

SYLLABUS AND OVERVIEW
P11.1831 Introduction to Global Health Policy

Course Description:

Why are some people in some countries so much healthier than others? This course will explore the factors that explain the unequal distribution of health and disease in the world. The course will begin with an introduction to the language of global health: the burden of disease, epidemiology, cost-effectiveness, and health systems. It will then analyze the rationale for and modes of intervention to improve global health by exploring a number of high-profile topics, including the HIV/AIDS epidemic, access to pharmaceuticals, human resources for health, and maternal and child health. The course will incorporate knowledge and views from multiple academic disciplines (public health, economics, politics, management, sociology, etc) and does not require any background knowledge. It is open to students in all degree concentrations.

Objectives:

- To introduce key concepts and frameworks used in examining global health issues
- To understand the distribution of health and disability around the world and to understand the individual, social, and institutional factors that affect the burden of disease
- To explore issues and controversies in global health in an interdisciplinary manner
- To introduce the key actors in the global health system
- To learn to articulate the policy relevance of complex global health issues

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Office Hours: Email me to schedule a time to meet

Meeting time and location: Monday, 4:55-6:35 p.m., Room 208

Grading:

- Four policy memos (10% each for a total of 40% of final grade)
- Final in-class exam (40%)
- 2 blog postings (5% each for a total of 10% of final grade)
- Class participation (10%)

Assignments:

Policy memos:

An important skill for anyone interested in working in public policy is the ability to summarize complex issues and to articulate concise arguments. During the semester you will be asked to write four - 2 page (max!) policy memos (minimum 11 point font, minimum 1.5 spaced, reasonable margins). The policy memos will be due throughout the course, approximately one

every 3 weeks. Memo assignments will be posted online 1-2 weeks before they are due at the start of the assigned class.

Blog postings:

Our course has its own blog and you are the bloggers. At the beginning of the term, I will circulate a list of the classes and topics for each class. Students will sign up in advance for two sessions. During your assigned week, and by midnight Sunday night before class, you must upload one blog posting broadly related to the week's theme. You could explore one of the readings, talk about recent developments in this area, or express a viewpoint. Your grade will depend on how useful the posting was and either how informative or how well articulated the posting. A one page overview of how to post will also be circulated at the beginning of class and will be available on the course website. Students must each post at least twice for full grades but there is no maximum number of postings. Your grade will be based on the two sessions you signed up for in advance.

In-Class Final Exam:

There will be a final exam for this course during the December exam week. The exact date and time will be announced during the semester. The in-class examination will test key concepts learned during the early parts of the course, your knowledge of the assigned readings, and your ability to summarize the policy relevance of complex global health issues. The exam will comprise a combination of short answer and short paragraph response questions.

Class participation:

I reserve 10% of your grade to reflect the general effort you put into the course, including your participation in class, your discussion on the blog, your demonstrated enthusiasm for the subject matter and attendance. I realize that you are all busy adults and sometimes things come prevent you from attending class, but I hope you can try to minimize such events, and generally appreciate an explanation for your absence.

Textbooks:

There is no official textbook for this course. Instead the course will use chapters from textbooks that have been available and free of charge online and readings from the academic literature. All of the readings will be made available on the course blackboard website, however, you are responsible for all printing of the readings.

Section One: Introduction to Global Health Policy

1. September 14: An Introduction to Global Health Policy and Course Specifics

Topics covered:

- What is global health?
- Do global health policies have impact?
- Why should the world care about improving global health?
- Introduction to epidemiological and demographic concepts
- Overview of course requirements
- How is this course different from other courses available at Wagner?

