Princeton University

Fall 2011

CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON GLOBAL HEALTH AND HEALTH POLICY
GHP 350 / ANT 491 / WWS 491

M-W 11:00 am – 12:20 pm
COS 104

Instructor: Professor João Biehl (jbiehl@princeton.edu)
Postdoctoral Fellows: Betsey Brada (bbrada@princeton.edu)
Peter Locke (plocke@princeton.edu)
Assistant Instructor: Carrie Eisert (ceisert@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; 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 and participation**, including discussion of films on Blackboard (10%). Students are expected to contribute to group and 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 on the following dates: 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 11/14, 11/21, and 11/28. Reports should be no more than one single-spaced page or 400 words in length. Please adhere to these limits. All reports should be handed in to Carrie Eisert in class in hard copy unless otherwise announced. Though you are expected to complete all required reading, your report should be more than a summary of what you have read. Choose a specific theme, focus, or question to guide you in crafting a thoughtful response.

- **Midterm take-home exam (20%)**. Short essay questions will be posted to Blackboard after class on 10/26. Your responses should be uploaded to Blackboard by Friday, 10/28 at 5:00 PM. Late submissions will be penalized one full letter grade per day.

- **Group project and presentation (15%)**. Students will be divided among eight 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 change; (2) health and the environment; (3) infectious disease; (4) neglected tropical disease; (5) women’s health and children’s health; (6) restructuring health systems; (7) non-communicable disease; and (8) treatment and prevention of mental disorders. Each group will prepare a 15 to 20 minute PowerPoint summary of their findings, to be presented during the last two weeks of class. Each student must also submit a 1-page/400-word précis critically reflecting on the findings of his/her group, due on the group’s presentation date. Your first and second choice of group should be submitted on Wednesday, 10/19. Groups will be announced on Monday, 10/24.

- **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 **10 to 12 double-spaced pages (please adhere to this limit!)** and include an additional **one-page summary** of major findings and research and policy recommendations. A short outline of the paper is due on December 6\textsuperscript{th}, and the paper itself is due on Dean’s Date, **Tuesday, January 17**, 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

**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**

- Prof. João Biehl: Tuesdays 1:00-2:00 PM  
  128 Aaron Burr Hall
- Betsey Brada: Tuesdays 11:00 AM-12:00 PM  
  354 Wallace Hall
- Carrie Eisert: Mondays 1:30-2:30 PM  
  419 Robertson Hall
- Peter Locke: Wednesdays 1:30-2:30 PM  
  356 Wallace Hall
Monday, September 19

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)

Wednesday, September 21

The New World of Global Health


**Suggested**

Monday, September 26

Pathologies of Power and Humanitarian Assistance

Reading Report Due

- **Film:** *Partners in Health: Saving Lives in Rural Haiti* (USA) [On Blackboard]

**Suggested**
Wednesday, September 28
Structural Violence and Biosocial Research


Suggested


Monday, October 3
Magic Bullets and the Politics of International Health
Reading Report Due


Suggested


Wednesday, October 5

Development and the Determinants of Mortality

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

Suggested

Monday, October 10

Metrics and Values in Public Health Policy

Reading Report Due

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

Wednesday, October 12
Evidence-Based Global Health

- 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 Lecturer: Tom Vogl, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics and Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs
Monday, October 17  
The Pharmaceuticalization of Health  
Reading Report Due


Suggested

Wednesday, October 19  
Public-Private Partnerships


Suggested
Monday, October 24
Patients, Communities, and Micro-Politics


Suggested
- Film: *Song of the Soul: Stories of Hospice in South Africa* by Janet S. Parrott (2010)

Wednesday, October 26
Review Session

*** FALL RECESS ***
Monday, November 7
Health Systems


Suggested
- Film: *Ladies in Waiting* by Dieudo Hamadi and Divita Wa Lusala (2010)

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

Wednesday, November 9
The Science of Global Health Delivery


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

**Monday, November 14**

**Global Mental Health**

**Reading Report Due**


**Suggested**

- Film: *State of Mind: Healing Trauma* by Djo Tunda Wa Munga (2010)

**Wednesday, November 16**

**The Laboratory in Global Health**


**Suggested**


Monday, November 21
Therapeutic Markets
Reading Report Due


Suggested

Wednesday, November 23
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 Senior Policy Analyst at the Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University.

Monday, November 28
Health and Human Rights
Reading Report Due


Suggested

Guest Lecturer: Dr. Joseph Amon, Director of the Health and Human Rights Division of Human Rights Watch; Lecturer, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs
Wednesday, November 30
Group Presentations I

- Health Effects of Socioeconomic Change
- Health and the Environment

Monday, December 5
Group Presentations II
Outline of Final Paper Due

- Infectious Disease
- Neglected Tropical Disease

Wednesday, December 7
Group Presentations III

- Women’s Health and Children’s Health
- Restructuring Health Systems

Monday, December 12
Group Presentations IV

- Non-Communicable Disease
- Treatment and Prevention of Mental Disorders

Wednesday, December 14
Final Discussion

*** FINAL PAPER due on Dean’s Date (Tuesday, January 17) by 5 pm in Aaron Burr 116 ***