



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

School of Medicine

Vision of the Educational Program:
*Graduates of the TTUHSC-SOM will be knowledgeable,
competent, and compassionate health professionals who
work diligently to improve the health of the public.*

Course Number:

Course Name: The Health Effects of Climate Change

Course Directors:

Name: Dr. Betsy Jones

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Student Coordinator:

Name: Sahil Tonk

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Name: Abbey Bing

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Course Description:

This elective will explore the intersection between climate change and human health. First and second year medical students will learn about the various ways in which climate change impacts health, including the direct and indirect effects on physical and mental health. The course will emphasize the unique challenges faced by healthcare professionals in mitigating and adapting to the health consequences of climate change. Through lectures, discussions, case studies, and guest speakers, students will develop a comprehensive understanding of the health implications of climate change and gain insight into potential solutions to prepare for their roles as future physicians.

Course Prerequisite:

Enrollment in MSI/MSII curriculum

Semester Offered:

Fall and Spring Semester

Max Enrollment:

Unlimited

Course Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Understand the fundamental concepts of climate change and its impact on human health.
2. Identify and analyze the various direct and indirect health effects of climate change, including infectious diseases, extreme weather events, air pollution, food security, mental health, and chronic diseases.
3. Evaluate the social determinants of health and health disparities exacerbated by climate change.
4. Evaluate the role of healthcare professionals in addressing the health effects of climate change through prevention, mitigation, and adaptation strategies.
5. Apply acquired knowledge and skills to propose evidence-based solutions to mitigate and adapt to the health effects of climate change.

Course Format:

Lecture, Discussion, Community Events

Course Material:

N/A

Attendance:

Mandatory Student Attendance of >80%

Attendance at a minimum of one community events (events will be announced throughout the year)

Grading:

Attend at least one of the offered community events and submit a summary (150-200 words) of your key takeaways from the experience.

Completion Requirements:
Attendance at >70% of meetings
Participate in 1 community event
Summary of your experience at community event

Schedule:

Date	Time	Topic	Faculty	Room
TBD	6:00pm	Introduction to the Health Effects of Climate Change	Dr. Betsy Jones	Zoom
TBD	9:00am	P3 week-2A Meeting	Dr. Katharine Hayhoe	Zoom
TBD	6:00pm	Climate Change and Infectious Disease	Dr. Cassie Kruczek	Zoom
TBD	6:00pm	Air Pollution and Respiratory Health	Dr. Adobi Kanu	Zoom
TBD	6:00pm	Extreme Weather Events and Health	Dr. Kristina Kintziger	Zoom
TBD	6:00pm	Emergency Medicine Case Studies	Dr. Weitz	Zoom
TBD	6:00pm	Climate Justice and Policy	Dr. Robert Forbis	Zoom

Professional Behavior will be assessed based on engagement in class activities, including attendance and peer review.

Academic Integrity: All students are expected to subscribe to an honor system which is implicit in accepting admission to the Health Sciences Center. Each student shall be responsible for his/her conduct from the time of the application for admission through the actual awarding of a degree, even though conduct may occur before classes begin or after classes end, as well as during the academic year and during periods between terms of actual enrollment. Students are expected to abide by all of the rules for academic integrity, as specified in the TTUHSC Student Affairs Handbook (www.ttuhs.edu/student-services/doc/handbook.pdf).

Students with Disabilities: *"Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the course instructor (or program director) to make the necessary referral. Students must present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services in a confidential meeting with the instructor. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services located in Lubbock - 2C412, by telephone at 806-743-1926, or by email disabilityservices@ttuhsc.edu."*