Key learning concept: Basic epidemiological and demographic concepts

Readings:

- Black, RE, Morris, SS, Bryce, J. (2003) "Where and why are 10 million children dying every year?" *Lancet* 361: 2226-2234.
- Jha, P, Mills, A, Hanson, K, Kumaranayake, L, Conteh, L, Kurowski, C, Nguyen, SN, Oliveira Cruz, V, Ranson, K, Vaz, LME, Yu, S, Morton, O, Sachs, JD. (2002) "Improving the Health of the Global Poor." *Science* 295: 2036-2039.
- Wagstaff, A, Claeson, M, Hecht, RM, Gottret, P, and Fang, Q. (2006) "Millennium Development Goals for Health: What Will It Take to Accelerate Progress?" In *Disease Control Priorities in Developing Countries (2nd Edition)*, pages 181-194. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Lindstrand, A, Bergstrom, S, Rosling, H, Rubenson, B, Stenson, B, Tylleskar, T. (2008) "Health Indicators." In *Global Health: An introductory Textbook*, pages 99-122. Lund, Sweden: Studentlitteratur AB.
- Quickly review: Editors. (2006) "Glossary." In *Global Burden of Disease and Risk Factors*, pages 0-3. New York: Oxford University Press.

2. September 21: How healthy (or sick) is the world?

Topics covered:

- What is the global burden of disease?
- What are the major patterns of distribution of disease in the world?
- How is health defined and measured at the population level?
- What are some of the normative implications of how we measure health?

Key learning concept: Population health summary measures

Readings:

- Lopez, AD, Mathers, CD, Ezzati, M, Jamison, DT, Murray, CJL. (2006) "Measuring the Global Burden of Disease and Risk Factors, 1990—2001." In *Global Burden of Disease and Risk Factors*, pages 1-13. New York: Oxford University Press.

- Murray, CJL, Salomon, JA, Mathers, C. (2000) “A critical examination of summary measures of population health.” *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 78(8): 981-994.
- Mathers, CD, Loncar, D. (2006) “Projections of Global Mortality and Burden of Disease from 2002 to 2030.” *PLoS Medicine* 3(11): 2011-2030.
- Anand, S, Hanson, K. (1997) “Disability-adjusted life years: a critical review.” *Journal of Health Economics* 16: 685-702.
- Arnesen, T, Nord, E. (1999) “The value of DALY life: problems with ethics and validity of disability adjusted life years.” *BMJ* 319: 1423-1425.

3. September 28: Why is there such an unequal distribution of health in the world?

Topics covered:

- What contribution do income, education, and other factors make to health?
- What are the social determinants of health?
- What explains the variation in the global burden of disease across countries?
- How do we attribute causation in health?

Key learning concepts: Correlation vs. causation and observational vs. experimental studies

Readings:

- Cutler, D, Deaton, A, Lleras-Muney, A. (2006) “The Determinants of Mortality.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 20(3): 97-120.
- Smith, JP. (1999) “Healthy Bodies and Thick Wallets: The Dual Relation Between Health and Economic Status.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 13(2): 145-166.
- Marmot, M. (2006) “Health in an unequal world.” *Lancet* 368: 2081-2090.
- Link, BG, Phelan, J. (1995) “Social Conditions As Fundamental Cause of Disease.” *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 35: 80-94.
- Taubes, G. (2007) “Do We Really Know What Makes Us Healthy?” *New York Times Magazine*. September 16, 2007.

4. October 5: What are the priorities in global health policy?

POLICY MEMO #1 IS DUE AT THE START OF CLASS

Topics covered:

- How are priorities in global health defined?
- How are global health priorities set?
- What is cost-effectiveness and how can it be used to define priorities?
- What other frameworks have influenced global health priorities?

Key learning concept: Cost-effectiveness analysis

Readings:

- Jamison, DT, Breman, JG, Measham, AR, Alleyne, G, Claeson, M, Evans, DB, Jha, P, Mills, A, Musgrove, P. (2006) "Cost-Effectiveness Analysis." In *Priorities in Health*, ed., pages 39-58. New York: Oxford University Press.

- Shiffman, J. (2009) “A social explanation for the rise and fall of global health issues.” *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 87: 608-613.
- Laxminarayan, R, Mills, AJ, Breman, JG, Measham, AR, Alleyne, G, Claeson, M, Jha, P, Musgrove, P, Chow, J, Shahid-Salles, S, Jamison, DT. (2006) “Advancement of global health: key messages from the Disease Control Priorities Project.” *Lancet* 367: 1193-1208.
- Sanghavi, D. (2007) “Wrong Number: Is it cost-effective to treat the world’s poor?” *Slate Magazine*, July 17, 2007.

