Syllabus - Critical Issues in Global Health
PUBH 711 – FALL 2015

Instructor:

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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 - two 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.

Evaluation:  Combination of individual work, group 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”
Readings

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

Module 1: August 18 – August 23  Introduction to Global Health

INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE: AUGUST 23

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 24 – August 30  Global Burden of Disease

INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE: AUGUST 30

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: August 31 – September 6**

**Global Health Players, Policy and Funding**

**INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT 3 DUE SEPTEMBER 6**

**KEY TOPICS:**
- Key entities active in the global health landscape
- US global health policy
- Global health funding mechanisms
- Setting global health priorities

**VIDEO LECTURES:**
1. Video of Laurie Garrett's lecture, Columbia University, September 2011.
2. Video of Global Health Diplomacy in the Second Obama Administration 2013

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

**Module 4: September 7 – September 20**

**Delivering Health: The Role of Health Systems**

**GROUP ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE SEPTEMBER 24**

**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:**
2. YouTube video: Training health workers in the Ivory Coast
3. YouTube video: Registering community members for National Health Insurance in Ghana
4. YouTube video: Efficient service delivery at Aravind Eye Clinics in India

REQUIRED READINGS:


MODULE 5: September 21 - October 4 Changing Economies, Changing Behaviors – The Paradox of Nutrition

INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT 4 DUE OCTOBER 4

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:

3. Plumpy'nut: the miracle food that is saving lives (2010). Video clip from The Guardian. **Playing Time:** 3 mins 15 secs

4. Small Towns Struggle with Food Deserts (2010). Video clip from PBS News Hour. **Playing Time:** 6 mins 25 secs

**REQUIRED READINGS:**


**MODULE 6: October 5 - 25  The Need for Complex Interventions: Preventing and Treating HIV**

**GROUP ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE OCTOBER 25**

Note: This module includes the 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

**VIDEO LECTURES**

1. International AIDS, prevention strategies (2012). Lecture by Dr. Myron Cohen, Director, Institute of Global Health and Infectious Diseases, UNC School of Medicine, Chapel Hill. **Playing Time:** 1 hr, 2 mins.

2. AIDS 2012: Prevention Today: What’s The Right Mix? Video of panel discussion at the 2011 AIDS conference. **Playing Time:** 1 hr, 23 mins.

**REQUIRED READINGS:**


**MODULE 7: October 26 - November 8  Engineering, Economics and Health: Water and Sanitation**

**INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT 5 DUE NOVEMBER 8**

**KEY TOPICS:**
1. Water and sanitation MDG goals and current progress
2. Effect of water and sanitation on global disease
3. Point of use water filtration interventions: effectiveness and scalability
4. Willingness to pay for water
5. Sanitation behavior modification
6. Water demand management
7. The economics of sanitation:

**VIDEO LECTURES**


**REQUIRED READINGS:**


5. IRC International Water and Sanitation Center (2007). Extract from *Sanitation for All*.


MODULE 8: November 9- November 29 Health as a Human Right: Sexual and Reproductive Health

Note: This module includes Thanksgiving break

GROUP ASSIGNMENT 3 DUE NOVEMBER 29

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

VIDEO LECTURES:


REQUIRED READINGS:


INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT 6 DUE DECEMBER 8

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 7-9