

PH 2550: Public Health Issues in Arab Americans and the Arab World



FALL 2022

Faculty Contact Information:

Name:

Office:

Office hours: TBD

Email:

Course Description:



This global health course offers an investigation into the differing health attitudes, beliefs, behaviors as well as risk factors and health outcomes for persons in and from the Arab world. The course offers a unique perspective on global health by comparing social determinants and health outcomes for persons living in the Arab world to Middle East, North African (MENA) populations in the US (and specifically in metro Detroit). Students will examine the roles of history, culture, geography, and health in the larger Arab world. These factors and cultural commonalities subsequently impact the health of Arab immigrants and refugees across the world and, specifically, in the United States. PH 2550 explores a range of social determinants of health including immigration history; geography; stigma; geopolitical impacts; as well as social, cultural, and religious determinants in order to provide foundational cultural competencies vital for understanding health in a global context. This course uses an interdisciplinary approach to Arab and Arab American culture and history and the relevance of those experiences for understanding health risks, issues, and behaviors globally and in Arab America.

General Education and Course Outcomes

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate their ability to:



General Education – Global Learning Inquiry (GL) Learning Outcomes	PH 2550 Course Learning Outcomes
Analyze social, economic, cultural, and/or political phenomena in a past or present global context	Employ basic epidemiological tools to evaluate the distribution and determinants of health and disease outcomes for persons living in the Arab world, as well as MENA immigrants and refugees living in the US and elsewhere around the globe
Explain how worldviews are shaped by differing historical, scientific and/or cultural contexts	Analyze how differing historical, scientific, and/or cultural contexts shape public health institutions, structures, and processes in the Arab world and have consequences for MENA persons in the US
Compare their worldview to those in communities outside of the U.S.	Compare and contrast values, attitudes, norms, behaviors that shape health outcomes for persons in the Arab world, MENA persons and other racial/ethnic groups in the US

Required Materials and/or Technology

Jabbour S, Giacaman R, Khawaja M, Nuwayhid I, and Yamout R (Eds) (2012). Public Health in the Arab World. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 978-0-521-51674-7

There will be additional course materials including presentations, handouts, and articles distributed in class and posted to Canvas each week.

Course Specific Policies

You are expected to attend and participate in every class. Readings assigned should be completed prior to class. The professor reserves the right to add supplemental reading material and/or assignments to the students via Canvas or during class. Additionally, the professor reserves the right to modify reading assignments or change the course schedule – including the dates by which assignments are due – accordingly and with proper notice to students.

Topics covered in this class may be considered controversial by some students. It is expected that there will be a diversity of opinions held and expressed by members of the class. One of the goals of this class is to sharpen your ability to formulate and express defensible opinions about diverse populations and on controversial topics. In order to achieve this goal, everyone in class needs to feel free to form, express, and edit their opinions. Everyone is expected to contribute and participate. It is expected that everyone shall respect the rights of others to express their views. This includes but is not limited to respecting other students by *not* having individual conversations and *paying* attention during class. We will encounter a wide range of human experiences, opinions, controversial topics, and sensitive subjects throughout the course. Disrespect and disruption will not be tolerated. Essentially, attack the idea, *not* the person.

Assignments and Course Expectations in Detail

All course requirements are mandatory and must be successfully completed in order to pass this class. Failure to pass **each** individual course requirement **may** result in failing the entire course. **NOTE:** Individual assignment, discussion, and exam grades are RECORDED in Canvas. Your final grade in the course is CALCULATED offline in EXCEL. Canvas does *not* always accurately calculate final grades and *cannot* be relied on for that information in this course. The grading scale and main components of the course are described in the next sections.

Public Health Grading Scale

				67.0% – 69.9%	D+		
		87.0% – 89.9%	B+	77.0% – 79.9%	C+	63.0% – 66.9%	D
93.0% – 100%	A	83.0% – 86.9%	B	73.0% – 76.9%	C	60.0% – 62.9%	D-
90.0% – 92.9%	A-	80.0% – 82.9%	B-	70.0% – 72.9%	C-	59.9% or lower	F



1. Short Writing Assignments

300 pts

There will be two short writing assignments in this class. Each writing assignment will be worth 100-points apiece. Students are free to choose their own topic from within the range of subjects covered in those two modules. There are a wide range of possible forms this assignment can take including but not limited to: (1) interviewing Arab or Arab American public health officials about health disparities in MENA populations; (2) comparing and contrasting public health systems in a MENA region country to the US; (3) translating and/or back-translating a formal public health materials produced in Arabic, Persian or Farsi, Turkish, or some other language into English with a critical assessment of what is gained/lost in that translation.