Section Two: The Organization of Global Health Delivery

5. October 12: Introduction to health systems

Topics covered:

- What is a health system?
- How do we measure health system performance? What are limits of this approach?
- Why do some health systems perform so much better than others?
- What does it mean to strengthen a health system?

Readings:

- Hsiao, WC. (2003) “What is a Health System? Why Should We Care?” Harvard School of Public Health Working Paper.
- Murray, CJL, Frenk, J. (2000) “A framework for assessing the performance of health systems.” *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 78(6): 717-731.
- Mills, A, Rasheed, F, Tollman, S. (2006) “Strengthening Health Systems.” In *Disease Control Priorities in Developing Countries (2nd Edition)*, pages 87-102. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Reich, MR, Takemi, K, Roberts, MJ, Hsiao, WC. (2008) “Global action on health systems: a proposal for the Toyako G8 summit.” *Lancet* 371: 865-869.

6. October 19: Options for improving health service delivery at the national level

Topics covered:

- Individual vs. population health services
- The role of primary health care vs. tertiary health care
- Horizontal vs. vertical health service delivery
- Public vs. private health care

Readings:

- Filmer, D, Hammer, JS, Pritchett, LH. (2000) “Weak Links in the Chain: A Diagnosis of Health Policy in Poor Countries.” *The World Bank Observer* 15(2): 199-224.
- Frenk, J. (2009) “Reinventing primary health care: the need for systems integration.” *Lancet*. Published online May 12, 2009.

- Mills, A. (2005) “Mass campaigns versus general health services: what have we learnt in 40 years about vertical versus horizontal approaches?” *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 83(4): 315-316.
- Berman, PA. (1998) “Rethinking Health Care Systems: Private Health Care Provision in India.” *World Development* 26(8): 1463-1479.
- McPake, B. (2009) “Hospital Policy in Sub-Saharan Africa and Post-Colonial Development Impasse.” *Social History of Medicine* 22(2): 341-360.

7. October 26: The role of international actors in the delivery of health services

POLICY MEMO #1 IS DUE AT THE START OF CLASS

Topics covered:

- What role do international actors play in health service delivery in developing countries?
- How are national priorities influenced by international priorities?
- How has development assistance for health evolved?
- What is the role of non-governmental actors (both international and domestic) in health service delivery?

Readings:

- Cohen, J. (2006) “The New World of Global Health.” *Science* 311: 162-167.
- Brown, TM, Cueto, M, Fee, E. (2006) “The World Health Organization and the Transition from ‘International’ to ‘Global’ Public Health.” *American Journal of Public Health* 96(1): 62-72.
- Ruger, JP. (2005) “The Changing Role of the World Bank in Global Health.” *American Journal of Public Health* 95(1); 60-70.
- Cohen, MA. (2008) “The New Colonialists.” *Foreign Policy* 167: 74-79.
- Ravishankar, N, Biggins, P, Cooley, RJ, Leach-Kermon, K, Michaud, CM, Jamison, DT, Murray, CLJ. (2009) “Financing of global health: tracking development assistance for health from 1990-2007.” *Lancet*. 373: 2113-2124.

Section Three: Challenges to improving health service delivery

8. November 2: Health service delivery - demand side issues

Topics covered:

- What factors affect the demand for health services in developing countries?
- How do households select among health care providers?
- How does quality affect the demand for health care services in developing countries?

Readings:

- Gertler, PJ, Hammer, JS. “Strategies for Pricing Publicly Provided Health Services.” World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. 1762. May 1997. The World Bank, Washington, D.C.

- Banerjee, A, Deaton, A, Duflo, E. (2004) “Health, Health Care and Economic Development: Wealth, Health, and Health Services in Rural Rajasthan.” *American Economic Review* 94(2): 326-330.
- Kruk, ME, Mbaruku, G, McCord, CW, Moran, M, Rockers, PC, Galea, S. (2009) “Bypassing primary care facilities for childbirth: a population-based study in rural Tanzania.” *Health Policy and Planning* 24: 279-288.
- Leonard, KL, Mliga, GR, Mariam, DH. (2003) “Bypassing Health Centres in Tanzania: Revealed Preferences for Quality.” *Journal of African Economies* 11(4): 441-471.

