# PHP- 1730 Syllabus Climate Risks and Health Solutions

Fall 2023

Instructor: Ellen Tohn

Contact Information: ellen tohn@brown.edu

Office Hours: Please schedule a time to meet with me via Zoom or in person via my calendar.

**Teaching Assistant**: TBD **Contact Information**: TBD

## **General Information**

Meeting Times: Tuesday 4:00 - 6:30 pm

Classroom: Room 331 at School of Public Health, 121 Main Street Providence RI 02912

Canvas URL: https://canvas.brown.edu/

Prerequisites: PHP 320 Introduction to Public and PHP 850 Fundamentals of Epidemiology

# **Course Description**

Climate risks are no longer theoretical. This course provides students with a broad overview of the health consequences of climate change resulting from changing temperatures, extreme weather, fires, air pollution, and water quality. The course will introduce students to practical solutions that both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve human health. These solutions include energy efficiency and decarbonization in buildings, electrifying transportation, changing food production, and engagement with healthcare organizations. Students will be exposed to a range of practitioners working to implement solutions in a variety of sectors. They will gain practical skills needed to support the development of regulations, policies, and programs. Assignments will give students experience developing written materials and practicing oral skills to engage in climate policy work. Note that enrollment is limited to 20 students.

#### **Domains**

The School of Public Health's accrediting body, the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), specifies the domains in which all undergraduates in accredited programs are to receive instruction. The Brown SPH faculty designate the courses in which each domain will be introduced and those in which each will be covered in more depth.

As an Environmental Health and Policy course, this class will introduce the following public health domains designated as I below and cover those designated as C.

I or C	Domain	Teaching Activity
I	SOCIETAL FUNCTIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH	Lectures week 1,5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 Exercise week 5
I	EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACHES	Lectures week 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 11 Assignment #2
I	INTRODUCTION TO PROCESSES & APPROACHES TO IDENTIFY NEEDS & CONCERNS OF POPULATIONS	Lectures week 1, 2, 3, 4 Blogpost
I	INTRODUCTION TO APPROACHES & INTERVENTIONS TO ADDRESS NEEDS & CONCERNS OF POPULATIONS	Lectures week 6,7, 8, 9, 11 Assignment #2
I	SCIENCE OF HUMAN HEALTH & DISEASE	Lectures 1, 2, 3, 4
I	SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS ON HUMAN HEALTH & HEALTH DISPARITIES –	Lecture 4 Blogpost
1	GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY ROLES IN HEALTH CARE & PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY	Lectures 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 Assignments #1 
С	BIOLOGICAL FACTORS IMPACTS ON HUMAN HEALTH & HEALTH DISPARITIES	Lectures 1, 2, 3, 4 Assignment #2 Blogpost
С	ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS IMPACTS ON HUMAN HEALTH & HEALTH DISPARITIES	Lectures 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 Assignments #1 and #2 Blogpost

# **Course Learning Outcomes**

	Course Learning Outcome	Assessment Activity
	the end of this course, students should be able to the following:	Students' proficiency in this competency will be assessed as follows:
1.	Identify at least four health consequences of our changing climate and health disparities linked to climate change	Written reading responses. Blogpost. Assignment #2
2.	Describe climate solutions that also improve human health	Written reading responses Assignments #1 and #2

3.	Prepare written and oral comments on proposed rulemakings or policy proposal	Assignments #1: Written comments on proposed rulemaking and class presentation of oral testimony.
4.	Develop briefing packages to provide policy makers an overview of climate risks and health focused solutions.	Assignment #2: Slide deck and class presentation on climate solutions addressing health risks.

#### **Course Materials**

Course materials are listed in the course calendar. All materials are available online at no cost.

# **Expectations of Students**

#### **Time Commitment**

Over 14 weeks, students will spend 2.5 hours per week in class (32.5 hours total). Required reading and homework is expected to take approximately 7 hours per week (77 hours, 11 weeks excluding final 2 weeks of presentations). Students will be required to complete two assignments, each anticipated to require 40 hours/assignment (80 hours). In sum, students should plan to devote approximately 189.5 hours to this course.

# **Class Format**

The course objectives will be achieved through a combination of didactic lectures, class discussions, oral summaries of assigned readings, written assignments, and self-guided student learning culminating in oral presentations. This format requires that students actively and vigorously participate in all class activities. Thus, students should be punctual, attend all class sessions, read all the assigned material prior to class, and contribute to each session. Late assignments will not be accepted except by prior arrangement.

#### **Academic Integrity**

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course. Plagiarism occurs when you deliberately use someone else's language, ideas, or other original material without acknowledging its source. Plagiarism Jalso includes submitting an assignment written by someone else or online AI (e.g., CHAT GPT) or working with other students if the assignment does not specifically give you permission to work with others. The assignments for this course should be the work of the individual student without assistance from anyone else, with the exception of group assignments. For additional information about offenses against the academic code, please see the <u>Academic & Student Conduct Codes</u>. All situations of suspected academic dishonesty will be handled in the manner described in the Academic & Student Conduct Codes.

**AMA Citation Resource** 

## Grading

Commented [et1]: Jill any ideas on how to handle chat GPT

The following shows how your course grade will be calculated and indicates when tests are scheduled and assignments due.

Graded Activity	% of Final Grade	Due Date
Class Participation Evaluation will be based on attendance and participation in class discussions/activities. Students are expected to come to class prepared to share their thoughts, questions, and comments with the rest of the class. Students will be judged on the quality of their contribution to the classroom environment rather than the quantity of their comments.	10%	Ongoing
Written Reading Responses. Students will prepare 3 short weekly reading response (< 1 page), in weeks 2, 3 and 4, using prompts provided by the Professor.	10%	Weeks #2, 3, 4: Responses are due on the Monday night before class by 11:59 pm. Sept. 19, Sept 26, Oct 3
<b>Blogpost:</b> Create 1 blogpost on health disparities related to climate risks, topics covered in weeks 2 – 5.	10%	Week #6: October 17, 2023
Assignment #1: Written and oral comments on rulemaking or policy. Students will prepare written comments and deliver oral testimony in class on a proposed rule, policy, or program.	40% (35% written testimony, 5% oral testimony)	Week #10: Nov. 11, 2023
Assignment #2: Briefing slide deck. Students will prepare a briefing slide deck for the governor, mayor, or school superintendent that responds to a prompt provided by the Professor (e.g., How can climate solutions address asthma risks in our state or city? What can I do as a Superintendent to mitigate climate risks and improve student outcomes and health). Students will work in pairs to prepare the slide deck and deliver the oral briefing in class and provide the slide deck with speaker notes to the Professor.	30%	Week #13: Dec. 4, 2023

Assignment/Activity	Date Assigned	Due Date	% of Grade
Class participation	9/12/2023	Ongoing	10%
Reading response #1	9/12/2023	9/18/23	3%

Reading response #2	9/19/2023	9/25/2023	3%
Reading response #3	9/26/2023	10/2/2023	4%
Blog	9/19/2023	10/16/2023	10%
Assignment #1: Written comments on rule, program or policy.	10/17/2023	11/11/2023	35%
Assignment #1: Oral testimony to accompany written comments	10/17/2023	11/12/2023	5%
Assignment #2: Slide deck and presentation to local official	10/17/2023	12/4/2023	30%
Total			100%

All homework and project assignments must be submitted online to Canvas course by 11:59 pm of the due date.

Homework and project assignments must be submitted on time (NO EXCEPTIONS). A 10% deduction will be applied for each day an assignment is late. However, you have one late pass – essentially a no questions asked, way to hand in one assignment 48 hours late.

# **Academic Support**

### **Accessibility and Accommodations**

Brown University is committed to the full inclusion of all students. Your success in this class is important to me. We will all need accommodations because we all learn differently. If there are aspects of this course that prevent you from learning or exclude you, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we'll develop strategies to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Please inform me early in the term if you may require accommodations or modification of any of course procedures. You may speak with me after class, during office hours, or by appointment. You may also reach out to Student Accessibility Services (SAS) for their assistance (<a href="mailto:seas@brown.edu">seas@brown.edu</a>, 401-863-9588). Students in need of short-term academic advice or support can contact one of the academic deans in the College.

## **Diversity & Inclusion**

It is my intention that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be served by this course, that learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that student diversity be viewed as a resource, strength, and benefit. I intend to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity, including age, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, perspective, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, race and other background characteristics. Your suggestions about how to improve the value of diversity in this course are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know if any of our class meetings conflict with your religious observances so that we can make arrangements for

you. Source of content for this statement: University of lowa College of Education: <a href="https://education.uiowa.edu/services/office-dean/policies/syllabus-checklist">https://education.uiowa.edu/services/office-dean/policies/syllabus-checklist</a>

#### Technology

This course will use the following technological platforms: Canva, Google Drive, and Canvas. I am committed to ensuring access to online course resources by students. Please also see the Online and Hybrid Learning Student Guide. If you have any concerns or questions about access or the privacy of any of these platforms, please reach out to me. The IT Service Center provides many IT Services including remote assistance, phones, tickets, and chat. Please also see the Online and Hybrid Learning Student Guide.

## Questions, Help, and Your TA

If you ever have a question regarding the course, assignments, current topics, grades, public health in general, or anything else, please feel free to reach out to the TA by email or during office hours. We also encourage you to check the syllabus and the course website, as answers to many questions can be found here. I am happy to assist in any of these areas and can be quickly contacted by email. Meetings can be easily and quickly arranged as needed.

#### **Course Calendar: Weekly Schedule**

Over the semester we will work to share, learn, and practice skills. In each session taught by Professor Tohn the class will engage in at least one activity, discuss content presented by the Professor, and practice skill building (e.g., preparing persuasive slides).

Week 1: 9.12.23	Overview & Extreme Heat	
Objectives	<ul> <li>Students understand course agenda, expectations, and grading scheme</li> <li>Identify 4 significant climate risks affecting human health</li> <li>Describe 2 changes in temperatures and heat due to a changing climate</li> <li>Identify 2 vulnerable populations to heat</li> <li>Identify 2 strategies to prepare for extreme heat</li> </ul>	
Class Activities	Welcome – Activity Exercise – Brainstorm health impacts of changing climate Discussion: Health impacts of heat and potential responses – individual brainstorm and group discussion Lecture and critique slides Skill building: Prepare persuasive slides & share	
Readings	Required  The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment National Climate Assessment, The U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) Climate and Health Assessment, Overview, 2016  Astounding heat obliterates all-time records across the Pacific Northwest and Western Canada in June 2021 - https://www.climate.gov/news-	

	features/event-tracker/astounding-heat-obliterates-all-time-records-
	across-pacific-northwest
	<u>NYTimes article</u> on European heat
	Other Resources  • <u>"Health Costs of Climate Change Are in the Billions"</u> , Natural Resources
	Defense Council [Video – 6 min]  Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), North American  Description 1922
	Factsheet, 2022.  ■ IPCC, Chapter 7: Health, Wellbeing, and the Changing Structure of Communities, 2022.
	Bloomberg Green, Mapping the Coolest Spots Inside the World's Sweltering Cities, 2022. https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2022-city-heatwave-adaptations/?cmpid=BBD080422_GREENDAILY     Background on European heat waves - background, July 2019     Boston Extreme Temperature Map     "Show Your Stripes" Temperature Graph — University of Reading
Assignments	Quiz (non-graded): Assessment of students' pre-course knowledge of climate health risks and impactful solutions     CNN Climate Solutions Quiz
Week 2: 9.19.23	Extreme Weather -Wildfires and Storms
Objectives	Describe 2 changes in extreme weather due to a changing climate     Identify 2 vulnerable populations to extreme weather     Identify 2 strategies to prepare for extreme weather
Class Activities	Discussion: Health impacts of extreme weather – wildfire, storms, flooding, and potential responses –brainstorm and group discussion  View - show NRDC video "Health Costs of Climate Change Are in the Billions",  Natural Resources Defense Council [Video – 6 min]  Lecture and critique slides -  Skill building: Prepare persuasive slides & share  Exit Tickets – What questions do you still have about today's topic? What part of the class was unclear?
Readings	Required  • USGCRP Climate and Health Assessment — Chapter 4 Extreme Events  • USGCRP Climate and Health Assessment — Chapter 2: Temperature-Related Death and Illness
	Other Resources  Earth is overheating. Millions are already feeling the pain, NY Times, 2022.  Air Now Fire and Smoke Map
Assessment or Assignment	Written reading response, submitted by Monday night September 18, 2023. What did you find surprising? What questions does the reading raise for you?

