

# MPH/PRVM 6413: The Impacts of the Climate Crisis on Health and Clinical Medicine

## *Overview and Frequently Asked Questions*

### **What is this elective about?**

Students will learn about the global impact that the climate crisis is having on health systems, health equity and justice, patient populations, and the incidence and prevalence of disease. Students will also learn about how healthcare professionals are addressing the climate crisis, the challenges that they face, and how climate change will impact the students in their future clinical practice. By the end of the course, students will be competent in communicating about climate change and build confidence in informing action plans that will help mitigate the problems facing healthcare and local communities due to the climate crisis in their role as future physicians and healthcare professionals.

### **Who can enroll in this elective?**

This elective has been approved for enrollment for both MPH students and medical students (MSI - MSIV) at Upstate. Students enrolled in other programs or institutions (e.g., SUNY ESF, Upstate College of Nursing) may consult their registrar and the course instructor for more information on enrolling.

### **When is this elective?**

This elective is offered each spring semester. The course meets remotely on select Mondays from 4:30-6:30pm.

- Required Course Meetings: January 5, January 12, January 26, February 2, April 13, and April 20.
- Topic-Based Sessions (Choose 3 of 6 to attend):
  - February 9: Cardiovascular and Respiratory Health
  - February 16: Infectious Disease
  - February 23: Mental Health
  - March 23: Severe Weather Events
  - March 30: Maternal and Child Health
  - April 6: Workers, Urban, Rural Health
- Student-Led Discussions (Choose 2 of 3 to attend): March 2, March 9, March 16

### **How many credits is this elective worth?**

Students can take this course for 1.0 credit or 3.0 credits. MPH taking this course as their main Spring 2025 elective must take the course for 3.0 credits.

## How do the credit options differ?

	1.0 Credit	3.0 Credits
Attend all required class sessions	X	X
Attend at least 2 student-led discussion presentations of your choosing	X	X
Attend at least 3 of 6 topic-based sessions of your choosing	X	X
Lead 1 student-led discussion presentation		X
Participate in class activities	X	X
Review all asynchronous material and complete pre-class session assignments with a passing grade	X	X
Complete the Applied Final Project		X

## What will the applied project include?

This final project will allow students to build and demonstrate competencies in climate change and health. The project will include domains of evaluating the climate and health literature and strategically designing communication and advocacy products for the student's chosen project topic. Students will present on their final projects on Monday April 20th and submit the remainder of their project by 11:59pm on Thursday April 23rd.

## How is the elective graded?

Pre-session assessments, class activities, attendance, and participation, will each be worth 10 points. The student-led presentation will each be worth 10 points. The applied final project will be worth 50 points. Medical students taking the course will be graded as Pass/Fail and must receive a 70% or above in the course to pass. MPH students taking the course for 3.0 credits will be graded out of 90 points.

## What will this elective not include?

This elective will not include a history of climate policy or an in-depth overview of the atmospheric or climate science. While we will touch on these topics as they pertain to health, the structure of the course will not allow a comprehensive overview of these topics. Students may ask for additional resources if they'd like to learn more. The elective will also focus specifically on climate change, including mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. While other factors of environmental health may relate to climate change, they will not be the focus of this class.

## **I heard this course is part of a new microcredential. Is that true?**

Yes! This course is now one element required as part of a new microcredential, "Climate and Health Foundations for Health Professionals". If you are interested in learning more about the microcredential, you can visit <https://www.upstate.edu/academic-affairs/microcredentials.php> or email the microcredential director, Dr. Augusta Williams at williaau@upstate.edu.

## **How do I learn more?**

If you are interested in learning more, have additional questions, or want to allow students in your program to enroll in this elective, you can email the course director, Dr. Augusta Williams at williaau@upstate.edu.

## **How do I register for the course?**

You can register in My Upstate / Banner. If you have trouble registering, please reach out to the course director, Dr. Augusta Williams at williaau@upstate.edu.

## **Who teaches this elective?**

This elective is taught by Dr. Augusta Williams, who is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine. Dr. Williams has received her MPH in Environmental Health and a Certificate in Climate and Health from Columbia University and her Doctorate of Science in the same field from Harvard University.

