Critical Perspectives on Global Health and Health Policy

GHP 351 / ANT 491 / WWS 491

M-W 11:00 am – 12:20 pm
219 Aaron Burr Hall

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Course Description

This course introduces students to pressing disease and health care problems worldwide and examines efforts currently underway to address them. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, the course identifies the main actors, institutions, practices, and forms of knowledge production at work in the ‘global health system’ today, and explores the environmental, social, political, and economic factors that shape patterns and variations in disease and health across societies. We will scrutinize the value systems that underpin specific paradigms in the policy and science of global health and place present-day developments in historical perspective.

Key course topics include: the social determinants of health; development and the governance of disease; vertical and diagonal health interventions; technological change and public health; human rights and global health jurisprudence; measuring health outcomes and assessing value for patients; and the shifting role of states, civil society, and public-private partnerships in health care delivery.

Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to think critically and creatively about health problems and policies and to envision innovative and effective interventions. We will emphasize the ways in which the field of global health challenges both the social and natural sciences to keep up with changing socio-medical realities, to illuminate both the benefits and unintended consequences of interventions, and to better understand local worlds and the needs, experiences and capacities of people.

This is a laptop-free class.
Please turn off all electronic devices before entering the classroom.
Requirements/Grading

The success of the course depends on your commitment to complete all required readings and watch assigned films, to critically reflect on these materials, to participate actively in class discussions, and to creatively integrate course insights into your group project and final independent research paper.

We will adhere to the University’s general standards for grading: http://www.princeton.edu/~odoc/grading_policies.html

Grading will be based on:

- Class attendance and participation, including discussion of films on Blackboard (10%). Students are expected to contribute to class discussions and may be called upon to elucidate course materials.
- A weekly report conveying your own critical response to the week’s course materials (15%). Your report must be turned in every Wednesday, beginning February 10th and ending April 14th. Reports should be no more than one page or 400 words in length. Please adhere to these limits.
- Midterm take-home exam (20%).
- Group project and presentation (15%). Students will be divided among six groups. Each group will explore the current constellation of actors, institutions, knowledges, and practices shaping one of the following broadly conceived global health fields: (1) health effects of socioeconomic and environmental change; (2) restructuring health systems; (3) infectious disease; (4) non-communicable disease; (5) women’s health and children’s health; and (6) metrics. Each group will prepare a 15 to 20 minute power-point summary of their findings, to be presented during the last two weeks of class. Your first and second choice of group should be submitted on Feb. 17th. Groups will be announced on Feb. 22nd.
- A final individual research paper (40%). The final paper is meant to allow you to explore your own global health and health policy interests and to encourage you to assess the potential methodological and analytical contributions of your home discipline. The paper should focus on a specific case within the larger field that you studied in collaboration with your group. In exploring your case—a particular global health challenge (biology/disease, burden, and policy)—you are expected to build on group findings and to critically apply the insights and analytics developed throughout the course. The paper should be 14 to 16 double-spaced pages and include an additional one-page summary of major findings and research and policy recommendations. A short outline of the paper is due on April 19th, and the paper itself is due on Dean’s Date, Tuesday, May 11th, by 5:00 p.m. in 116 Aaron Burr Hall.
Books

The following books are on reserve at Firestone Library. These books will also be available for purchase at Labyrinth Books (122 Nassau Street). Additional articles and book chapters can be downloaded from Blackboard’s electronic reserve.


Office Hours

- Professor João Biehl—Mondays from 1:00 to 2:00 pm, 128 Aaron Burr Hall
- Peter Locke—Tuesdays from 1:30 to 3:00 pm, 356 Wallace Hall
- Erin Fitz-Henry—Wednesdays from 1:00 to 2:00 pm, Aaron Burr Hall lounge
Monday, February 1
Introduction

• **Film:** *The Name of the Disease* by Abhijit Banerjee (2006)

Wednesday, February 3
Critical Perspectives on Global Health


Suggested
• **Film:** *Rx for Survival: A Global Health Challenge*. Episode 3, “Delivering the Goods.”

Monday, February 8
Medical Anthropology and Social Innovation in Global Health

• **Film:** *Partners in Health: Saving Lives in Rural Haiti* (USA)

Suggested

Wednesday, February 10
Pathologies of Power
Reading Report Due


Suggested


• Film: U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Hearing on Haiti Relief, C-SPAN. Online: [http://www.cspan.org/Watch/Media/2010/01/28/HP/28965/Senate+Foreign+Relations+Cmte+Hearing+on+Haiti+Relief.aspx](http://www.cspan.org/Watch/Media/2010/01/28/HP/28965/Senate+Foreign+Relations+Cmte+Hearing+on+Haiti+Relief.aspx)

Monday, February 15

The Governance of Disease


Suggested

Wednesday, February 17

Vertical Health Programs
Reading Report Due


Suggested

Monday, February 22

Pharmaceuticalization:
AIDS Treatment and Global Health Politics

Suggested

Wednesday, February 24
Survival and Care
Reading Report Due


Suggested

Monday, March 1
Development, Mortality and Health

Suggested

Wednesday, March 3
Metrics
Reading Report Due

• Reniers, Georges; Araya, Tekebash; Davey, Gail; Nagelkerke, Nico; Berhane, Yemane; Coutinho, Roel; Sanders, Eduard J. 2009. “Steep declines in population-level AIDS mortality following the introduction of antiretroviral therapy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.” AIDS 23(4): 511-518.

Guest Speaker: Tom Vogl, Department of Economics, Harvard University.

Suggested
Monday, March 8

Social Determinants of Health


Suggested

Wednesday, March 10

Review


Guest Speaker: Marcos Cueto, Professor at the School of Public Health at the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia in Lima, Peru.

*** SPRING BREAK ***
Monday, March 22

Value for Patients in Health Interventions


Wednesday, March 24

A New Science of Global Health Delivery

*Reading Report Due*

• Kim, Jim Yong and Michael E. Porter. Forthcoming. “Redefining Global Health Care Delivery.”

Discussion with Michael Porter, Bishop William Lawrence University Professor at Harvard Business School, on March 25th, 12:00-1:30 PM (location TBA)

*Suggested*

Monday, March 29

Vaccines and Public Health


Guest Speaker: Adel Mahmoud, Lecturer with the rank of Professor in Molecular Biology and Senior Policy Analyst at the Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University.

Wednesday, March 31

Basic Science and the Challenges of Global Health

Reading Report Due


Guest Speaker: Adel Mahmoud, Lecturer with the rank of Professor in Molecular Biology and Senior Policy Analyst at the Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University.
Monday, April 5

Clinical Trials and Global Medicine


Suggested

Wednesday, April 7

Risk, Chronic Conditions, and the Costs of Treatment

Reading Report Due

Monday, April 12
Health and Human Rights

- Recent Human Rights Watch Reports, TBA.

**Guest Speaker: Joseph Amon, Director of the Health and Human Rights Division of Human Rights Watch.**

Wednesday, April 14
Global Health Jurisprudence

*Reading Report Due*

- Letter to Obama on Global Health Spending from the Deans of Public Health and Medical Schools: November 18, 2009.

**Suggested**
Monday, April 19
Discussion of Group Projects
Outline of Final Paper Due

• Health Effects of Socioeconomic and Environmental Change
• Restructuring Health Systems

Wednesday, April 21
Discussion of Group Projects

• Infectious Disease
• Non-Communicable Disease

Monday, April 26
Discussion of Group Projects

• Women’s Health and Children’s Health
• Metrics

Wednesday, April 28
Course Review and the Future of Global Health

*** FINAL PAPER due on Dean’s Date (Tuesday, May 11) by 5 pm in Aaron Burr 116 ***