2. Current Event Group Presentation

200 pts

Every student will work as a member of a 3-4 person group to prepare and present their findings on a contemporary global public health related issue or concern in a specific MENA population. Presentations are expected to be 15-20 minutes in length with accompanying slides, data visualizations, title slide and reference slide. All members of the group must have a speaking role in the presentation.

3. Final Research Project

400 pts

From a list of possible topics to be provided by the instructor, students may write a final research paper on a topic of their choosing related to the health of a specific population within the global Arab community, here or abroad. The research paper will be graded on clarity, organization, content, relevance, and quality of supportive materials. Additional and specific information about the research paper assignment will provided in class and posted to Canvas.

4. Quality Participation and Engagement in the Material

100 pts

Along with attending class sessions, student participation and engagement with course material will be evaluated by the breadth and depth of in-class contributions and Canvas discussion posts. Posts are expected to be answered thoroughly and thoughtfully. Simply stating “yes” or “I agree” or otherwise merely affirming previous posts will not earn you full points.

TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE

1000 pts

Course Schedule – Readings – Assignments/Deliverables

NOTE: The course schedule is subject to change at any time. The instructor will communicate changes using all methods including in-class announcements, Canvas posts, and emails.

The course is divided into four (4) modules in which students will learn in an interactive way about integrated topics. Students will engage in discussions, small group activities, and independent exploration of the topics listed below.



Module	Week	Course Content	Course Readings	Assignments / Deliverables	Learning Outcome
Module 1: Arab World and Arab America	Part 1	Introductions, Course Requirements, Expectations of Students and Faculty	Chapter 1	Class Participation	
	Part 2	Who is an Arab? What is the Arab world?	Chapter 2	Class Participation	1
	Part 3	Regional profiles of Arab countries	Chapter 2	Class Participation	1
	Part 4	Historical background demographics and socioeconomic profiles of Arabs and MENA populations	Chapter 3	Class Participation	1
Module 2: Culture and Beliefs Related to Public Health	Part 1	Cultural, historical and regional/country/ethnic variations	Chapters 5-6	Writing Assignment #1	2,3
	Part 2	Migration, immigration, refugee status, family structure, and global health	Chapter 6	Class Participation	2,3
	Part 3	Fate and stigma and the role of religion	Chapters 7-8	Research Project Topic Due	1
Module 3: Health and Healthcare Delivery Systems	Part 1	Cultural beliefs and traditional health practices in the Arab world	Chapter 9	Class Participation	2
	Part 2	Health care infrastructure and delivery systems in the Arab world	Chapter 27-28	Class Participation	2
	Part 3	Health professional workforce and professional mobility in the Arab world	Chapters 30-31	Class Participation	2
	Part 4	Public health, politics, and conflict areas in the Arab world	Chapters 23-26	Writing Assignment #2	2
Module 4: Health and Wellness	Part 1	Healthography across the Arab world and comparisons to the US	Chapter 9	Class Participation	2,3
	Part 2	Health risks and behaviors in Arab populations and Arab Americans	Chapters 12-13	Class Participation	3
	Part 3	Mental health and behavioral health	Chapters 14-15	Final Research Project Due	2,3
	Part 4	Disparities and structural barriers to wellness globally and in the US	Chapter 38	Class Participation	2,3
Professional Presentations	Part 1	Current Event Group Presentation		Group Presentation	3
	Part 2	Current Event Group Presentation		Group Presentation	3



REQUIRED WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY SYLLABUS INFORMATION

Land acknowledgement

Wayne State University rests on Waawiyaataanong (Waa-we-yaa-tih-nong), also referred to as Detroit, the ancestral and contemporary homeland of the Three Fires Confederacy. These sovereign lands were granted by the Ojibwe (Oh-jib-way), Odawa (Oh-daa-waa), Potawatomi (Pow-tuh-waa-tuh-mee), and Wyandot nations, in 1807, through the Treaty of Detroit. Wayne State University affirms Indigenous sovereignty and honors all tribes with a connection to Detroit. With our Native neighbors, WSU can advance educational equity and promote a better future for the earth and all people.

