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The assignments and readings are from a previous Quarter. They are subject to change – use as an example ONLY.

Envh 405

A Small Dose of Toxicology – An Introduction to the Health Effects of Chemicals

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Course Description

This course is designed to go beyond just an examination of the health effects of common chemicals. The principles of toxicology are placed in a broader context of their impact on our society. We explore the properties, environmental concerns and health effects of specific compounds as well as society's interaction with these agents. For example, we will put lead in an historical context and consider lessons learned. We will examine why coffee and cola companies make so much money from caffeine. The course will also examine risk assessment and risk management approaches along with the precautionary principle. Students will also receive material to prepare them for teaching specific subjects of a small dose of toxicology.

Course Objectives

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

1. Describe basic scientific principles of toxicology, including dose/response, risk, hazard, individual sensitivity.
2. Recognize the environmental and health effects of specific compounds.
3. Analyze societal interactions with specific compounds.
4. Identify the difficulties and challenges of risk assessment and risk management of the environmental and health effects of compounds
5. Compare toxicology in from a historical context with current practices in managing toxic compounds.
6. Discuss the social and ethical implications of the toxicological sciences.

Requirements and Assignments

1. Midterm exam
2. Comprehensive final exam,
3. Two editorial, (2-3 pages) each,
4. Two letters to legislative representatives.
5. Class participation