

Syllabus

Unofficial version: Subject to change

GENAG 711

Occupational and Agricultural Health

- Time/Location:** This is a Web-based course, with all content accessible through K-State Online. One class meeting will be arranged for students who wish to make their final presentation in person. Otherwise, there will be no class meetings, but students are expected to keep up with the weekly schedule.
- Instructor:** Dr. Mitch Ricketts
105D Waters Hall; 785-532-7068; mrickett@k-state.edu
Office hours: I am usually in my office during normal business hours. However, my job involves lots of travel, and I am also responsible for responding to unexpected emergencies. This means it is best to call first or make an appointment before stopping by my office. E-mail is also a great way to get in touch with me.
- Text:** *Fundamentals of Industrial Hygiene*, current edition. Barbara A. Plog & Patricia J. Quinlan. National Safety Council.
- Reference material:** Readings emphasizing practical applications and contemporary issues selected from the current scholarly and professional literature and authoritative Web sources.
- Course description:** Addresses the identification, evaluation, and control of health hazards in occupational and agricultural settings. Topics include occupational toxicology, air contaminants, noise, radiation, thermal stress, ergonomics, biological hazards, emerging health risks, and health risks of special populations. This is a distance-based course.
- Technology requirements:** It is recommended that students have access to a computer that meets the standard K-State Online requirements: <http://public.online.ksu.edu/support/requirements/> In addition, for the required class project presentation, students must be able to either send a video of their presentation or come to class to make a live presentation. Students may submit written assignments in Microsoft Word (preferred), Adobe pdf, or Word Perfect. Alternatively, paper copies of assignments may be submitted. Regardless of format, all work must be received by the instructor by the due date.

Objectives:

Upon completing this course, each student should be able to:

1. describe health effects of chemical, physical, ergonomic, and biological hazards in occupational and agricultural settings;
2. recognize appropriate procedures for identifying and evaluating occupational and agricultural health hazards;
3. interpret industrial hygiene exposure and dose assessments;
4. evaluate interventions to reduce or eliminate hazards; and
5. discuss the importance of contemporary societal issues as they relate to occupational and agricultural health.

Tentative schedule:

1. Scope of occupational health (week 1)
2. Respiratory system and airborne hazards (weeks 2 & 3)
3. Skin and dermatological hazards (weeks 4 & 5)
4. Auditory system and hazards to hearing (weeks 6 & 7)
5. Eyes and hazards to vision (weeks 8 & 9)
6. Industrial toxicology (weeks 10 & 11)
7. Ionizing radiation (weeks 12 & 13)
8. Ergonomics (weeks 14 & 15)
9. Biological hazards, thermal stress, and nonionizing radiation (if time permits)
10. Occupational health issues in evolving contexts will be incorporated throughout the course, including:
 - a. Emerging occupational and agricultural health risks
 - b. Health needs of diverse and vulnerable populations

Evaluation Procedures:

60% of grade: Weekly quizzes over course content. Due by 5:00 PM every Monday.

Credit for revisions to weekly quizzes: If any of your quiz answers are incorrect, you will have one week to revise and re-submit your quiz. If you submit revisions, your final score for that week's quiz will be the average of your two attempts.

Alternate assignments for students with advanced professional credentials: Students with relevant professional licenses, certifications, or doctoral degrees may request permission from the instructor to complete an alternate assignment during weeks in which the class covers basic information for which the student's professional credentials demonstrate mastery. For details, see the syllabus supplement entitled *Alternate Assignments GENAG 711*.

5% of grade: Participation in weekly "Message Board" discussions. Each week, the instructor will post a question for

discussion. To receive full credit, you must post at least one thoughtful comment pertaining to the discussion each week.

25% of grade: Written health hazard project. Each student will analyze an occupational or agricultural health hazard and develop a useful product such as an analysis of a hazard that affects you, a report to management, a research proposal, a worker training program, a web-based decision tool, etc.

10% of grade: Oral presentation of health hazard project. Since this is a distance-based course, students may elect either of the following options: (1) submit a video presentation to be posted temporarily on the course website, or (2) make a live presentation on campus at an optional seminar for class participants.

Penalty for late submissions: There will be a grading penalty of 5% per day for assignments that are not received by the due date.

Grading scale:

A = 90%; B = 80%; C = 70%; D = 60%; F = 50%

Course Policies:

To be successful in distance education, students must be self-motivated and able to study independently. If these characteristics do not describe you, then you should consider dropping this course for a more traditional classroom setting.

Since this course already includes many assignments, there will be no opportunities for extra credit. Instead, the instructor will provide lots of feedback on your work to help you improve.

Academic Honesty:

Kansas State University has an Honor System based on personal integrity, which is presumed to be sufficient assurance that, in academic matters, one's work is performed honestly and without unauthorized assistance. Undergraduate and graduate students, by registration, acknowledge the jurisdiction of the Honor System. The policies and procedures of the Honor System apply to all full and part-time students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate courses on-campus, off-campus, and via distance learning. The honor system website can be reached via the following URL: www.ksu.edu/honor. A component vital to the Honor System is the inclusion of the Honor Pledge which applies to all assignments, examinations, or other course work undertaken by students. The Honor Pledge is implied, whether or not it is stated: "On my honor, as a student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work." A grade of XF can result from a breach of academic honesty. The F indicates failure in the course; the X indicates the reason is an Honor Pledge violation.

Students with Disabilities:

Any student with a disability who needs a classroom accommodation, access to technology or other academic assistance

in this course should contact Disability Support Services (dss@k-state.edu) and/or the instructor. DSS serves students with a wide range of disabilities including, but not limited to, physical disabilities, sensory impairments, learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, depression, and anxiety.

Classroom Conduct:

All student activities in the University, including this course, are governed by the Student Judicial Conduct Code as outlined in the Student Governing Association By Laws, Article VI, Section 3, number 2. Students who engage in behavior that disrupts the learning environment may be asked to leave the class.

Separate Supplements to the Syllabus. Please refer to the separate document entitled *Health Hazard Project GENAG 711* for additional details about the health hazard project. Another document, *Alternate Assignments GENAG 711*, provides details about options for weekly assignments for advanced students who already possess professional health and safety credentials.