Religious holidays (from the online Academic Calendar):

Because of the extraordinary variety of religious affiliations of the University student body and staff, the Academic Calendar makes no provisions for religious holidays. However, it is University policy to respect the faith and religious obligations of the individual. Students with classes or examinations that conflict with their religious observances are expected to notify their instructors well in advance so that mutually agreeable alternatives may be worked out.

Student Disabilities Services:

COVID-19: In response to COVID-19 and with a commitment to the safety of our students and staff, Student Disability Services will continue to provide academic support and access to students with disabilities virtually. Please visit our website to learn more about services www.studentdisability.wayne.edu

For students: If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with Student Disability Services for coordination of your academic accommodations. The Student Disability Services (SDS) office is located at 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library in the Student Academic Success Services department. However, during the fall 2020 semester SDS will only be delivering services remotely. The SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851 (main number) or 313-202-4216 for videophone use. Please continue to use these numbers as SDS is still receiving calls. Once you have your accommodations in place, I will be glad to meet with you privately during my office hours to discuss your special needs. Student Disability Services' mission is to assist the university in creating an accessible community where students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to fully participate in their educational experience at Wayne State University. You can learn more about the disability office at www.studentdisability.wayne.edu

To register with Student Disability Services, complete the online registration form at: https://wayne-accommodate.symphlicity.com/public_accommodation/

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS):

It is quite common for college students to experience mental health challenges, such as stress, anxiety and depression, that interfere with academic performance and negatively impact daily life. Help is available for any currently enrolled WSU student who is struggling with a mental health difficulty, at WSU Counseling and Psychological Services (caps.wayne.edu; 313-577-3398). Other options, for students and nonstudents, include the Counseling and Testing Center, and the Counseling Psychology Training Clinic, in the WSU College of Education (coe.wayne.edu/tbf/counseling/center-index.php). Services at all three clinics are free and confidential. Remember that *getting help, before stress reaches a crisis point, is a smart and courageous thing to do* – for yourself, and for those you care about. Also, know that the WSU Police Department (313-577-2222) has personnel trained to respond sensitively to mental health emergencies at all hours.

Sexual Misconduct and Title IX

Every Warrior has the right to live, learn, and work at WSU – free from Harassment or Discrimination.

Any member of the WSU Community that is impacted by sexual misconduct has the right to report to the University (i.e. Responsible Employee or Title IX Coordinator), to law enforcement (i.e. WSUPD or other jurisdiction), to both, or to neither. Every Warrior is encouraged to make the reporting decision that is right for them.

Please be advised: Most faculty and staff are considered “**Responsible Employees**” and are **required to report** information they receive about incidents of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, sexual harassment, and stalking) to appropriate authorities when it involves WSU students, faculty, or staff.

Free, confidential, and anonymous support is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to survivors, their friends, and their family through the [Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network \(RAINN\)](http://RAINN.org). Call [1-800-656-4673](tel:1-800-656-4673) or [Chat](#) online with a professional support specialist. Please visit TitleIX.wayne.edu to learn more about resources and support on campus and in the local community.

Confidential Support

[Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](http://caps.wayne.edu) provides **free** and **confidential** counseling services to currently enrolled students.

Phone: [313-577-3398](tel:313-577-3398)

Crisis & Referral Line (nights/weekends/university closures): [313-577-9982](tel:313-577-9982)

[Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network \(RAINN\)](http://RAINN.org) provides **free** and **confidential** support and information 24/7.

Phone: [1-800-656-4673](tel:1-800-656-4673)

Chat: [Confidential Chat Line](#)

Options for Reporting Sexual Misconduct

Any member of the WSU Community that is impacted by sexual misconduct has the right to report to the University (i.e. Responsible Employee or Title IX Coordinator), to law enforcement (i.e. WSUPD or other jurisdiction), to both, or to neither. Every Warrior is encouraged to make the reporting decision that is right for them.

Reporting to the University

[The Title IX Office](#) is available to consult with individuals impacted by sexual violence or discrimination regarding resource referrals, supportive and protective measures, and reporting and resolution options. Where WSU has jurisdiction, the affected party may request an administrative investigation by the University.

