**Course Syllabus**

Course Title: Introduction to Public Health

Course Code: HHA 507

Instructor: Dr. Nouf Sahal Alharbi

Credit Hours: 3

**Course Description**

This course introduces students to the principles, methods, and practices of public health. It covers the assessment of population health, epidemiological approaches, evidence-based decision making, and strategies to address major health challenges. The course emphasizes practical applications of public health knowledge within the healthcare system, with special attention to local and global health issues.

**Course Objectives**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and analyze major public health problems and their determinants.
2. Apply epidemiological and evidence-based approaches to assess population health.
3. Evaluate public health strategies such as screening, health communication, and primary care practices.
4. Develop critical thinking skills to address public health challenges in real-world contexts.

**Topics to be Covered**

1. Scoping Public Health Problems
2. Assessing the Health of Populations
3. Understanding Data, Information, and Knowledge
4. Epidemiological Approach and Design
5. Finding and Appraising Evidence
6. Communicable Disease Epidemics
7. Environmental Health Risks and Assessment
8. Assuring Screening Programmes
9. Health Communication
10. Public Health Practice in Primary Care

**Assessment and Grading**

* Class Participation: 20%
* Project / Presentation: 20%
* Midterm Exam: 20%
* Final Exam: 40%  
  Total: 100%

**Attendance Policy**

Attendance will not carry any grade. However, students who are absent for 20% or more of the scheduled classes will not be allowed to sit for the final exam. If you miss a lecture and would like to make up the participation grade, please email me. You should read the chapter you missed, summarize it, and present it to your classmates for 10–15 minutes.

**Required Textbook**

Kawachi, I., Lang, I., & Ricciardi, W. (Eds.). (2014). Oxford Handbook of Public Health Practice (4th ed.). Oxford University Press.

**Recommended Readings**

1. Detels, R., Gulliford, M., Karim, Q. A., & Tan, C. C. (2015). Oxford Textbook of Global Public Health (6th ed.). Oxford University Press.
2. Friis, R. H., & Sellers, T. A. (2021). Epidemiology for Public Health Practice (6th ed.). Jones & Bartlett Learning.
3. Turnock, B. J. (2020). Essentials of Public Health (4th ed.). Jones & Bartlett Learning.