	Not graded, class assignment visit <a href="https://crt-climate-explorer.nemac.org/">https://crt-climate-explorer.nemac.org/</a> - enter your home zip code or Providence RI, explore the primary map, what are the predicted changes in temperature under different emissions scenario  https://coast.noaa.gov/slr/#/layer/slr/6/-7949546.363334339/5134635.005615035/13/satellite/none/0.8/2050/inter High/midAccretionlink	
Week 3: 9.26.23	Air Pollution & Mental Health	
Objectives	Describe at least 2 ways climate risks can impact air pollution and health Identify 2 vulnerable populations for air pollution risks Identify 2 approaches to respond to increased air pollution risks Describe at least 2 mental health consequences of a changing climate	
Class Activities	Activity: Brainstorm and group discussion Lecture Activity: Explore MA air quality and estimated public health impact data, discussion Skill building: Prepare persuasive slides and share	
Readings	Required  • USGCRP Climate and Health Assessment – Chapter 3 Air Quality Impacts and Chapter 8 Mental Health and Well-Being  • "Young people's climate anxiety revealed in landmark survey", Nature, Sept 2021  • How climate change can impact mental health, BBC 2021 (5 min)  Other Resources  • Boston University Study – explore air pollution impacts by MA town https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/centers/schiller-institute/sites/masscleanair.html  • A Growing Number of Young Americans Feel Climate Anxiety, PBS Newshour 2021, (8 min)  • National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network, CDC – tracking air quality, asthma, lead, etc.  • CDC Asthma Data  • Nassikas NJ, Spangler K, Wellenius GA. Asthma Exacerbations Attributable to Ozone Air Pollution in New England. R I Med J (2013). 2021 Nov 1;104(9):20-23. PMID: 34705902.  • Liu, Y., Austin, E., Xiang, J., Gould, T., Larson, T., & Seto, E. (2021). Health impact assessment of the 2020 Washington State wildfire smoke episode: Excess health burden attributable to increased PM2.5 exposures and potential exposure reductions. GeoHealth, 5, e2020GH000359. https://doi.org/10.1029/2020GH000359	
Assessment	Written reading response, submitted by Monday night September 25, 2023. What did you find most interesting or compelling?	

Week 4: 10.3.23	Water Quality, Vector Borne Disease & Health Equity
Objectives	Describe at least 2 ways climate risks can water quality, vector borne disease     Identify 2 vulnerable populations     Describe 2 examples of health inequities linked to changing climate
Class Activities	Discussion: Health impacts of changing water quality, vectors, and resulting health inequalities brainstorm and group discussion  Lecture and critique slides Video & Discussion: Environmental Justice – Green Roots Skill building: Prepare persuasive slides & share Participation Self Reflection – Based on participation rubrics draft a written self reflection: Am I thoughtfully contributing in class, participating on canvas, or otherwise engaging with the course. What will I continue doing; what might I change moving forward.
Readings	Required USGCRP Climate and Health Assessment – Chapter 5 Vector Borne Disease and Chapter Water Related Illness & Chapter 9 Populations of Concern Other Resources
Assessment	Written reading response, submitting by Monday night October 2, 2023. What health equity issues stood out for you and why?
Week 5: 10.10.23	Designing Multi- Solving Solutions for Climate
Objectives	Describe multi solving     Identify 2 multi-solving solutions for climate and health
Class Activity	Listen to TedEx Talk The Power of Multi-Solving for People and Climate, Elizabeth Sawin MIT Multi Solving Institute, TEDxSunValley Gina McCarthy – Climate is an intersectional issue Discuss Yale data on climate opinions—https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/visualizations-data/ycom-us/Review Climate Action Plans - Boston Climate Action Plan -Boston Climate Action Plan 2019, Wayland Climate Action Mobilization Plan Review public health impact triangle
Readings	Required:  Multi Solving at the Intersection of Climate and Health, MIT Multi-Solving Institute  Skim reports, look at Green House Gas Inventory and Priority Actions Boston Climate Action Plan 2019; Wayland MA Climate

	Action Mobilization Plan, 2022
	Other Resources  Systems change, Multi solving, and the power to change direction with Dr. Elizabeth Sawin, Climate Interactive  Air Pollution and Climate & Extreme Heat Factsheets, RI Department of Health  Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, US EPA
Week 6: 10.17.23	Effectively Advocating Solutions: Writing Effective Public Comments & Developing Briefing Packages
Objectives	Describe 3 key attributes of effective public comments on rulemakings or policies     Describe key elements of effective briefing packages for Governor, Agency Directors
Class Activities	Review key elements of effective public comments – Environmental Law Institute materials  Share exemplar comments – Massachusetts Utility Filing – Acadia Center;  Discussion  Introduce 3 options for drafting comments: MA Utility Filing, RI Climate Action Plan, TBD  Skill Building activity – practice & share  Briefing decks – Who, Why & How, What
Readings	Required  Public Participation in Environmental Decision-Making: Step-by-Step Tips for Writing Effective Public Comments, Step-by-Step Tips to Providing Effective Verbal Comments, Environmental Law Institute.  How to Effectively Comment on Regulations, Brookings Center for Regulation and Markets, 2018.  Other Resources  What is Rulemaking, Regulation Room, Cornell University  What is Effective Commenting, Regulation Room, Cornell University
	RI Asthma Data, accessed March 2022 Looney A. How to Effectively Comment on Regulations. The Brookings Institute; 2018:7. https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/ES 20180809 RegComments.pdf Step-by-Step Tips for Providing Effective Verbal Comments. Environmental Law Institute; 2013:4. https://www.eli.org/sites/default/files/files-pdf/Verbal-Commenting 1.pdf Step-by-Step Tips for Writing Effective Public Comments. Environmental Law Institute; 2013. http://eli-ocean.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/2/files/Written-Commenting.pdf
Assignments	Group Exercise non graded, critique sample comments on proposed