Phone: [313-577-9999](tel:313-577-9999)

Email: TitleIX@wayne.edu

Reporting to Law Enforcement

[The Wayne State University Police Department](#) is available 24/7 to assist individuals reporting criminal activity or concerns on or near campus. Report off-campus incidents to the appropriate police jurisdiction. In the event of an emergency or imminent threat, reporting to the police is highly encouraged.

Phone: [313-577-2222](tel:313-577-2222)

Every Warrior has the right to live, learn, and work at WSU free from Harassment or Discrimination.

If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexual violence or discrimination, please visit TitleIX.wayne.edu to learn more about resources and support on campus and in the local community.

Academic Dishonesty -- Plagiarism and Cheating

Academic misconduct is any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the institution or undermine the education process. Examples of academic misconduct include:

- Plagiarism: To take and use another's words or ideas as your own without appropriate referencing or citation.
- Cheating: Intentionally using or attempting to use or intentionally providing unauthorized materials, information or assistance in any academic exercise. This includes copying from another student's test paper, allowing another student to copy from your test, using unauthorized material during an exam and submitting a term paper for a current class that has been submitted in a past class without appropriate permission.
- Fabrication: Intentional or unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation, such as knowingly attributing citations to the wrong source or listing a fake reference in the paper or bibliography.
- Other: Selling, buying or stealing all or part of a test or term paper, unauthorized use of resources, enlisting in the assistance of a substitute when taking exams, destroying another's work, threatening or exploiting students or instructors, or any other violation of course rules as contained in the course syllabus or other written information.

Such activity may result in failure of a specific assignment, an entire course, or, if flagrant, dismissal from Wayne State University. <https://doso.wayne.edu/conduct/academic-misconduct>

Course Drops and Withdrawals:

In the first two weeks of the (full) term, students can drop this class and receive 100% tuition and course fee cancellation. After the end of the second week there is no tuition or fee cancellation. Students who wish to withdraw from the class can initiate a withdrawal request on Academica. You will receive a transcript notation of WP (passing), WF (failing), or WN (no graded work) at the time of withdrawal. No withdrawals can be initiated after the end of the tenth week. Students enrolled in the 10th week and beyond will receive a grade. Because withdrawing from courses may have negative academic and financial consequences, students considering course withdrawal should make sure they fully understand all the consequences before taking this step. More information on this can be found at:

<https://reg.wayne.edu/students/information#dropping>

Student Services:

- **The Academic Success Center** (1600 Undergraduate Library) assists students with content in select courses and in strengthening study skills. Visit www.success.wayne.edu for schedules and information on study skills workshops, tutoring and supplemental instruction (primarily in 1000 and 2000 level courses).
- **The Writing Research and Technology Zone** is located on the 2nd floor of the Undergraduate Library and provides individual tutoring consultations free of charge. Visit <http://clasweb.clas.wayne.edu/writing> to obtain information on tutors, appointments, and the type of help they can provide.
- **Library research assistance:** Working on a research assignment, paper or project? Trying to figure out how to collect, organize and cite your sources? Wayne State librarians provide on-campus or online personalized help. Contact them at: https://library.wayne.edu/forms/consultation_request.php

Class recordings:

Students need prior written permission from the instructor before recording any portion of this class. If permission is granted, the audio and/or video recording is to be used only for the student's personal instructional use. Such recordings are not intended for a wider public audience, such as postings to the internet or sharing with others. Students registered with Student Disabilities Services (SDS) who wish to record class materials must present their specific accommodation to the instructor, who will subsequently comply with the request unless there is some specific reason why s/he cannot, such as discussion of confidential or protected information. Violations of this syllabus policy may result in charges under the student code of conduct.

Online courses only:

- Will class will be held in case of school closures (e.g., due to snow)?
<https://reg.wayne.edu/students>
- Hardware and software requirements
- Are there any extra fees associated with access to required course materials (e.g., a subscription to Netflix)
- Are any synchronous meetings required; if so, what are the dates and times?
- Are any proctored exams required; if so, how many and what is the method for proctoring (e.g., at a testing center or via an electronic proctoring system that might involve costs)?
- Information on how to remotely access library resources