

## **MHCH 716: International Family Planning and Reproductive Health**

### **Course Syllabus: Spring 2014**

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**Credit:** 3 semester hours

**Time:** Thursday 11am – 1.50pm

**Location:** MHRC 3100

#### **Course Description:**

This course will provide an overview of the critical issues in international family planning and reproductive health, including major theoretical frameworks, patterns and trends over time, and family planning and reproductive health policy development. We will trace the evolution of the field from its demographic roots through the current expansion to a broader reproductive health perspective. The main theoretical models to explain the determinants of fertility and reproductive mortality and morbidity will be presented. Demographic data will be used to describe the trends and patterns of family planning and reproductive health within the global context. The development of population, family planning and reproductive health policy through the last three decades, along with the more recent focus on the field within the context of health and human rights, will be discussed.

#### **Course objectives:**

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Use conceptual frameworks to analyze reproductive health and family planning issues and their relationship to population and health with a focus on less developed countries (LDCs).
- Interpret international population data and indicators to assess the family planning and reproductive health context of a country.
- Apply demographic approaches to study and evaluate reproductive health and family planning outcomes in adolescents and adults globally.

- Analyze the history and influence of global policy on international family planning and reproductive health programs.
- Recognize and discuss the intersection of reproductive health and human rights

**The course will help students gain MCH Public Health Competency in the following areas:**

Communication: Demonstrate effective written and oral health communication skills appropriately adapted to professional and lay audiences with varying knowledge and skills in interpreting health information.

Leadership: Develop knowledge of one's individual strengths and challenges, as well as mechanisms for continued personal and professional development.

Professionalism & Ethics: Apply evidence-based concepts in public health decision-making; Consider the effect of public health decisions on social justice and equity.

Diversity & Cultural Competency: Demonstrate awareness of and sensitivity to the varied perspectives, norms and values of others based on individual and ethnic/cultural differences (e.g., age, disability, gender, race, sexual orientation, region, and social class).

Program Planning: Discuss social, behavioral, environmental, and biological factors that contribute to specific individual and community health outcomes.

#### **Format of course:**

One 3-hour class per week. Classes will consist of a mix of lectures, group exercises, and discussions. There will be occasional guest lectures from experts in the field. Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions and activities. There will be one 10-15 minute break during each class.

#### **Readings:**

Readings for each specific session are listed on Sakai with hotlinks wherever possible. In 2012 *The Lancet* released a series of reading on family planning to coincide with the London Summit on Family Planning. These are required for the course overall, and are as follows:

#### Articles:

Ahmed, S., Li, Q., Liu, L. & Tsui, A.O. 2012, "Maternal deaths averted by contraceptive use: an analysis of 172 countries", *The Lancet*, vol. 380, no. 9837, pp. 111-125

Canning, D. & Schultz, T.P. 2012, "The economic consequences of reproductive health and family planning", *The Lancet*, vol. 380, no. 9837, pp. 165-171

Cleland, J., Conde-Agudelo, A., Peterson, H., Ross, J. & Tsui, A. 2012, "Contraception and health", *The Lancet*, vol. 380, no. 9837, pp. 149-156

Cottingham, J., Germain, A. & Hunt, P. 2012, "Use of human rights to meet the unmet need for family planning", *The Lancet*, vol. 380, no. 9837, pp. 172-180

Ezeh, A.C., Bongaarts, J. & Mberu, B. 2012, "Global population trends and policy options", *The Lancet*, vol. 380, no. 9837, pp. 142-148

#### Related Commentaries:

Bartram, J., Elliott, M. & Chuang, P. 2012, "Getting wet, clean, and healthy: why households matter", *Lancet*, vol. 380, no. 9837, pp. 85.

Carr, B., Gates, M.F., Mitchell, A. & Shah, R. 2012, "Giving women the power to plan their families", *The Lancet*, vol. 380, no. 9837, pp. 80-82.

Gilmore, K. & Gebreyesus, T.A. 2012, "What will it take to eliminate preventable maternal deaths?", *The Lancet*, vol. 380, no. 9837, pp. 87-88.

Habumuremyi, P.D. & Zenawi, M. 2012, "Making family planning a national development priority", *The Lancet*, vol. 380, no. 9837, pp. 78-80.

