**Syllabus - Critical Issues in Global Health**  
**PUBH 711 – FALL 2016**

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**Learning Objectives:**

- To explore contemporary issues, problems, and controversies in global health through an interdisciplinary perspective  
- To understand the roles and agendas of major players in global health  
- To understand key global health problems, their distribution, and prevention strategies  
- To examine social, economic, political, and environmental factors that affect public health outcomes  
- To understand the complexities inherent in implementing health programs on a global scale

**American School of Public Health Global Health Competencies**

This course builds competencies in the following three domains identified by ASPH as abilities required by Master’s level students in Global Health Programs:

- **Domain 4: Health Equity and Social Justice**, defined as the framework for the analysis of strategies to address health disparities across socially, demographically, or geographically defined populations.  
- **Domain 6: Socio Cultural and Political Awareness**, defined as the conceptual basis with which to work effectively within diverse cultural settings and across local, regional, national, and international political landscapes.  
- **Domain 7: Strategic Analysis**, defined as the ability to use systems thinking to analyze a diverse range of complex and interrelated factors shaping health trends to formulate programs at the local, national, and international levels.

**Course Structure:**

The course is organized into nine content modules, each spanning one - three weeks.

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

Note: Some of these readings may be replaced by more recent or relevant readings during the course of the semester.

Join the Global Health Community:

Subscribe to Devex for daily news digest. https://www.devex.com/
“Devex is the media platform for the global development community... A social enterprise, we connect and inform 700,000+ global development professionals through news, business intelligence, and funding & career opportunities.”

UNC is a founding member of the TGHC and there are events, newsletters and job postings from member organizations through their email listserv and on LinkedIn. There are a number of networking opportunities available throughout the year.

Attend the Triangle Global Health Consortium Annual Conference, September 30, 2016. The Friday Center, Chapel Hill, NC.

Participate in the Global Health Learning Center online courses: https://globalhealthlearning.org/


If none of these events or organizations are near your home location, seek out the local university or organization that might be focused on global health. There are hundreds of organizations and programs available, both for in person participation and online via the broader global health community.

Evaluation: Combination of individual work, group projects and discussion, and final exam

Grading: Students will be graded on the H, P, L scale.
Breakdown of grade scale is posted on Sakai under “Course Information”
Module 1: August 23 – August 28

Introduction to Global Health

**INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE: SUNDAY, AUGUST 28 (NOT GRADED)**

**KEY TOPICS:**
- Comparing definitions of global health
- Global burden of disease
- Social determinants of health
- Key players in global health

**VIDEO LECTURE:**

Global Health 101: The Kaiser Family Foundation

**REQUIRED READINGS:**


Module 2: August 29 – September 4

Global Burden of Disease

**INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**

*This assignment is over Labor Day weekend.*

**KEY TOPICS:**
- Global burden of disease project overview
- Global burden of disease tools
- Global transitions in health from 1990-2010
- Global disparities in health

**VIDEO LECTURES:**

1. The Global Burden of Disease Study: What does it mean for NIH and Global Health Research?
2. Video on DALY definition
3. Video of Chris Murray on the use of the GBD tools

**REQUIRED READINGS:**


Module 3: September 5 – September 11
Global Health Players, Policy & Funding

Indirect Assignment 3 Due: Sunday, September 11

Key Topics:
- Key entities active in the global health landscape
- Sustainable development goals
- Global health funding mechanisms
- Effectiveness of international aid
- Setting global health priorities

Video Lectures:
1. Video of Laurie Garrett’s lecture, Columbia University, September 2011.
3. Video of Sustainable Development Goals explained, 2015

Required Readings:

Module 4: September 12 – 25
Delivering Health: The Role of Health Systems

Group Assignment 1 Due: Sunday, September 25

Key Topics:
- Overview of health systems
- Components of a health system
- Financing models of health care
- Service delivery models
- Human resources for health
- Health information systems
- Health system reform

VIDEO LECTURE:

1. Janet Hatcher Roberts on Health Systems Strengthening
2. YouTube video: Registering community members for National Health Insurance in Ghana
3. YouTube video: Efficient service delivery at Aravind Eye Clinics in India
4. Strengthening Human Resources for Health in Ivory Coast

REQUIRED READINGS:


MODULE 5: September 26 - October 5  Changing Economies, Changing Behaviors – The Paradox of Nutrition

INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT 4 DUE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5

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
VIDEO LECTURES:
1. Lancet Maternal and Child Nutrition Series – View Videos of Paper 1 Presentation (~27 mins) and Call to Action Presentation (~21 mins)

REQUIRED READINGS:

MODULE 6: October 6 – 26

The Need for Complex Interventions: Preventing and Treating HIV

GROUP ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26

This assignment is over Fall Break.

KEY TOPICS:
- Complexity of HIV treatment interventions
- Current advances in biomedical interventions for HIV
- Biomedical interventions overview
- Behavioral interventions overview
- Structural interventions overview
- HIV, key populations and stigma

VIDEO LECTURES
1. Center for Strategic and International Studies and Kaiser Family Foundation (2016). (Assignment: Watch 1 hr 09 min; Total Playing Time: 1 hr 52 min)
2. The Big Questions to Drive Action Campaign: IAS 2016 (6 videos: total playing time 5 min 39 sec)
3. PBS News Hour (2016). ‘Ending AIDS’ in New York means finding the most vulnerable. (Playing Time 10 min, 12 secs)
4. PBS News Hour (2016). How South Africa, the nation hardest-hit by HIV, plans to ‘end AIDS’. (Playing Time 9 min, 12 secs)
REQUIRED READINGS:
11. PEPFAR 3.0: Controlling the Epidemic: Delivering on the Promise of an AIDS-free Generation.

MODULE 7: October 27 - November 9

Engineering, Economics and Health: Water & Sanitation

INDIVIDUAL (AND PAIR) ASSIGNMENT 5 DUE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

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

VIDEO LECTURES
2. Atlantic Green Intelligence Forum 2010 - Panel Discussion - Playing Time: 45 min 26 sec.
REQUIRED READINGS:
   http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/112727/1/9789241507240_eng.pdf?ua=1
   http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/177752/1/9789241509145_eng.pdf
4. The SDGs for water and sanitation: big promises, big challenges. IRC, September 2015.  
   http://www.ircwash.org/blog/sdg-water-and-sanitation-big-promises-big-challenges (listen to the video at the bottom of the article)
   Journal of Water and Health. 10.4

MODULE 8: November 10 - 30
Health as a Human Right: Sexual and Reproductive Health

GROUP ASSIGNMENT 3 DUE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

This is over Thanksgiving Break.

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)
- Sexual and reproductive rights and the SDGs
- Disparity in access to sexual and reproductive health
- Policies and social forces that prevent effective attainment of reproductive health

VIDEO LECTURES:

REQUIRED READINGS:

**MODULE 9: November 31-December 11**

**INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT 6 DUE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11**

**KEY TOPICS**
- Drivers of successful implementation
- Improving the quality of global health programs
- Approaches to scaling up global health programs

**VIDEO LECTURE:**

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

**FINAL EXAM: DECEMBER 12-14**