

Global Health 301/Public Health 390
Introduction to International Public Health

Course Director: William R. Leonard

121 University Hall
Evanston Campus

Mondays 6:00 – 9:00 PM

September 25 – November 20, 2006

Introduction to International Public Health (GH 301/PH 390)
Mondays 6 – 9 PM; September 25 – November 20, 2006

Course Director

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Course Faculty

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Judith Helzner, MA
Director
Population & Reproductive Health
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Rebecca Seligman, PhD
Visiting Assistant Professor
Department of Anthropology
Northwestern University

Christopher W. Kuzawa, PhD, MsPH
Assistant Professor
Department of Anthropology
Northwestern University

Course Description

Introduction to International Public Health will orient students to the biological, socio-cultural and economic influences on population-level variation in health and well-being. The continuum between health and illness will be explored, focusing on both the proximate and distal determinants of variation in health and well-being. Students will learn about key players in international health—the multilateral and bilateral donor communities, Ministries of Health, UN agencies, foundations, NGOs—and understand important shifts in donor policies towards healthcare delivery. They will be introduced to the major health problems currently affecting the developing world, and alerted to the importance of employing a population-based vs. a purely clinical approach to solving these health problems.

Course Objectives

- Describe the importance of culture, class, and gender on (a) objective measures of health, (b) perceptions of health and illness, and (c) access to health services.
- Delineate the difference between population-based and clinical approaches to health improvement and why population-based approaches are more effective in resource poor settings.
- Examine both quantitative and qualitative approaches for assessing health status and perceptions of health in non-Western populations around the world.
- Discuss the ethical issues implicit in conducting research in the developing world.
- Identify the key players in international public health.
- Discuss the main causes of ill health in the developing world.

Course Structure

The course will employ a lecture/discussion/small group participation format. There will be nine, three-hour, sessions scheduled to facilitate participation by students from both NU campuses. The first class will introduce students to the field of international health. Lectures 2 through 8 will cover specific international health issues; the final class will be a poster session where students will present their final term projects.

Evaluation

Attendance & participation. Students are expected to attend all sessions, complete required readings, and participate in group assignments. Class attendance and discussion will account for 20% of the final grade.

Group presentations. During the first class, students will sign up for teams that will be responsible for guiding discussion of the lecture topics during the second half of each class during weeks 2 through 8. Teams will have an opportunity to meet and work on their approaches during the third hour of the first and second classes. Performance of the Discussion Team will account for 25% of the course grade.

Final papers. Students will prepare a final 12-15 page paper on a topic of their choice. The papers should address key research and/or policy issues related to International Health. All papers are due by the last class session on November 20th. The final paper will account for 30% of the course grade. Deductions for late papers will be 10% per day.

Posters. The last session will be devoted to a poster session. Students will create and present a poster on their final paper topic. The poster presentation will count for 25% of the final grade.

Component	Percent of Final Grade
Attendance & Class Participation	20%
Group Presentation	25%
Final Paper (due Nov. 20th)	30%
Poster Presentation (Nov. 20th, Norris Center)	25%

Course Evaluation [For Public Health Students ONLY]

The Programs in Public Health administer web-based course evaluations to students for each course near the end of the quarter. Your completion of both the Unit (course) and Faculty evaluations is required; failure to complete the evaluations will result in an incomplete grade until the evaluations are submitted. You will be sent the web link and instructions via e-mail later in the quarter. You will have about 2 weeks time to complete the evaluations before grades are submitted.

Class Schedule

September 25th

Introduction: What is International Public Health? How Healthy is the Developing World?

Instructor: William Leonard

October 2nd

Malnutrition and child survival

Instructor: William Leonard

October 9th

The Evolution of International Family Planning to Reproductive and Sexual Health

Instructor: Judith Helzner

October 16th

Global Perspectives on HIV/AIDS

Instructor: Robert Bailey

October 23rd

Emerging Diseases and Health Inequalities

Instructor: William Leonard

October 30th

International Perspectives on Mental Health

Instructor: Rebecca Seligman

November 6th

Qualitative Health Research in the Developing World

Instructor: Elise Levin

November 13th

Emergence of Obesity & Chronic Diseases in the Developing World

Instructor: Christopher Kuzawa

November 20th

**Poster Session: Northwestern Room, Norris Center (Evanston Campus): 6:00-9:00
(Final papers due)**

Required Readings

Course packs available at: Quartet Copies, 825 Clark Street, Evanston (847-328-0720)

Session One: September 25th

What is International Public Health? How Healthy is the Developing World?

