



Course Information	
Course Name:	Contemporary Topics in Human Ecology II
Course ID:	MLS 106
Semester:	Maymester (Summer) 2019
Mode:	Online

Instructor Information	
Instructor:	James March Mistler
Email:	jmarchmistler@umassd.edu
Phone:	508-999-8944
Office Hours	Online, by email or phone, M-F, 8am-5pm.

Class Schedule – Each unit starts on Wednesday, ends the following Tuesday						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	New Unit Begins			Initial Discussion Board Due		Response to Discussions Due

Course Description

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The overarching goal of this course is to provide an understanding of human physiology in the context of decision-making situations such as treatment or hospitalization. In today's world, the single most effective agent in living a healthy life is a well-informed consumer. Whether you are the adult deciding for a child or the child making decisions for family members or a spouse, decisions have consequences and making the wrong decision can lead to significant morbidity or mortality.

Part of the course describes the effect that various illnesses and conditions can have on the economic, social, environmental or political issues and how these influence the health of individuals and societies. Since this is a course about contemporary topics, incidents/topics of current interest will be incorporated into the course as appropriate.

Prerequisite:

None

Course Credits:

3 credits.

Required Text:

None

Required Materials:

Computer access and online capabilities

Course Objectives**Genes, Cancer, Biotechnology and Vaccines**

1. Compare and contrast mitosis and meiosis and discuss problems that can arise from disruptions of either process.
2. Outline the concept of epigenetics and how it relates to nutrition and brain function.
3. List and describe properties of cancer cells and explain cancer generation.
4. Describe what biotechnology is and how it is used in various industries such as medicine, agriculture, and engineering.
5. Give examples of how scientific advances have changed the above industries over the past 50 years.
6. Explain why regulations of biotechnological processes are important
7. Describe what a vaccine is and list and describe some of the different types of vaccines.
8. Explain how vaccines help humans develop immunity to viruses and bacteria.

Sexual Health

1. Clarify the pros and cons of various types of birth control
2. List and describe alternative methods for conception.
3. Explain the process of fertilization (zygote and sperm).
4. Differentiate puberty, menopause and viropause.
5. Define HIV/AIDS and explain how HIV is transmitted.
6. List symptoms of HIV/AIDS.
7. Differentiate by cause, signs & symptoms, epidemiology and treatment amongst the sexually transmitted infections discussed.

University Studies Learning Outcomes:

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze and evaluate the use of scientific information in the context of social, economic, environmental or political issues.
2. Apply scientific theories and knowledge to real-world problems.
3. Effectively communicate scientific information in writing.

Communication Plan**Expectations for electronic communication**

Email is the best option for contacting us during this online course. While I will make every attempt to respond as soon as possible, acceptable turn-around for a response is 24 hours during the course. If you would like a phone conversation, please email me with your number for follow-up. Be sure to leave any voicemail messages with the MLS Department Secretary, Ms. Perkins, for the promptest responses (508-999-8329), especially since this is over break and I am not in the office daily. Please be sure to leave complete contact information so I may contact you, if needed.

Time Considerations

Students should be prepared to spend a minimum of 8-10 hours a week on reading and on course assignments. While you may feel that I'm displaying a lot of information to you on a weekly basis remember that in a traditional "live" course that runs the full semester, you would be coming to class for 3 hours weekly and then spending an additional 2-4 hours outside of class on assignments and reading. In our online course environment, my expectation is that you will be spending those 3 "class hours," as well as the additional time on your own, working on the concepts that you would usually get in a live lecture. This is also a Maymester course in which a semester is condensed into 3 short weeks. Please be sure to budget your time accordingly!

Substantive participation should:

- Add value to the discussion and avoid simply repeating, agreeing with, or answering yes or no to peer's comments
- Challenge comments in class, including those of the facilitator
- Ask insightful questions
- Answer other people's questions
- Exemplify the point with real-life events, when possible
- Make comments that are relevant to the course content and objectives

Things to keep in mind as you write discussion posts and communicate with other students:

- Share an experience that is related to the discussion. Comment on other participants' experiences that are related to the course.
- Ask others questions about their ideas and experiences that are related to the course
- Challenge a point that another participant made in a respectful manner. Offer a different perspective on an idea that is being discussed
- Give insights gained from readings that were assigned for the week. If you need more information, ask the participants a question about the week's reading
- Discuss a work issue that is related to the course or discussion and ask for feedback
- Relate how you have applied what you have read, learned or discussed regarding the course to your personal and professional life
- Share another resource such as Web links, books, etc. that you have used to answer other participants' questions or as you explore the topics of the course (as it is a violation of copyright law to copy the actual page)
- We all will not have the same views and that is what makes us all unique. Please be mindful of this be professional and courteous in your responses.
- You may disagree, but do so appropriately and respectfully.