Horton, R. & Peterson, H.B. 2012, "The rebirth of family planning", *Lancet*, vol. 380, no. 9837, pp. 77-6736(12)61026-5. Epub 2012 Jul 10.

O'Neill, B.C., Liddle, B., Jiang, L., Smith, K.R., Pachauri, S., Dalton, M. & Fuchs, R. 2012, "Demographic change and carbon dioxide emissions", *The Lancet*, .

Osotimehin, B. 2012, "Family planning save lives, yet investments falter", *The Lancet*, vol. 380, no. 9837, pp. 82-83.

Van Braeckel, D., Temmerman, M., Roelens, K. & Degomme, O. 2012, "Slowing population growth for wellbeing and development", *The Lancet*, vol. 380, no. 9837, pp. 84-85.

#### **Assignments:**

There will be three assignments. Brief descriptions of the assignments are given below. Further details will be distributed 3-4 weeks before the due date.

**Assignment 1 (30%).** Length 5-6 pages: Prepare a briefing paper comparing the fertility and family planning situation OR the maternal health situation in the country you selected for your class exercises based on available survey data. Assume the audience for this paper would be national policy and program decision-makers (e.g. Ministry of Health).

**Due Date: February 20, 2014**

**Assignment 2 (40%).** Length 6-8 pages: You will be given two controversial statements related to international reproductive health policy. Choose one statement for the assignment. For the first part of the assignment prepare an inventory of arguments (a bulleted list) in support of the statement you choose, and an inventory of arguments in opposition to the statement. These "for" and "against" inventories should be based on the literature and available data (make sure you cite these in your list). For the second part of the assignment, use this "for" and "against" list to prepare a personal position statement describing and justifying your own position on the statement you choose.

**Due Date: March 20, 2014**

**Assignment 3 (30%).** This is a group-based assignment. Each group (of 3-4 people based on common topic interest) will select a topic in international family planning or reproductive health of interest to you. Assume that that you have been asked to prepare a briefing for a technical meeting on the topic. The audience will be composed of people with a public health background, but without expertise on this particular topic. The briefing will consist of a presentation of 20 minutes and a 3 page memo. The briefing should be evidence-based.

**Due Date: April 17 or 24, 2014, depending on when you sign up**

**MHCH 716: International Family Planning and Reproductive Health**  
**Course Summary: Spring 2014**

| Date   | Session Title   | Instructor                  |
|--------|---|-----------------------------|
| Jan 9  | Introduction to the Class and Class Logistics;<br>Health and social implications of population dynamics<br>and fertility. | Shelah Bloom<br>Siân Curtis |
| Jan 16 | Data Sources & Measurement in Family Planning and<br>Reproductive Health  | Siân Curtis                 |
| Jan 23 | Core concepts in Reproductive Health I : Frameworks   | Shelah Bloom                |
| Jan 30 | Core concepts in Reproductive Health II: Data sources,<br>methods and quality   | Shelah Bloom                |
| Feb 6  | Core concepts and Measurement Issues in Family<br>Planning  | Siân Curtis                 |
| Feb 13 | Proximate Determinants of Fertility   | Siân Curtis                 |
| Feb 20 | Very low Fertility ( <i>Note this class will meet in Ros101</i> )   | Philip Morgan<br>(TBC)      |
| Feb 27 | Cairo to London: Family Planning to Reproductive Health<br>and Back?  | Siân Curtis                 |
| Mar 6  | Public Health & Human Rights: Development and applied<br>to GBV & HIV   | Shelah Bloom                |
| Mar 13 | SPRING BREAK  |                             |
| Mar 20 | Gender in Family Planning & Reproductive Health<br>Programs and Policy  | Mary Kincaid<br>(TBC)       |
| Mar 27 | Abortion  | Chinelo Okigbo<br>(TBC)     |
| Apr 3  | Gender and M&E: Determining how gender is addressed<br>in health programs, focus on HIV                                   | Shelah Bloom                |
| Apr 10 | GBV in international context: prevalence, policy &<br>programs  | Shelah Bloom                |
| Apr 17 | Student Presentations   | 3 groups                    |
| Apr 24 | Student Presentations   | 3 groups                    |