

**PHC6905: COVID-19 Field Experience  
Independent Study (1-3 variable credit hours)**

**Section COV**

**Class number 18470**

Summer: 2020

Delivery Format: Online Asynchronous

Course Website: <https://elearning.ufl.edu/>

**Instructor Name:** Jerne Shapiro, MPH  
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College of Public Health & Health Professions, College of Medicine  
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**Preferred Course Communications:** Please contact me directly at:  
Email: [shapiroj@ufl.edu](mailto:shapiroj@ufl.edu).  
W: 352-273-6861  
C: 352-870-8099

**Prerequisites**

PHC 6001 Principles of Epidemiology and PHC 6052 Introduction to Biostatistical Methods (or its equivalent).  
Consent of Instructor.

**Purpose and Outcome**

**Course Overview**

This variable credit, applied epidemiology independent study is designed as an opportunity for master's and doctoral students to integrate their growing expertise in public health practice by applying their epidemiologic skills through interviewing cases of COVID-19, conducting contact tracing in the community, and providing disease transmission education.

**Relation to Program Outcomes**

Many students have a need to focus individual studies on specific issues relevant to their particular areas of interest. This course will allow them to pursue individual studies under faculty supervision.

**Course Goals**

This is an independent study for a student who wishes to learn firsthand outbreak investigative skills. Students will gain knowledge through trainings, patient interviews, contact tracing, public health reviews, providing public health education, working collaboratively on an outbreak team, and individual assignments as they arise.

**Course Objectives**

1. Integrate the modes of transmission and pathogenesis of COVID-19
2. Describe the host, organism and environmental relationship as they apply to outbreak investigations.
3. Identify the usual approaches to outbreak investigations.
4. Apply strategies for diagnosis, prevention, and control of COVID-19.

5. Conduct primary data collection, contact tracing investigations, and provide public health education to prevent further spread of COVID-19.
6. Integrate new knowledge about the virus and its spread into public health practice
7. Demonstrate responsible conduct of confidential information.

### **Instructional Methods**

Mentored individual study in accordance with student's individual development plan. Student will meet regularly with the mentor (independent study director) to progress through all learning objectives.

### **Description of Course Content**

The student and faculty member should complete and sign the attached Independent Study Contract, which outlines the plan of study/experience, including goals and expectations, the outcomes, criteria for evaluation and a timeline for completion of activities. Copies of the completed contract should be given to the student, the faculty sponsor and to the Epidemiology Department Academic Assistant for inclusion in the student's permanent file.

### **Course Materials**

There are no required textbooks. Readings will be specific to the individual and chosen by the instructor and student.

### **Technology**

**Required Equipment:** Computer with high-speed internet access and use of a supported browser. Please refer to the student computing requirements listed at <http://studentlife.online.mph.ufl.edu/e-learning/e-learning-in-canvas-technical-requirements/> for additional information. This course is delivered entirely online using the University of Florida's e-Learning in Canvas Course Management System at <http://elearning.ufl.edu/>. To access this course, you will use your Gatorlink ID and password to login to the course (via Canvas).

#### **When to Post to the Support Discussions:**

<http://studentlife.online.mph.ufl.edu/when-to/when-to-post-to-a-support-discussions/>

#### **When to Contact the UF Computing Help Desk:**

<http://studentlife.online.mph.ufl.edu/when-to/when-to-contact-the-uf-computing-helpdesk/>

Additionally, you will need a phone to make make/receive calls and texts.

For technical support for this class related specifically to Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu)
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

### **Technical Skills Needed for the Course**

1. UF Canvas account
2. Use email with attachments
3. Creating and submitting files in commonly used word processing program formats
4. Copying, pasting, print screen, and snipping tool
5. Downloading and installing software
6. Use presentation and graphics programs

7. Access to a working non-shared phone line
8. Ability to text links
9. Access to a shared Dropbox
10. HIPAA certification (PRV800 – HIPAA General Awareness)

## **Academic Requirements and Grading**

### **Assignments**

1. MyUFL Trainings: PRV800 – HIPAA General Awareness
  - Certificate submitted through Canvas
2. Mock interview conducted over the phone where the Instructor pretends to be a case and the student conducts the interview. Students will be provided lectures, readings and discussions before conducting the interview. The following items listed below will be assessed in the interview.
  - Period of communicability, dates of quarantine, and date of release
  - Familiarity of educational material
  - Correct contacts
  - Risk factors and modes of transmission
3. Prepare a brief weekly discussion on an emerging topic about COVID-19. Submitted via zoom during our team call. This should last ~3-5min and will be graded on appropriateness and accuracy.
4. Applied and timely demonstration of skill in contact tracing and disease investigation. Each case will be orally discussed with the Instructor and the grade will be based on thoroughness, details obtained, initiative and interactions.
5. Applied demonstration of skill in both accurate and appropriate public health education on COVID-19. Demonstration via oral communication with the Instructor that is ongoing with the community members.
6. Demonstrate responsible conduct of confidential information. Pass/fail.

### **Grading**

This course is graded on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis (S/U).

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>% of final grade</b>
Mock interview where the following items are assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Period of communicability, dates quarantine, date of release</li> <li>• Familiarity of educational material</li> <li>• Correct contacts</li> <li>• Risk factors and modes of transmission</li> </ul>	Prior to public interaction	25%
Prepare a brief weekly discussion on an emerging issue about COVID-19	Weekly	5%
Applied and timely demonstration of skill in contact tracing and disease investigation	Ongoing: Instructor review of case report forms, line lists, and contact tracing forms	25%
Applied demonstration of skill in both accurate and appropriate public health education on COVID-19	Ongoing: Education of cases, contacts and community members	25%
Demonstrate responsible conduct of confidential information	Continuous	20%

It is possible to receive an incomplete (I) grade upon request with instructor permission for unforeseen circumstances at instructor's discretion.

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#grades>

### **Expected Workload**

You are expected to actively engage in the course. Your participation fosters a rich field experience for you and facilitates overall mastery of the course objectives.

One credit hour equals 45 hours of Independent Study time or 4 hours per week over the summer semester.

### **Exam Policy**

There is no exam for this course.

### **Policy Related to Make-up Exams or Other Work**

**Requirements:** Students are responsible for all course material. Students are **required** to print a copy of the syllabus from the syllabus tool in the course. Please note that announcements and emails sent out from the course site will go to your UFL email address (versus your Google, Yahoo, etc.), please check this mail at <http://webmail.ufl.edu> regularly also. Students should also reference the calendar in the course to keep up with weekly deadlines.

**Make-Ups:** If you are unable to meet a deadline in this course for an approved reason and have given prior notification to the instructor when possible, you will be given adequate time to make up any work missed.

Any unforeseen circumstances or absence due to medical or family emergencies should be negotiated to allow the student to complete all planned activities and outcomes within the term unless an incomplete is negotiated.

Please note: Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the UF Computing help desk (<http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>) correspondence. You MUST e-mail me within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

**Instructor Response Time:** If I have not responded in a timely fashion, please contact me again. Your message is important to me, but it may have been overlooked.

### **Policy Related to Required Class Attendance**

No class attendance is required.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Graduate Catalog (<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#attendance>). Additional information can be found here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

### **Student Expectations, Roles, and Opportunities for Input**

### **Expectations Regarding Course Behavior**

Students are expected to meet with their mentors on the agreed upon regular frequency. All communication media should be used if necessary to meet the agreed upon outcomes.

### **Communication Guidelines**

**Please keep the following things in mind when emailing the instructor:**

1. **Be formal** – Use a proper salutation when emailing and finishing with a “Thank you” is always appreciated. This is true for other professors and/or employers.
2. Use a **subject line**, please don’t leave it blank.
3. **Specify** who you are by first and last name, and specify which class you are taking before diving into the specifics. I often teach multiple classes per semester and usually have hundreds of students to serve. **State your name, the class you are taking and the course section** (I might teach three sections of your course and will need to know which one you attend).
4. **Be thorough** – Any time you send a message, you should have two things in mind: goal and audience. Your audience here is me, your professor. Your goal could be any number of things, from clarifying the reading assignment to asking for an extension. Whatever your goal may be, you’ll want to anticipate any questions I may have and incorporate the information into your message.
5. **Be kind** – Professors are people, too. We have friends, families, hobbies and favorite foods. So, when you email a professor, remember that you are not writing to an anonymous entity, a building or a computer – you are communicating with a real person. Be kind, be thankful and don’t come across as demanding.
6. **Allow time** – If you need advice or clarification on an assignment, avoid emailing the night before it is due. You might not get a timely reply.
7. **Proofread** – The final step, proofreading ensures that you come across as professional and caring. An email full of errors and faulty sentence structure may distract from your message.

### **Preferred Course Communications**

Please contact me directly at:

Email: [shapiroj@ufl.edu](mailto:shapiroj@ufl.edu).

W: 352-273-6861

C: 352-870-8099

### **On Campus (Face-to-Face) Activities**

We will have face-to-face instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

- You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.
- This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
- Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
- Follow your instructor’s guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.

- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>), please use the UF Health screening system (<https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/screen-test-protect/covid-19-exposure-and-symptoms-who-do-i-call-if/>) and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class.
  - Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>).

### **Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity. As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge:

**“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”**

You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

**“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”**

It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For additional information regarding Academic Integrity, please see Student Conduct and Honor Code or the Graduate Student Website for additional details:

<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>  
<http://gradschool.ufl.edu/students/introduction.html>

Please remember cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

### **Online Faculty Course Evaluation Process**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

### **Online Synchronous Sessions**

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded

or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

## **Support Services**

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

### **Counseling and Student Health**

Students sometimes experience stress from academic expectations and/or personal and interpersonal issues that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing issues that have the potential to or are already negatively affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and/or seek help through University resources available to you.

- The Counseling and Wellness Center 352-392-1575 offers a variety of support services such as psychological assessment and intervention and assistance for math and test anxiety. Visit their web site for more information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu>. On line and in person assistance is available.
- You Matter We Care website: <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>. If you are feeling overwhelmed or stressed, you can reach out for help through the You Matter We Care website, which is staffed by Dean of Students and Counseling Center personnel.
- The Student Health Care Center at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 392-0627 or check out the web site at: <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>
- Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from:  
Alachua County Crisis Center:  
(352) 264-6789  
<http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx>

Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.

### **Inclusive Learning Environment**

Public health and health professions are based on the belief in human dignity and on respect for the individual. As we share our personal beliefs inside or outside of the classroom, it is always with the understanding that we value and respect diversity of background, experience, and opinion, where every individual feels valued. We believe in, and promote, openness and tolerance of differences in ethnicity and culture, and we respect differing personal, spiritual, religious and political values. We further believe that celebrating such diversity enriches the quality of the educational experiences we provide our students and enhances our own personal and professional relationships. We embrace The University of Florida's Non-Discrimination Policy, which reads, "The University shall actively

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promote equal opportunity policies and practices conforming to laws against discrimination. The University is committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act." If you have questions or concerns about your rights and responsibilities for inclusive learning environment, please see your instructor or refer to the Office of Multicultural & Diversity Affairs website: [www.multicultural.ufl.edu](http://www.multicultural.ufl.edu)

University of Florida  
College of Public Health & Health Professions Syllabus

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH & HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
PHC 6905: COVID-19 Field Experience  
Independent Study (1-3 variable credit hours)

**CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT FOR COURSE COMPLETION**

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Term Enrolled: Semester \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Department: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Site: \_\_\_\_\_  
Site Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Site Supervisor Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIPTION OF COURSE**

Course Objectives (please list and be specific of any additional objectives for the student):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Of Hours To Be Completed: \_\_\_\_\_ (i.e. 45hrs for one credit)

Time Schedule to Fulfill Hour Requirements (e.g. 3x/wk 1 hr each; 8 hrs each weekend, etc):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**AGREEMENT AND APPROVAL**

I understand that I must satisfactorily meet my objectives and complete all course requirements by the dates listed on this form to receive 1 2 3 credits for this course.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

