Course Name: *Issues in Global Pediatric Oral Health*

Course Number: GPH – GU 2520, BIOL – GA 2520

No. of Credits: 3

Year of Curriculum: 2

Course Description: Children in disadvantaged communities of developing countries have rates of untreated oral diseases that range from 32-90%. In over forty of the least developed countries, many communities have no basic or emergency care for their populations. This course will allow the student to: a) understand the epidemiology of oral diseases in children, b) understand and develop ways to meet the challenge of untreated oral diseases in disadvantaged communities, c) identify significant issues that affect the oral health of children worldwide and proposed ways to improve the oral health of children, and d) acquire the skills necessary to develop oral health promotion strategies directed at children across the world.

Depending on class enrollment, the course will be conducted with independent study or traditional seminar structure. Students will be challenged through individualized assignments to apply their knowledge of biologic foundations and public health principles and policy, as well as use critical thinking, to problem-solve and suggest solutions to public health issues. In addition, students will be exposed to ground-breaking and innovative concepts, landmarks and events in a historic context, chronicling the evolution of oral health care for children around the world. Classes will be multi-formatted, tailored to the number and background of the group, and consist of lectures, seminars, assigned projects and case studies. Students will make oral presentations in class based on reading assignments, as well as submit a term paper in lieu of a written final examination. Additionally, to address how public health is practiced in real world scenarios, working professionals will be invited to discuss their career paths and work circumstances and allow students an opportunity to ask questions relevant to their own career goals.

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Office Hours: 3 hours available per week, by appointment

Academic Term in which course is given: Spring

Contact Hours:
Lecture Hours: 30
Examination Hours: 4

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/EVALUATION:
1. The student should meet the goals and objectives as outlined in the course syllabus.
2. The student must adhere to the lecture attendance policy.
3. The student is responsible for all assigned reading, as well as lecture/seminar material.
4. The student must receive passing grades in all assigned projects and a final examination.

GRADING POLICIES:

GRADES GIVEN IN THE COURSE:
A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, and F

MECHANISM FOR DETERMINATION OF FINAL GRADE:
Final grade will be based on a composite of attendance, participation in classroom discussions, and quality of assigned presentations and term paper.

MAKEUP POLICY FOR MISSED EXAMINATIONS:
Students must complete assigned projects, presentations and papers. In the event excessive absence results from a serious illness or circumstance beyond the control of the student, the course director will determine the appropriate course of action.

ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR THE COURSE:
Students are expected to attend all class sessions and participate in all class activities. There are no makeup opportunities for missed sessions.

Required Reading:

*Other texts, selected research papers and review articles from domestic and international pediatric and public health journals* - to be determined.

**Recommended Reading:**
1. Selections from the Journal of the International Association of Paediatric Dentistry

*Other selected research papers and review articles to be determined.*

Readings will cover current events as well as topical issues and controversies related to community and pediatric oral health promotion.

**Projected Course Topics by Week:** *(subject to change at the discretion of the course director)*

- **Week 1:** Children’s dental caries as a global chronic disease
- **Week 2:** Advocating for children’s oral health around the world
- **Week 3:** The medical model of care and conservative and therapeutic philosophy
- **Week 4:** Fluoridation status of the child and alternatives to community based fluoridation
- **Week 5:** Risk assessment for children’s oral/dental disease
- **Week 6:** Children’s diet, nutrition, and culturally influenced practices that affect oral health
- **Week 7:** Case studies: Oral health infrastructure of other countries (presented by participants)
- **Week 8:** Maternal oral health and its relationship to infant’s general and oral health
- **Week 9:** Alternative therapies and delivery systems: i.e. Intermediate Therapeutic Restorations (ITR – formerly ART), Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF), Alternative fluoride modalities, etc.
- **Week 10:** Invited lecturers: country specific programs (e.g. Africa, India, Chile)
- **Week 11:** Societal influences and the role of the family in preventing childhood oral disease
- **Week 12:** Case study: A municipal oral health program – New York City Department of Health Bureau of Oral Health
- **Week 13:** Invited lecturer – career choices and the workplace for public health professionals
- **Week 14:** Ask the Expert – Seminar/Q&A session on governmental affairs and policymaking
- **Week 15:** Final Project due