Methods of Instruction

Evaluation and Grading Breakdown:

Discussion Boards	25%
Online quizzes	25%
Written Paper	25%
Final Exam	25%

Late Assignments

Late assignments are only accepted for discussion board posts but will be graded lower. Late papers will not be accepted. If an extenuating circumstance arises, please contact me, preferably beforehand if at all possible. Please note that documentation will need to be provided in order to give full credit for missed work.

Discussion Boards

Discussion boards are the main way that we will be communicating since this is an online course. Discussion boards have two components – the initial post and the response. The initial post is the post that you, the student, posts in regards to a topic, comment or question that I have posted. These are due by **Thursday each week at midnight**. The response posts, which are due by **Saturday night at midnight** to at least **two other students**, should ask questions, delve deeper, or challenge someone's initial post. For instance, a topic will start on Monday. Monday-Thursday you will learn and review the topic material we are covering that week so that by Thursday, you can post an initial response to a question/comment I have posted (you may post earlier if you are ready). You then have until Saturday night at midnight to comment on **at least two (2) different students' initial posts**. You are not to be disrespectful, but to create constructive conversations and to deepen yours, and our, understanding of or perception of a subject or topic. If someone responds to your initial post, it is expected that you will respond to that person, creating a thread of discussion just like if you were face to face.

Quizzes

Quizzes will be open at the beginning of each module and will remain open until the last day of class. If you want to take them during each topic you may, or you may use them at the end as a study guide for the final exam. At midnight on the final day of classes, all quizzes will close.

Written Paper

You will write a short essay, 3-5 pages in length, on a selected topic (topic choices will be posted in myCourses). Papers shorter than 3 pages or longer than 5 pages will lose points, as students should be concise with their thoughts. You need to use a minimum of 4 sources and 2 must be scientific sources (Wikipedia is not a credible source for any scientific paper); scientific sources include journal articles (published within the last 7 years); you may also use textbooks, credible websites, newspaper articles, etc. Papers must follow APA formatting for both in-text citations and the Reference page (which should be on a separate page, at the end of the paper; this is not included in the page count). Essays will be double spaced, Times New Roman, 12-point font. Please refer to the Written Assignment Guidelines and Rubric posted online, as well as the due date in the schedule. Papers will be uploaded to myCourses and I will submit to SafeAssign, our online plagiarism database.

Note on the Essay

Papers will be submitted to SafeAssign, an online plagiarism database. This checks each document for similar words, phrases and other traits that may have been taken directly from other sources. If there is a significant amount of data, phrases, or sentences that are found to be similar or the same as other sources, and not properly cited, you will lose points or get a zero (0) for the paper, depending on how much is present. Please be sure you understand how to paraphrase, cite, and document properly when writing a paper. If you have questions, contact me or the Writing and Reading Center of UMD at: <http://www.umassd.edu/wrc/>
Please see the section on Academic Integrity on the next page for more information.

Attendance Policy

You are taking an online course so there is no real "attendance" and we will not be monitoring how often you are logging online. However, be sure you are taking the time to complete required readings, videos, and assignments including discussion boards since your initial posts are required for others to participate properly.

Incomplete Policy

According to the university catalogue, an incomplete may be given only in exceptional circumstances at the instructor's discretion. The student must be passing at the time of the request or be sufficiently close to passing. If the work is not completed within one year of the recording of the incomplete grade, the grade will become an F(I). The incomplete policy for this course is that at least 70% of the course must be already completed and an exceptional circumstance (i.e. medical issue) must exist. If you feel you require an incomplete for an exceptional reason, you need to email me and state your reasons for the incomplete in writing. I will then decide on a course of action.

Course Conduct

UMass Dartmouth policies regarding equal opportunity, discrimination, harassment, and sexual violence apply to all learning environments wherever they are located and from wherever they are taught. This applies to all UE face-to-face, off campus, blended, and online courses. Please see the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion brochure for information at <http://www.umassd.edu/studentaffairs/departments/studentconductanddisputeresolution/studentcodeofconduct/>.