9. November 9: Guest Lecture: John Gershman

10. November 16: Health service delivery – supply side issues

POLICY MEMO #3 IS DUE AT THE START OF CLASS

Topics covered:

- The distribution of human resources for health
- Incentives of health care providers
- Quality of health care providers
- The migration of health care providers

Readings:

- Anand, S, Baernighausen, T. (2004) “Human resources and health outcomes: a cross-country econometric study” *Lancet* 364: 1603-09.
- Chen, L, Evans, T, Anand, S, Boufford, JI, Brown, H, Chowdhury, M, Cueto, M, Dare, L, Dussault, G, Elzinga, G, Fee, E, Habte, D, Hanvoravongchai, P, Jacobs, M, Kurowski, C, Michael, S, Pablo-Mendez, A, Sewankambo, N, Solimano, G, Stilwell, B, de Waal, A, Wibulpolprasert, S. (2004) “Human resources for health: overcoming the crisis” *Lancet* 364: 1984-1990.
- Das, J, Hammer, J. “Location, Location, Location: Residence, Wealth, and the Quality of Medical Care in Delhi, India.” *Health Affairs*: w338. March 27, 2007.
- Chaudhury, N, Hammer, J, Kremer, M, Muralidharan, K, Rogers, FH. (2006) “Missing in Action: Teacher and Health Worker Absence in Developing Countries.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 20(1): 91-116.
- Hagopian, A, Ofosu, A, Fatusi, A, Biritwum, R, Essel, A, Hart, LG, Watts, C. (2005) “The flight of physicians from West Africa: Views of African physicians and implications for policy.” *Social Science & Medicine* 61(8) 1750-1760.

11. November 23: Health service delivery – Access to pharmaceuticals and technologies

Topics covered:

- The concept of access: Frost and Reich Framework
- Intellectual property law
- The global intellectual property regime

Readings:

- Frost, L, Reich, MR. “Chapter 2: The Access Framework”. In *Access: How do good health technologies get to poor people in poor countries?* Cambridge, MA: Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies. Available online at: <http://www.accessbook.com>.
- Reich, MR “The Global Drug Gap.”
- Kremer, M. (2002) “Pharmaceuticals and the developing world.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 16: 67-90.
- Barton, JH. (2004) “TRIPS and the global pharmaceutical market.” *Health Affairs* 23(3): 146-154.
- Abbott, F. (2002) “The DOHA Declaration on TRIPS.” *Journal of International Economic Law* 469-505.

Section 4: Analysis of current global health efforts

12. November 30: Why are some diseases so successful at getting global health attention?

Topics covered:

- HIV/AIDS

Readings:

- Garrett, L. (2007) “The Challenge of Global Health.” *Foreign Affairs* 86: 155-161.
- Farmer, P. (2008) “From ‘marvelous momentum’ to health care for all: success is possible with the right programs.” *Foreign Affairs Online Response*.
- Piot, P, Kaztchkin, M, Dybul, M, Lob-Levyt, J. (2009) “AIDS: lessons learnt and myths dispelled.” *Lancet*. Published online March 20, 2009.
- Canning, D. (2006) “The Economics of HIV/AIDS in Low-Income Countries: The Case for Prevention.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 20(3): 121-142.
- Shiffman, J. (2008) “Has donor prioritization of HIV/AIDS displaced aid for other health issues?” *Health Policy and Planning* 23: 95-100.
- Grépin, KA. (2009) “Too much of a good thing? Is HIV/AIDS funding strengthening health systems in sub-Saharan Africa?” Working paper.

13. December 7: Why are some diseases often overlooked or neglected?

POLICY MEMO #4 IS DUE AT THE START OF CLASS

Topics covered:

- Neglected tropical diseases
- Maternal mortality

Readings:

- