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.

Grading will be based on:

- **Class attendance, participation, and discussion board posts (20%).** Students are expected to contribute to group and class discussions and may be called upon to elucidate course materials. Each Wednesday by the time class begins students will also be required to post contributions to the Discussion Board on Blackboard; failure to do so will impact the participation grade. Preceptors will read and provide informal feedback on Blackboard posts, and Professor Biehl will also review them periodically. The first post is due Wednesday 9/18, no post is due 10/23 (midterms), and no post is due the final week of class (12/11).

- **Precepts (20%).** All students will be required to attend a precept each week and actively engage all precept discussions and activities, including debates, thinking exercises, and policy memos. This grade will also include small group presentations on specific challenges in global health to take place during the final two precept sessions in December.

- **Midterm take-home exam (25%).** Short essay questions will be posted to Blackboard after class on 10/23. Your responses should be uploaded to Blackboard by Friday, 10/25 at 5:00 PM. Late submissions will be penalized one full letter grade per day.

- **A final individual research paper (35%).** 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 can focus on a specific case within the larger field that you studied for your group presentation in precept. In exploring your case—a particular global health challenge (biology/disease, burden, and policy)—you are expected to critically apply the insights and analytics developed throughout the course. The paper should be 10 to 12 double-spaced pages (*please adhere to this limit!*) and include an additional one-page abstract emphasizing applications for health policy. A short outline of the paper is due on December 3rd, and the paper itself is due on Dean’s Date, **Tuesday, January 14**, by 5:00 p.m in 116 Aaron Burr Hall. Late submissions will be penalized one full letter grade per day.

See University’s general standards for grading: [http://www.princeton.edu/~odoc/grading_policies.html](http://www.princeton.edu/~odoc/grading_policies.html)
Books

The following books are on reserve at Stokes 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

- João Biehl Wednesdays 2:00-3:00 128 Aaron Burr Hall
- Peter Locke: Tuesdays 1:30-3:30 211 Robertson Hall
- Betsey Brada: Mondays 3:30-5:30 354 Wallace Hall
- Yi-Ching Ong: Mondays 12:30-2:30 354 Wallace Hall
Wednesday, September 11

Introduction

- **Film (to be screened in class):** *The Water of Ayolé* by Sandra Nichols (1988)
  Online: [http://wms.andrew.cmu.edu:81/nmvideo/Ayole_video.mov](http://wms.andrew.cmu.edu:81/nmvideo/Ayole_video.mov)
- Bill Gates on progress in global health: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtC_7v4XQ3k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtC_7v4XQ3k)
- Gates and Clinton testify on global health: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdl_eog2ixw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdl_eog2ixw)

Monday, September 16

The Field of Global Health


Wednesday, September 18

Pathologies of Power and Humanitarian Assistance

**Discussion Board Post Due**

- **Film (optional):** *Partners in Health: Saving Lives in Rural Haiti* (USA) [On Blackboard]
Precepts: Week of September 16
What Does Health in “Global Health” Mean?

- Preamble to the WHO Constitution (1946): [Link]

Monday, September 23
A Biosocial Approach: Historically Deep and Geographically Broad


Wednesday, September 25
Magic Bullets and Global Health Politics
Discussion Board Post Due

**Monday, September 30**

**Disease Eradication Today**


**Wednesday, October 2**

**Disease and Development: Reflections on Health, Wealth, and the Origins of Inequality**

**Discussion Board Post Due**


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Guest Lecturer: Angus Deaton, Dwight D. Eisenhower Professor of International and Public Affairs at the Woodrow Wilson School and the Department of Economics, Princeton University.
Monday, October 7

Metrics and Values in Public Health Policy


Guest Lecturer: Jeffrey Hammer, Charles and Marie Robertson Visiting Professor in Economic Development and Lecturer in Public and International Affairs, Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University.

Wednesday, October 9

Evaluating Health and Development Policy

Discussion Board Post Due

- Deaton, Angus. 2010. “Instruments, Randomization, and Learning about Development.” Journal of Economic Literature 48 (June 2010): 424-455. All of Section 1 (“Introduction”), pp. 446-447 from Section 4 (“Randomization in the Tropics”), and all of Section 5 (“Where should we go from here?”).
Monday, October 14  
The Pharmaceuticalization of Health


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Wednesday, October 16  
Patients, Caregiving, Communities, and Micro-Politics  
Discussion Board Post Due


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**Precepts: Week of October 14**  
HIV/AIDS Today

**DISCUSSION:** Where is HIV/AIDS today? What are current and emerging challenges in prevention and treatment?


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Monday, October 21  
Health Systems in Poor Countries


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

**Wednesday, October 23**

**The Global Health Generation**

**No Discussion Board Post Due**


*Guest Speaker: Raphael Frankfurter ’13, Executive Director, Wellbody Alliance*

### Precepts: Week of October 21

**Midterm Review**

***FALL RECESS OCT. 26—NOV. 3***

**Monday, November 4**

**Health Systems in Wealthy Countries**


*Guest Lecturer: Uwe Reinhardt, James Madison Professor of Political Economy and Professor of Economics and Public Affairs, Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University*
Wednesday, November 6
The Politics and Economics of the Affordable Care Act
Discussion Board Post Due


Guest Lecturer: Heather Howard, Director, State Health Reform Assistance Network, and Lecturer, Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University

Precepts: Week of November 4
Debate: Pros and Cons of U.S. Health Care Reform

Monday, November 11
The Science of Global Health Delivery


Wednesday, November 13
Global Mental Health
Discussion Board Post Due


**Precepts: Week of November 11**

**Case Studies: Delivering Global Mental Health**


**Monday, November 18**

**Health and the Environment**


**Wednesday, November 20**

**The Economics of Antibiotic Resistance**

*Discussion Board Post Due*


Guest Lecturer: Ramanan Laxminarayan, Research Scholar, Princeton Environmental Institute, and Lecturer in Economics, Princeton University

Precepts: Week of November 18
Health and the Environment: Food Security


Monday, November 25
The Laboratory and the Market in Global Health


*** THANKSGIVING RECESS NOV. 27 – DEC. 1 ***

Monday, December 2
Vaccines

• Mahmoud, Adel. 2011. “A global road map is needed for vaccine research, development and deployment” Health Affairs (Millwood) 30: 1034-1041.

Guest Lecturer: Adel Mahmoud, Lecturer with the rank of Professor in Molecular Biology and Public Policy, Princeton University.

Wednesday, December 4
Chronic Conditions and New Priorities in Global Health
Discussion Board Post Due

  http://www.who.int/nmh/events/un_ncd_summit2011/political_declaration_en.pdf

Precepts: Week of December 2
Group Presentations

Monday, December 9
Human Rights and the Political Determinants of Health


Guest Lecturer: Joseph Amon, Director, Health and Human Rights Division, Human Rights Watch, and Lecturer in Public and International Affairs, Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University

**Wednesday, December 11**

**The Future of Global Health**

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*** FINAL PAPER due on Dean's Date (Tuesday, January 14) by 5 pm ***