**UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH**

**Department of Health and Physical Activity (Spring 2025)**

**HPA 1486: Behavioral Change Strategies**

**Instructor:** Kelli Davis, PhD, FACSM, CEP

**Office:** 32 Oak Hill Court, Pittsburgh, PA 15261 #212

**Class Day:** Tuesday/Thursday

**Class Location:** 130 Trees Hall

**Class Time:** 11:00am-12:15pm and 1:00- 2:15pm

**Office Phone:** 412-383-4003

**Office Hours:** By appt.

**Email:** [kkd2@pitt.edu](mailto:kkd2@pitt.edu)

**Supplemental Text (Not Required):**

1. Nigg, CR (2013). ACSM’s Behavioral Aspects of Physical Activity and Exercise. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.
2. Sallis, JF & Neville, O (1999). Physical Activity and Behavioral Medicine. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

**Additional Assigned Readings:** Will be posted on CourseWeb or distributed in class.

**General Course Description:** The purpose of this course is to provide the student with an overview of several behavioral theories which lay the framework for understanding the process of behavior change. This course will specifically focus on understanding physical activity and health behaviors and the types of interventions that are useful in the promotion of these behaviors. The student should then be able to apply this knowledge when providing physical activity and health recommendations or developing physical activity interventions. This course will teach students the importance of understanding behavior change theories and strategies in order to assist individuals in becoming more physically active and adopting healthy behaviors necessary for overall health and wellness.

This course will use a lecture based format, discussion, as well as several projects, in order to facilitate adoption of the material.

**Specific Course Objectives:**

1. To develop an understanding of behavior change strategies that can be used in order to promote physical activity and health.
2. To develop a general understanding of the various behavioral change theories.
3. To become aware of physical and mental benefits of physical activity.
4. To understand the variety of factors that influence physical activity and health habits.
5. To develop and apply the knowledge and skills necessary to assist an individual in adopting physical activity.
6. To develop and implement a physical activity or health intervention that is structured around behavioral concepts and strategies.

**GRADING POLICY**

**Exams:** There will be a midterm and a final in this course. Exams will use a variety of question types to assess your knowledge which includes: short answer, multiple choice, matching, true/false, completion, essay, etc. The final will not be cumulative but will rely on integrating material learned in the first half of the semester. The majority of questions will be taken from lecture but some questions may be drawn from class discussions, homework, and assigned readings.

**Projects:** There will be several class projects assigned to be completed outside of the classroom. If you are not in class when a project is given, it is still your responsibility to turn the project in on time. If a project is not turned in on time, you will receive a zero for that project. Projects **must be typed** unless otherwise notified.

**NOTE:** The point value of the exams and projects will be decided on by the instructor.

**Extra Credit:** There may be extra credit available via additional questions on the exams or projects that you will have the option of completing.

**GRADING SCALE**

Your grade will be determined by dividing your actual points by the total number of points attainable.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| A | = | 90-100% |
| B+ | = | 87-89.9% |
| B | = | 80-86.9% |
| C+ | = | 77-79.9% |
| C | = | 70-76.9% |
| D+ | = | 67-69.9% |
| D | = | 60-66.9% |
| F | = | 0-59.9% |

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Attendance is required due to the nature of the course. There will be two allowable absences throughout the semester. Any absences beyond this will result in a **5 point** deduction from the total points accumulated for the course. Students that need to miss a class for University business or an illness beyond these two will need to inform the instructor **in advance** by phone or email and subsequently provide written documentation verifying their absence. In addition, students who miss a lecture are responsible for obtaining lecture notes and handouts, and are responsible for all missed announcements and/or course changes. **Only students with a university-approved absence will be allowed to make up any missed work in class.**

**There will be no make-ups for exams unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.** Missed exams can only be made up if accompanied by written documentation justifying the absence. Decisions regarding the justification of the absence will be made by the instructor. Missed exams must be made up within one week at a time and date approved by the instructor. In rare cases where unexpected (emergency) circumstances arise, it is the student’s responsibility to notify the instructor immediately (i.e., within 48 hours) in order to ensure the possibility of a make-up exam or project. Make-up exams may be different than the one given on the scheduled exam date.

**ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE:**

**Academic Integrity**

Students in this course will be expected to comply with the [University of Pittsburgh’s Policy on Academic Integrity](https://www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html). Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. This may include, but is not limited to, the confiscation of the examination of any individual suspected of violating University Policy. Furthermore, no student may bring any unauthorized materials to an exam, including dictionaries and programmable calculators.

To learn more about Academic Integrity, visit the [Academic Integrity Guide](http://pitt.libguides.com/academicintegrity/) for an overview of the topic. For hands- on practice, complete the [Academic Integrity Modules](http://pitt.libguides.com/academicintegrity/plagiarism).

**Disability Services**

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and [Disability Resources and Services](https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/drs/) (DRS), 140 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890, [drsrecep@pitt.edu,](mailto:drsrecep@pitt.edu) (412) 228-5347 for P3 ASL users, as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

**Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**

The University of Pittsburgh does not tolerate any form of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation based on disability, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, genetic information, marital status, familial status, sex, age, sexual orientation, veteran status or gender identity or other factors as stated in the University’s Title IX policy. The University is committed to taking prompt action to end a hostile environment that interferes with the University’s mission. For more information about policies, procedures, and practices, visit the [Civil Rights & Title IX Compliance web page](https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/civil-rights-title-ix).