Student Academic Integrity Policy

All UMass Dartmouth students are expected to maintain high standards of academic integrity and scholarly practice. The University does not tolerate academic dishonesty of any variety, whether as a result of a failure to understand required academic and scholarly procedure or as an act of intentional dishonesty.

A student found responsible of academic dishonesty is subject to severe disciplinary action which may include dismissal from the University. The procedure for responding to incidents of academic dishonesty may be found in Section III of this document. You may also refer to the Student Handbook for information about the judicial process.

A high standard of academic integrity promotes the pursuit of truth and learning and respect for the intellectual accomplishments of others. These are values that are fundamental to the mission of this University. Such values are undermined by academic dishonesty.

Academic freedom is a fundamental right in any institution of higher learning. Honesty and integrity are necessary preconditions of this freedom. Academic integrity requires that all academic work be wholly the product of an identified individual or individuals. Joint efforts are legitimate only when the assistance of others is explicitly acknowledged and deemed appropriate by the instructor of the course. Ethical conduct is the obligation of every member of the University community, and breaches of academic integrity constitute serious offenses.

Maintenance of the standards of academic integrity and the successful administration of this policy depend on the mutual cooperation of faculty and students.

Faculty cooperation is essential for successful application of the procedures defined by this Academic Integrity Policy. Faculty members promote academic integrity by making clear on their syllabi their expectations concerning homework assignments, collaborative student efforts, research papers, examinations, computer-based infractions, and the like. Efforts should be made to detect and to prevent cheating and plagiarism in all academic assignments. If faculty members have evidence of academic dishonesty, they are expected to report such evidence promptly.

Students must assume responsibility for maintaining honesty in all work submitted for credit and in any other work designated by the instructor of the course. Students are also expected to report incidents of academic dishonesty to the instructor or dean of the instructional unit.

The intent of this policy is to make clear the standards of academic integrity at UMass Dartmouth.

*For additional information on violations, infractions, and consequences visit the UMass Dartmouth Student Academic Integrity Policy at the link below.

<https://www.umassd.edu/policies/activepolicylist/academicaffairs/academicintegritypolicyandreportingform/>

Center for Access and Success

In accordance with University policy, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please meet with the instructor at the beginning of the semester and provide the appropriate paperwork from the [Center for Access and Success](#). The necessary paperwork is obtained when you bring proper documentation to the Center; contact them by phone: 508.999.8711.

Resources for UMass Dartmouth Students

Tutoring

If you are having difficulty with the class please:

- Contact one of the faculty directly using the contact information listed at the top of this document.
- Contact the Academic Resource Center (ARC) for support:
 - Academic Resource Center, Liberal Arts - Room 7
 - Phone: 508.999.8708, Fax: 508.910.6404
- For help with writing assignments you can also make use of online writing tutoring.
 - eTutoring can be accessed at [this link](#) or by clicking the "Online Tutoring" link at the top of the myCourses Dashboard.

Technical Help

Technical support for myCourses is available 24/7:

- Students can email myCoursesHelp@umassd.edu or call the Student Help desk at **508-999-8505** during normal business hours. (Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. EST)
- During off-hours, weekends, and holidays, technical assistance is available for students at <http://umd.echelp.org/>.

Support information for all other UMass Dartmouth technologies can be found here:

<http://www.umassd.edu/extension/technicalresources/>

Course Schedule

Week/Date Beginning	Unit of Instruction Topic	Responsibilities
Week 1 May 20 (Mon) – May 25 (Sat)	Genetics and Cancer	Reading: Online articles and video Activity: Learning Modules and Discussion Board; Start written assignment Evaluation: Unit Quiz
Week 2 May 27 (Mon) – June 1 (Sat)	Biotechnology and Vaccines	Reading: Online articles and video Activity: Learning Modules and Discussion Board Evaluation: Unit Quiz
Week 3 June 3 (Mon) – June 7 (Friday)	Sexual Health and STIs Note: There will be no discussion board for this week in order to give time to finish papers and study for the final exam. There will only be the learning modules and quizzes.	Reading: Online articles and video Activity: Learning Modules Evaluation: Unit Quiz
End of Class June 7 (Friday)	Cumulative Final Exam will be <u>Friday, June 7th</u> . Research Study Papers due <u>by Friday, June 7th at midnight.</u>	Exam will be available from <u>10pm Thur– 10pm Friday</u> and must be taken during this time. No exceptions.