

# SYLLABUS

## Critical Issues in Global Health

Term: Fall 2008

Course Number: PUBHLT 2009

CRN# 25782

Number of Credits: 2

Class Meeting Time: Thursdays 3:00PM - 4:55PM

Class Meeting Location: A522 Public Health-Crabtree

Primary Instructor: Robbie Ali MD, MPH, MPPM

Office Hours: By Appointment

<b>Contact Information</b>			
<b>Main Faculty</b>			
<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Office</i>
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### Course Summary

This course will introduce students to critical issues in global health, emphasizing a multidisciplinary approach to understanding global health problems as they occur both within and across borders. It also aims to assist each student in moving forward along his or her academic / career path as it relates to global health. The course will examine the full range of factors—social, economic, political, environmental, and others—that affect global health. Both broad basic concepts and emerging issues of global health will be considered. Global health topics to be considered will include: health systems and economics; chronic disease; infectious disease; mental health; nutrition, obesity, and physical activity; aging from a global perspective; environmental concerns and consequences; managing public health resources; health systems and economics; injuries, accidents, and violence; women's health, including reproduction; and globalization and health. This course will use a range of formats (lectures, group discussion, panel presentations, case studies) led by key university faculty from across the university involved with various aspects of global health to explore these issues.

## Teaching/Learning Objectives

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Comprehend and discuss a broad range of contemporary issues, problems, and controversies in global health
- Understand and describe tools that are used to examine the full range of factors (economic, epidemiologic, political, environmental, etc.) that affect global health
- Analyze a given health problem from diverse perspectives (demographic, developmental, economic, cultural, health systems, and organizational)
- Propose multidisciplinary approaches to address global health problems and describe the strengths and weaknesses of these possible approaches
- Use print, library, and online resources to find quantitative and qualitative health data about a given country or region
- Critically review the literature and understand how to prepare a paper for peer review and publication on a chosen global health topic
- Prepare and deliver a short formal presentation on a global health issue

## Texts and Supplemental Readings

There are two textbooks for the course, one required and one recommended:

1. (REQUIRED) *Understanding Global Health*, William H. Markle, Melanie A. Fisher, Raymond A. Smego, Jr. (eds.) McGraw-Hill Publishers, New York NY, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0-07-148784-9.
2. (RECOMMENDED) *International Public Health: Diseases, Programs, Systems, and Policies* (second edition), Michael H. Merson, Robert E. Black, and Anne J. Mills (eds.). Jones and Bartlett Publishers, Sudbury, MA, 2006. ISBN-13: 978-0-7637-2967-

Both books have been ordered through the University Book Center.

Other materials to be used will be available on-line through the Health Sciences Library System or will be distributed in class.

## Grades

Letter grades will be determined as follows:

- 20% attendance and participation
- 15% reflection paper
- 50% final class project
- 15% presentation

## **Attendance and Participation**

Guest speakers/facilitators for “Critical Issues in Global Health,” are experts in their respective fields. Much of the learning that occurs in this course will occur in class through the formal presentations and the subsequent discussion. For this reason, *class attendance will be mandatory* and will be recorded. If you have to miss class for a *valid, high priority reason*, please advise Dr. Ali in advance. Students’ ability to critically evaluate the readings and presentations, as demonstrated in class discussion, will be used to assess class participation and will be an important part of the final grade.

## **Assignments**

Each student will be asked to write one short reflection paper and prepare a final class project, as described below.

1. You will prepare a reflection paper on a course session of your choice (except the first and last two classes). For this paper, please integrate information from the textbook, supplemental readings, the class discussion, and any follow-up research on the topic that you choose to do. Your reflections should be analytical and not simply descriptive; ideally, you will outline and support your position and/or your reactions to the challenges involved with the topic on which you choose to reflect. Your paper should be no more than three double-spaced pages long (12-point Times Roman) and should cite any additional references you use to support your discussion (references are not included in the page count). Your paper is due in class two weeks after the session on which you choose to reflect (i.e., if you choose to reflect on the discussion of infectious diseases on November 1, your paper is due in class on November 15).

2. Your final project will consist of researching and producing an article on a global health topic that is written according to the submission format and standards of a specific peer-reviewed journal. You may choose to work in groups on these projects. Steps for the project should include: (1) choose groups, topic, and journal (2) write abstract, identify resources, and write brief plan, (3) research and write first draft, (4) write final draft.

Students will meet outside of class during the semester with the instructor who will give input on the focus, style, and content of these articles. Articles will be due and collected three weeks before the class ends (i.e., before the Thanksgiving break). The last two weeks of class will consist of group presentations of these articles in PowerPoint format.

## **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

If you have any disability for which you may require accommodation, you are encouraged to notify both your instructor (Dr. Ali) and the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 216 William Pitt Union (412-648-7890) during the first two weeks of the term.

## **Academic Integrity**

All students are expected to adhere to the standards of academic honesty. Any work submitted by a student must represent his/her own intellectual contribution and efforts. Any student found to be engaged in cheating, plagiarism, or any other acts of academic dishonesty will be subject to a failing grade in the assignment and/or the course and to further disciplinary action.