Course Outline - Critical Issues in Global Health
PUBH 711 – FALL 2012

Instructors:

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Course Objectives:

- To explore contemporary issues, problems, and controversies in global health through an interdisciplinary perspective
- To understand key global health problems, their distribution, and prevention strategies
- To examine the complex tapestry of social, economic, political, and environmental factors that affect public health outcomes
- To understand the complexities inherent in improving health on a global scale
- To examine the major determinants of, and responses to, poverty and health in developing countries
- To analyze global health disparities through a social justice and human rights lens
- To understand and analyze the roles and agendas of major players in global health
- To understand the link between global and local health issues.

Course Structure:

The course is organized into 10 content modules, each spanning one - two weeks.

Readings: **NO TEXT BOOK PURCHASE IS NEEDED FOR THIS COURSE**

Required and Optional Reading List

Unless otherwise indicated, all course readings and materials will be available on the course Sakai site (https://sakai.unc.edu/portal). You need a valid UNC Onyen and password in order to log in to this site.

Evaluation: Combination of individual work and group discussion

Grading: Students will be graded on the H, P, L scale.
Breakdown of grade scale is posted on Blackboard under "Course Information"

PART A: THE CONTEXT

Module 1: August 21 – August 27 **Introduction to Global Health**

ASSIGNMENT DUE: AUGUST 27

KEY TOPICS:

- Comparing definitions of global health
- Key players in global health
- U.S. Government's Global Health Initiative
- Challenges in Global Health

Module 2: August 28 - September 3 **Public Health Issues in a Global World**

ASSIGNMENT DUE: SEPTEMBER 3

KEY TOPICS:

- Global mobility
- Globalization of food marketing and production
- Climate change
- Bio-terrorism
- Global connectedness: internet, mobile phones and social media
- Urbanization

Module 3: September 4 – September 17 **Delivering Health: The Role of Health Systems**

ASSIGNMENT DUE: SEPTEMBER 17

KEY TOPICS:

- Overview and history of health systems
- Components of a health system
- Health system strengthening
- Financing models of health care
- Human resources issues
- Health information systems
- Health system reform: successes and failures

PART B: THE ISSUES

MODULE 4: September 18- 24 **Funding Health and Development Programs: Issues and Debates**

ASSIGNMENT DUE: SEPTEMBER 24

KEY TOPICS:

- Role of civil society in promoting global health of communities
- Addressing health in conjunction with other development sectors
- The new philanthropy
- Funding and donor influences on program design

MODULE 5: September 25 - October 8 Changing Economies, Changing Behaviors – The Paradox of Nutrition

ASSIGNMENT DUE OCTOBER 8

KEY TOPICS:

- Food security and under nutrition
- Maternal and child under nutrition: global patterns and trends
- Micronutrient deficiencies
- Short term impacts of under nutrition
- Long term impacts of under nutrition
- Nutrition transition
- Over nutrition: global patterns and trends
- Interventions to address under nutrition
- Interventions to address poor dietary habits and chronic diseases

- National and global policies: what works and what still needs to be done

MODULE 6: October 9 - 15 The Need for Complex Interventions: Preventing and Treating HIV

ASSIGNMENT DUE OCTOBER 15

KEY TOPICS:

- Complexity of HIV treatment interventions
- Current advances in biomedical interventions for HIV
- Biomedical interventions overview
- Behavioral interventions overview
- Structural interventions overview

MODULE 7: October 16 - November 4 Engineering, Economics and Health: Water and Sanitation

ASSIGNMENT DUE NOVEMBER 4

Note: This module includes the fall break

KEY TOPICS:

- Water and sanitation MDG goals and current progress
- Effect of water and sanitation on global disease
- Point of use water filtration interventions: effectiveness and scalability
- Willingness to pay for water
- Sanitation behavior modification
- Water demand management
- The economics of sanitation:

MODULE 8: November 5 - 18 Health as a Human Right: Sexual and Reproductive Health

ASSIGNMENT DUE NOVEMBER 18

KEY TOPICS:

- Family planning
- Safe motherhood
- Elimination of unsafe abortion
- Prevention and treatment of STIs, cervical cancer and other gynecological morbidities
- Promotion of healthy sexuality (sexual health , sexuality and sexual rights)
- Targets and indicators of MDG 5 and barriers to achieving targets
- Link between MDG 5 and other Millennium Development Goals
- Disparity in access to sexual and reproductive health
- Policies and social forces that prevent effective attainment of reproductive health

PART C: THE FUTURE

MODULE 9: November 19 – December 2 Achieving Global Health Outcomes and Impacts: Effective Implementation

ASSIGNMENT DUE DECEMBER 2

KEY TOPICS

- Implementation of programs in communities: success factors and challenges
- Role of communities in promoting health
- Evaluating projects and programs
- Implementing at scale
- Sustainability: Issues and Challenges

MODULE 10: December 3 - December 9 eHealth, iHealth and mHealth: Technology and Health

ASSIGNMENT DUE DECEMBER 9

KEY TOPICS

- Electronic data collection and management
- Remote diagnosis and treatment
- Mobile technology for community health programs
- The emerging role of social media
- Knowledge management for health