CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES IN GLOBAL HEALTH
GHP 350 / ANT 380 / WWS 380

M-W 11:00 am – 12:20 pm

Computer Science Building, Room 104

Instructor: João Biehl jbiehl@princeton.edu

Postdoctoral Fellows:
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Yi-Ching Ong yichingo@princeton.edu
Bharat Venkat bvenkat@princeton.edu

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; environmental inequalities and health disparities; development and the governance of disease; vertical and diagonal health interventions; scientific and technological innovation 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 AN ELECTRONIC-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, 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 9/17, no post is due 10/22 (midterms), and no post is due the final week of class (12/10).

- **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 10/22. Your responses should be uploaded to Blackboard by Friday, 10/24 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 13**, by 5:00 PM 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
Books

The following books are on reserve at Stokes Library. These books will also be available for purchase at Labyrinth Books (122 Nassau Street).


Optional:

Additional articles and book chapters can be downloaded from Blackboard’s electronic reserve.

Office Hours

- João Biehl  Tues 1:30-3:00 pm  128 Aaron Burr Hall
- Alecia McGregor  Wed 2:30-4:30 pm  356 Wallace Hall
- Yi-Ching Ong  Thurs 12:30-2:30 pm  356 Wallace Hall
- Bharat Venkat  Mon 1:30-3:30 pm  354 Wallace Hall
Wednesday, September 10
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=jdI_eog2ixw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdI_eog2ixw)
- WHO on health and climate change: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z5gtjhWJ-3M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z5gtjhWJ-3M) and [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NaPxml-l-Uk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NaPxml-l-Uk)

Monday, September 15
The Field of Global Health


Wednesday, September 17
Pathologies of Power and Humanitarian Assistance
Discussion Board Post Due


Precepts: Week of September 15
What Does Health in “Global Health” Mean?

Monday, September 22
A Biosocial Approach I:
Historically Deep and Geographically Broad


Wednesday, September 24
A Biosocial Approach II:
How do Social Determinants Get ‘Under the Skin’?
Discussion Board Post Due


Guest Speaker: Dr. José Ricardo Ayres, Professor and Chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine of the Medical School of the University of São Paulo.
Monday, September 29
Magic Bullets and Global Health Politics


Wednesday, October 1
Disease Eradication Today
Discussion Board Post Due


Precepts: Week of September 22
The Place of Health in Development and the Social Determinants of Health

- “Are UN Development Goals Being Reported Accurately?” Interview with *Lancet* editor Richard Horton: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cPD0W_Dic4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cPD0W_Dic4)

Precepts: Week of September 29
The Next UN Development Framework

- **ASSIGNMENT DUE AND DISCUSSION:** Students write their own brief policy memo outlining the place of health in the post-2015 UN Development Framework.
Monday, October 6

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


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

Wednesday, October 8

Metrics and Values in Public Health 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?”).

Guest Speaker: Tom Vogl, Assistant Professor of Economics and International Affairs, Princeton University

Precepts: Week of October 6

**DEBATE:** Pros and Cons of RCTs vs. Field-based Biosocial Studies
Monday, October 13
The Pharmaceuticalization of Health


Wednesday, October 15
Model Policies and the Struggle for a Public Sector


Precepts: Week of October 13
HIV/AIDS Today

- **DISCUSSION**: Where is HIV/AIDS today? What are current and emerging challenges in prevention and treatment?
Monday, October 20
The Science of Global Health Delivery and Technologies of Care


Guest Speaker: Dr. José Ricardo Ayres, Professor and Chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine of the Medical School of the University of São Paulo.

Wednesday, October 22
The Global Health Generation

**NO Discussion Board Post Due**


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

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**Precepts: Week of October 20**

**WORK ON YOUR MID-TERM EXAM**

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*** FALL RECESS OCT. 25—NOV. 2 ***
Monday, November 3
**Health Systems**


**Guest Speaker:** Uwe Reinhardt, James Madison Professor of Political Economy and Professor of Economics and Public Affairs, Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University

Wednesday, November 5
**The Politics and Economics of the Affordable Care Act**

**Discussion Board Post Due**


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

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<td>Debate: Pros and Cons of U.S. Health Care Reform</td>
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Monday, November 10
The Right to Health and Health Care System Reforms


Wednesday, November 12
Women’s Health and the Political Body
Discussion Board Post Due


Guest Speaker: Kristina Graff, Associate Director of the Global Health Program, Princeton University

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Monday, November 17
Where is the Laboratory in Global Health? (Part 1)


Wednesday, November 19
Where is the Laboratory in Global Health? (Part 2)
Discussion Board Post Due


Guest Speaker: Ann Kelly, Senior Lecturer in Sociology, Philosophy, and Anthropology, University of Exeter

Precepts: Week of November 17

Discussion: Ethical Considerations in Designing and Conducting Global Health Research

OR

Debate: Ethical Dilemmas in Research and Clinical Trials
Reading: A case study examining a specific question that is currently very much alive in the field, which is whether clinical trials can be stopped in order to allow more recent (or promising) candidates to be tested instead (article presents both sides): Lavery et al. 2009. “In Global Health Research, Is It Legitimate To Stop Clinical Trials Early on Account of Their Opportunity Costs?” PLoS Medicine, 6(6): e1000071.
Monday, November 24
Vaccines


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

*** THANKSGIVING RECESS NOV. 26 – 30 ***

Monday, December 1
Environmental Change and Global Health

Wednesday, December 3
Environmental Inequalities and Health Disparities
Discussion Board Post Due


Guest Speaker: Janet Currie, Henry Putnam Professor of Economics and Policy Affairs, Princeton University

Precepts: Week of December 1
Group Presentations

Monday, December 8
The Turn to Chronic Conditions in Global Health

  [http://www.who.int/nmh/events/un_ncd_summit2011/political_declaration_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/nmh/events/un_ncd_summit2011/political_declaration_en.pdf)
Wednesday, December 10
The Future
NO Discussion Board Post Due


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

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*** FINAL PAPER due on Dean’s Date (Tuesday, January 13, 2015) by 5 pm ***