1. Merton MH, RE Black, and AJ Miles. 2001. Introduction. In: *International Public Health: Diseases, Programs, Systems and Policies*, MH Merton, RE Black, and AJ Miles (eds.), Aspen: Gaithersburg, MD, pp. xvii-xxvi.
2. WHO. 2004. Chapter 1: Global Health: Today's Challenges. In: *The World Health Report 2003: Shaping the Future*. Geneva: WHO.

Session Two: October 2nd

Malnutrition and Child Survival

1. Rice AL, Sacco L, Hyder A, Black RE. 2000. Malnutrition as an underlying cause of childhood deaths associated with infectious diseases in developing countries. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 78: 1207-1221.
2. de Onis M, Frongillo EA, Blossner M. 2000. Is malnutrition declining? An analysis of changes in levels of child malnutrition since 1980. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 78:1222-1233.
3. Dewey KG. 2001. The challenges of promoting optimal infant growth. *Journal of Nutrition* 131:1879-1880.

Session Three: October 9th

The Evolution of International Family Planning

1. Blanc AK. 2001. The effect of power in sexual relationships on sexual and reproductive health: An examination of the evidence. *Studies in Family Planning* 32:189-213.
2. Helzner JF. 2002. Transforming family planning services in the Latin American and Caribbean region. *Studies in Family Planning* 33:49-60.
3. Seltzer J. 2002. *The Origins and Evolution of Family Planning Programs in Developing Countries*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND.
available online: www.rand.org/publications/MR/MR1276 .

Session Four: October 16th

Northwestern International Public Health

Global Perspectives on HIV/AIDS

1. Graham, NMH. 2004. Review of the epidemiology of human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome. In: KE Nelson, CM Williams and NMH Graham (eds.). *Infectious Disease Epidemiology: Theory and Practice*. Boston: Jones and Bartlett, pp. 521-565.
2. UNAIDS/WHO. 2004. AIDS Epidemic Update: December, 2004. WHO: Geneva. available online: http://www.unaids.org/wad2004/report_pdf.html

Session Five: October 23rd

Emerging Diseases and Health inequalities

1. Armelagos GC, Brown PJ, Turner B. 2005. Evolutionary, historical and political economic perspectives on health and disease. *Social Science and Medicine* 61:755-765.
2. Mascie-Taylor GCN, Karim E. 2003. The Burden of Chronic Disease. *Science* 302:1921-922.

Session Six: October 30th

International Perspectives on Mental Health

Readings TBA

Session Seven: November 6th

Qualitative Perspectives on International Health Research

1. Scrimshaw SC. 2001. Culture, behavior and health. In: MH Merton, RE Black, and AJ Miles (eds.) *International Public Health: Diseases, Programs, Systems and Policies*. Gaithersburg, MD: Aspen Publishers, pp. 53-78.
2. Scrimshaw NS, Gleason GR (Eds.). 1992. *Rapid assessment procedures: Qualitative methodologies for planning and evaluation of health related programmes*. Boston, MA: International Nutrition Foundation for Developing Countries (INFDC).
 - a. Introduction
 - b. Chernea MM. Chapter 1 -- Re-tooling in applied social investigation for development. Planning: Some methodological issues.
 - c. Scrimshaw SC. Chapter 2 -- Adaptation of anthropological methodologies to rapid assessment of nutrition and primary health care.

available online at:

<http://www.unu.edu/unupress/food2/UIN08E/UIN08E00.HTM#Contents>

Session Eight: November 13th

Emergence of Obesity & Chronic Diseases in the Developing World

1. Prentice AM, Moore SE. 2005. Early programming of adult diseases in resource poor countries. *Archives of Disease in Childhood* 90:429-432.
2. Popkin BM, Gordon-Larsen P. 2004. The nutrition transition: Worldwide obesity dynamics and their determinants. *International Journal of Obesity* 28(Suppl 3):S2-9.
3. Drake AJ, Walker BR. 2004. The intergenerational effects of fetal programming: non-genomic mechanisms for the inheritance of low birth weight and cardiovascular risk. *Journal of Endocrinology* 180:1-16.