

**AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT**  
**FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH**

**ENHL 234 (3 CREDITS)**

**Spring AY 2019-2020**

RIMA HABIB, PhD (COORDINATOR)

**1. Course description**

This course provides an overview of the general principles of occupational health using a multidisciplinary framework. Applying diverse perspectives, students of the class will learn about hazards in the workplace and the health, economic, political, social, and societal ramifications of occupational health and safety. The course offers a dynamic learning environment that emphasizes critical thinking and engagement. Students will learn by applying research and readings to case studies, media analysis, and in-class discussions.

**2. Learning objectives**

By the end of this course, student must be able to:

- Explain how the field of Occupational Health is deeply rooted in social justice.
- Identify the social, economic, cultural, ethical, policy-relevant and technological changes that drive the workplace dynamics.
- List the various disciplines involved in occupational health and describe their role.
- Identify the various chemical, physical, biological, ergonomic and psychosocial hazards in one workplace.
- Identify the links between the work and general environments.
- List the similarities and differences between exposure to hazards in the work environment and the general environment.
- Identify the most appropriate method of control to a particular hazard at the workplace.
- Inspect a workplace
- Identify the health effects of selected work-related hazards.
- Analyze a material safety data sheet (MSDS).

**3. Course Format**

The course is broken into two blocks, one on occupational health (BLOCK 1), and the second on occupational hygiene (BLOCK 2). During the course, students will engage in lectures, discussions, laboratory work, and other practical applications.

### *Block 1 – Occupational Health*

The link between the work environment and the general environment is addressed in this block. In addition, the social, political, legislative, economic, ethical, and technological changes that drive the workplace dynamics are discussed. Special issues and case studies on equality, justice, and human rights in the field of occupational health are explored and debated in class.

### *Block 2 – Occupational Hygiene*

Workers are exposed to occupational hazards at the workplace. This block provides hands-on knowledge on occupational hygiene and introduces students to health and safety at the workplace. Students will learn the principles of a safe and healthy workplace by identifying the chemical, physical, biological, ergonomic and psychosocial hazards affecting the health of workers, as well as the methods used to prevent and control occupational diseases and injuries. The class is followed by a practical/laboratory component to demonstrate equipment or apparatus used to assess occupational hazards. Each practical/laboratory component complements the preceding lecture in a session.

## **4. Student Evaluation**

Project:

Report - Group work	25%
Presentation – Group Work/Individual	10%
Documentary Assignments (two) – Individual	10%
Assignment – Individual	20%
Exam (including Block 2 Material)	35%

## **5. Academic Integrity**

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and honesty. You are expected to abide by the following honour code in all work associated with this course. While you are encouraged to discuss the course topics with faculty members and with other students, submitted reports must be unequivocally your own work. Where material is taken from other sources, the work in question must be clearly acknowledged in your report or your presentation. Otherwise, your action constitutes plagiarism. The course instructors take a serious view of both plagiarism and collusion and impose serious penalties for these offences which can vary from failing the course to disciplinary procedures at University level (Student Handbook).

For examples of what constitutes plagiarism in academic writing, go to the following link and familiarize yourself with the contents:

<https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/examples.html>

## **6. References**

This course does not rely on one single textbook. Handouts and readings will be distributed in class. However, you are strongly encouraged to check out scholarly journals for current information on topics related to your class project.

## **7. Meeting place & hours**

Class will meet in the Van Dyck building – Room 332.

Lectures and Practical/Laboratory session hours:

Mondays and Wednesdays: 1:30PM to 2:45PM.

## **8. Contact information for lecturers**

Rima Habib, Ph.D (FHS – Occupational Health - Department of Environmental Health)  
Office 335, Extension: 4630. Email: [rima.habib@aub.edu.lb](mailto:rima.habib@aub.edu.lb)

Azmi P. Imad, MSc, PE, CSP, CIH (Hygiene) Email: [azmipi@yahoo.com](mailto:azmipi@yahoo.com)

## **9. Special Needs**

AUB strives to make learning experiences accessible for all. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers due to a disability (such as ADHD, learning difficulties, mental health conditions, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please do not hesitate to inform the Accessible Education Office. In order to ensure that you receive the support you need and to facilitate a smooth accommodations process, you must register with the Accessible Education Office (AEO) as soon as possible: [accessibility@aub.edu.lb](mailto:accessibility@aub.edu.lb); [+961-1-350000](tel:+961-1-350000), [x3246](tel:+961-1-350000); West Hall, 314.