up missed assignments.
- All University, Graduate School, and School of Public Health policies and procedures are in effect, including, but not limited to, academic standards, course withdrawals, and course incompletes. Please refer to following University links:
  - [Catalog of the Graduate School](#)
  - [Office of the Bursar](#) (Student Accounts)
  - [Office of the University Registrar](#) (Student Services)
  - Institute for Biosecurity Policy Statement on Academic and Professional Integrity. Details on the Biosecurity Policy Statement on Academic and Professional Integrity are provided in the Academic Integrity link to the left of your WebCT course page and in the MS in Biosecurity Student Handbook.
  - More information, policies, and guidelines relevant to your education are available on the School of Public Health web site at: [SLU School of Public Health](#). It is your responsibility to become familiar with all information available through this and the Web sites above.

### **Required Texts:**

Public Health: What It Is and How It Works by Bernard J. Turnock, Aspen Publication, Gaithersburg, Maryland, 2001.

The New Killer Diseases: How the Alarming Evolution of Germs Threatens Us All (Paperback) by [Elinor Levy](#), [Mark Fischetti](#)



Texts may be purchased from any online vendor. Examples include [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), [Barnes and Noble](https://www.barnesandnoble.com), and [ecampus.com](https://www.ecampus.com). At this writing, Amazon had the best deal.

### **Course Outline:**

Week 1	September 5 <sup>th</sup> – September 10 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction to Public Health
Week 2	September 11 <sup>th</sup> – September 17 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction to Public Health
Week 3	September 18 <sup>th</sup> – September 24 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction to Public Health
Week 4	September 25 <sup>th</sup> – October 1 <sup>st</sup>	Bioterrorism
Week 5	October 2 <sup>nd</sup> – October 8 <sup>th</sup>	Bioterrorism
Week 6	October 9 <sup>th</sup> – October 15 <sup>th</sup>	Bioterrorism
Week 7	October 16 <sup>th</sup> – October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Chemical Terrorism
Week 8	October 23 <sup>rd</sup> – October 29 <sup>th</sup>	Chemical Terrorism
Week 9	October 30 <sup>th</sup> – November 5 <sup>th</sup>	Radiological Terrorism
Week 10	November 6 <sup>th</sup> – November 12 <sup>th</sup>	Agricultural Terrorism
Week 11	November 13 <sup>th</sup> – November 19 <sup>th</sup>	Emerging Infectious Diseases
Week 12	November 20 <sup>th</sup> – November 26 <sup>th</sup>	Emerging Infectious Diseases
Week 13	November 27 <sup>th</sup> – December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Other Public Health Disasters
Week 14	December 4 <sup>th</sup> – December 10 <sup>th</sup>	Other Public Health Disasters
Week 15	December 11 <sup>th</sup> – December 17 <sup>th</sup>	Other Public Health Disasters
Grades due	Thursday, December 21 <sup>st</sup>	

## Reading Assignments

Week 1	September 5 <sup>th</sup> – September 10 <sup>th</sup>	<u>Public Health</u> Chapters 1 and 2
Week 2	September 11 <sup>th</sup> – September 17 <sup>th</sup>	<u>Public Health</u> Chapters 3 and 5
Week 3	September 18 <sup>th</sup> – September 24 <sup>th</sup>	<u>Public Health</u> Chapters 6 and 7
Week 4	September 25 <sup>th</sup> – October 1 <sup>st</sup>	E-Reserve Readings for Week 4
Week 5	October 2 <sup>nd</sup> – October 8 <sup>th</sup>	Review CD ROM on Biological Terrorism (will be mailed to you)
Week 6	October 9 <sup>th</sup> – October 15 <sup>th</sup>	<u>The New Killer Diseases</u> Chapter 2 and E-Reserve for week 6 and Lecture Module in WebCt on Bioterrorism
Week 7	October 16 <sup>th</sup> – October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Review CD ROM on Chemical Terrorism, only the introduction, you need not listen to specific diagnosis and treatment guidelines unless this interests you
Week 8	October 23 <sup>rd</sup> – October 29 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture Module in WebCt on Chemical Terrorism
Week 9	October 30 <sup>th</sup> – November 5 <sup>th</sup>	Review CD ROM on Radiological Terrorism
Week 10	November 6 <sup>th</sup> – November 12 <sup>th</sup>	<u>The New Killer Diseases</u> Chapter 4 and E-Reserve for week 10
Week 11	November 13 <sup>th</sup> – November 19 <sup>th</sup>	<u>The New Killer Diseases</u> Introduction and Chapters 2 and 5
Week 12	November 20 <sup>th</sup> – November 26 <sup>th</sup>	<u>The New Killer Diseases</u> Chapters 7 and 8 and Lecture Module on Avian Flu in WebCt
Week 13	November 27 <sup>th</sup> – December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	E-Reserves for Week 13
Week 14	December 4 <sup>th</sup> – December 10 <sup>th</sup>	E-Reserves for Week 14
Week 15	December 11 <sup>th</sup> – December 17 <sup>th</sup>	E-Reserves for Week 15
Grades due	Thursday, December 21 <sup>st</sup>	

## Seminar Discussions:

For selected sessions (weeks 3,5,7,9,11,13), there will be a threaded discussion question or series of questions and each student must participate in that discussion.

You must follow the guidelines for participating in threaded seminar discussions.

Seminar guidelines:

- Student responses to discussion questions should be posted to the Seminar Discussion Board in WebCt by midnight Friday of the week that the question is posted. To receive full points for seminar discussion interaction, students must post their response and respond to at least one other student's posting. Interaction responses should be posted by Tuesday at midnight of the week following the initial posting. Comments should make a valuable contribution to the discussion by offering new insights or information. A simple "I agree" or some form thereof is *not* considered a sufficient posting for this class.
- Postings should be concise and consist of a minimum of one short paragraph and a maximum of two short paragraphs.
- All posts should be maintained under the initial posting (i.e., thread) started by the instructor for that session. This is accomplished by hitting "Reply" or "Quote" rather than "Compose message".

### **Written Assignments:**

- There will be five (5) written assignments posted to the Assignment Board in WebCt during weeks 4,6,8,10,12. You will have two weeks to complete each assignment and post it to the Assignment Board in WebCt. Each assignment will be two pages in length, single spaced in 12 point Times Roman font. Specific instructions for each assignment will be provided with each posting.

### **CD Roms:**

- The three CD ROMs referenced in the Assignment section will be mailed to you prior to when they are assigned. I am also mailing you a fourth CD ROM on Smallpox. It presents information on setting up a smallpox vaccination clinic and other useful information on smallpox. This is not required for the course but might be of interest in your professional roles.