	<ul> <li>rulemaking</li> <li>Assignment #1: Prepare written comments on proposed rule, policy, or plan, maximum 4 pages. Students will be provided 3 options. Prepare 5 min oral testimony. Students will present oral testimony during week 10. Grading rubric is here.</li> <li>Assignment #2: Slide deck and oral presentation on climate solutions that improve health. Work in pairs to prepare a 10 min briefing for a governor, mayor, or school superintendent recommending climate solutions that also address one or more public health issues. Prepare a slide deck with speaking notes. Sample scenarios will be provided. Students will deliver these briefings during weeks 13 &amp; 14. Grading rubric is here.</li> </ul>
Week 7: 10.24.23	Electrifying Transportation – Julie Gold, Principal Strategy and Policy Analyst, Clean Transportation at National Grid
Objectives	Learning Objectives  Describe the contribution of internal combustion engines to greenhouse gas emissions and the reductions moving to electric vehicles  Describe 2 challenges to implement electric vehicle programs
Readings	How to Move America to Electric Vehicles, Rocky Mountain Institute, 2021
Week 8: 10.31.23	Buildings – Energy Efficiency, Solar, and Electrification
Objectives	Learning Objectives  Describe how energy efficiency can improve health outcomes  List 2 funding sources for residential energy efficiency programs  Explain key strategies for home electrification and health benefits  Describe 2 policy initiatives to encourage residential solar adoption
Readings	Required:  E4TheFuture, "Occupant Health Benefits of Residential Energy Efficiency", 2019  Health Effects from Gas Stove Pollution, Rocky Mountain Institute,
Week 9: 11.7.23	Role of Healthcare in Climate Solutions - Dr. Kate Moretti, Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, Brown Emergency Physicians; Jon Utech, Senior Director, Office for a Healthy Environment at Cleveland Clinic; Lauren Kleinman Koch, Sustainability Director, Ohio State University Medical Center
Objectives	Describe 2 activities hospitals are undertaking to address climate risks
Readings	Required: <u>Climate Action, A Playbook for Hospitals</u> , HealthCare Without Harm Optional <u>Leveraging Hospital Community Benefits to Address Climate Change</u> , HealthCare Without Harm, 2016.

Week 10: 11.12.23	Class Presentations – Comments on Rulemaking & Oral Testimony, Final Discussion of Briefing Decks Assignment #1
Objectives	Student presentations of oral testimony on proposed rule or policies.  Answer student questions on assignment #1
Activity	Brainstorm – What makes a good presentation; what might a rubric look like? Student oral testimony presentations Review rubric for final presentations - consider modification
Assignments Due	Oral testimony for comments on proposed rules. Students submit written testimony.
Week 11: 11.21.23	Aqua Culture –A Food System Response - Scott Lindell, Research Specialist AOPE Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution www2.whoi.edu/site/lindell-lab/
Objectives	<ul> <li>Identify 2 climate benefits of aquaculture in reducing GHGs</li> <li>Identify 2 health benefits of increased fish in diets</li> <li>Identify 2 regulatory or policy challenges to scale such work</li> </ul>
Readings	Required Scott Lindell Ted Talk https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjQsl39gb_2AhXzKUQlHbGwAGkQwqsBegQlAhAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DfVMOjSB5cuE&usg=AOvVaw3TEgU55aBj_yidVCdfr2yz  Other Resources
	Seaweed Solutions, Oceans Encounters, Wood Hole Oceanographic Institution [Video 90 min]
Week 12: 11.28.23	Role of Health Departments In Addressing Climate Risks. Speakers TBD
Week 13: 12.5.23	Class Presentations –Briefings
Objectives	Students deliver "briefings" for governor or mayor – Assignment #2
Assignments due	Assignment #2
Week 14: 12.12.23	Class Presentations – Briefings
Objectives	Students deliver "briefings" for governor or mayor – Assignment #2
Assignments due	Assignment #2