I ask that everyone in the class strive to help ensure that other members of this class can learn in a supportive and respectful environment. If there are instances of the aforementioned issues, please contact the Title IX Coordinator, by calling 412-648-7860, or e-mailing [titleixcoordinator@pitt.edu](mailto:titleixcoordinator@pitt.edu). Reports can also be [filed online](https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/civil-rights-title-ix/how-make-report). You may also choose to report this to a faculty/staff member; they are required to communicate this to the University’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion. If you wish to maintain complete confidentiality, you may also contact the University Counseling Center (412-648-7930).

**Email Communication**

Each student is issued a University e-mail address (username@pitt.edu) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students.  Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address.

**Religious Observances**

The observance of religious holidays (activities observed by a religious group of which a student is a member) and cultural practices are an important reflection of diversity. As your instructor, I am committed to providing equivalent educational opportunities to students of all belief systems. At the beginning of the semester, you should review the course requirements to identify foreseeable conflicts with assignments, exams, or other required attendance. If at all possible, please contact me (your course coordinator/s) within the first two weeks of the first-class meeting to allow time for us to discuss and make fair and reasonable adjustments to the schedule and/or tasks.

**Cell phone use:** The temptation of checking email and responding to text messages is a challenge for all of us. At the same time, tending to these communications during class is very distracting. Please maintain appropriate boundaries with technology while you are in the classroom. Remove the temptation by turning your phone off, putting it on silent, or keeping it in your bag. If an emergency arises that you need to tend to, please step outside of the classroom so as not to disturb your classmates.

**Statement on Classroom Recording**: To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student’s own private use.

**Department of Health and Physical Activity Grievance Procedure:**

If a student feels that they have been treated unfairly by the instructor regarding their grade or other aspects of their course participation, there are a series of steps that should be taken to resolve this matter.  These include the following:

1. The student should first inform the instructor of the course of the issue to resolve this matter.  If the course is taught by a Teaching Assistant, Graduate Student, or Part-Time instructor, their faculty supervisor should also be informed of this matter.   The student should bring this issue to the attention of the instructor in a timely matter and should maintain a record of interactions that occurred with the instructor regarding the matter in question.  The course instructor should take necessary steps to address the concern raised by the student in a timely matter and should maintain a record of the interactions that occurred with the student regarding this matter.
2. If, after reasonable attempts to resolve the matter, the matter is not resolved in a manner that is deemed to be acceptable to the student, the student retains the right to file a grievance.  This grievance is to be filed with the Department Chair in the form of a written document that can be submitted via email or campus mail.  This document should include the following:
   1. Student’s name
   2. Student contact information (email, address, telephone number)
   3. Information on the course for which the grievance applies (course title, course number, instructor name).
   4. A copy of the course syllabus that was provided to the student by the instructor
   5. Detailed description of the grievance and additional information the student feels is pertinent to this matter.

After receiving this information, the Department Chair will inform the student if additional information is needed, as appropriate will discuss this matter with the student and the instructor and will issue a decision in a timely manner.

1. If the student is not willing to accept the decision of the Department Chair, the student will be informed that they can request an additional review of this matter through the Office of the Dean of the School of Education.  If the student decides to pursue this, the student should contact the Associate Dean for Student Affairs & Certification in the School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**The following course schedule is tentative and may change at the discretion of the instructor.** You are responsible for any changes made to the syllabus that are announced in class, even if you are not present in class.

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| **DATE** | **TOPIC** |
| JANUARY 9 | INTRODUCTION TO COURSE, SYLLABUS, ASSIGNMENTS – INTRO LECTURE |
| JANUARY 14 |
| JANUARY 16 | PHYSICAL ACTIVITY DETERMINANTS & INTERVENTIONS |
| JANUARY 21 |
| JANUARY 23 | BEHAVIORAL THEORIES -HBM,TPB, SCT, |
| JANUARY 28 |
| JANUARY 30 | BEHAVIORAL THEORIES – TTM and PROCESSES OF CHANGE,  INTRO to DOMAINS |
| FEBRUARY 4 |
| FEBRUARY 6 | (DOMAIN 9, 5, 13, and 15)  MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING  MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING  MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING |
| FEBRUARY 11 |
| FEBRUARY 13 |
| FEBRUARY 18 | MINDFULNESS |
| FEBRUARY 20 | (DOMAIN 4, 5)  MOTIVATION |
| FEBRUARY 25 | REVIEW |
| FEBRUARY 27 | **Mid-Term Examination** |
| MARCH 4 | SPRING BREAK |
| MARCH 6 | SPRING BREAK |
| MARCH 11 | (DOMAIN 10)  INCENTIVES/CAMPAIGNS |
| MARCH 13 | (DOMAIN 1)  GOAL SETTING & BEHAVIORAL CONTRACTING |
| MARCH 18 | (DOMAIN 2)  TRACKING and MONITORING BEHAVIORS, PAR/PAF |
| MARCH 20 | (DOMAIN 3) - SOCIAL SUPPORT |
| MARCH 25 | CLASS (DOMAIN 1, 4, 5)  BARRIERS TO PHYSICAL ACTIVITY |
| MARCH 27 | (DOMAIN 6, 15)  BSELF-EFFICACY & SELF-ESTEEM |
| APRIL 1 | (DOMAIN 7, 8, 12, 14)  STIMULUS CONTROL/CONDITIONING & BEHAVIOR CHAINS |
| APRIL 3 | (DOMAIN 6,15)  THOUGHTS |
| APRIL 8 | PROBLEM SOLVING |
| APRIL 10 | (DOMAIN 12, 16)  HIGH RISK SITUATIONS / RELAPSE PREVENTION |
| APRIL 15 | PROJECT PRESENTATIONS – INCENTIVE CAMPAIGNS |
| APRIL 17 | PROJECT PRESENTATIONS – INCENTIVE CAMPAIGNS/REVIEW |
| APRIL 22 | **Final Examination** |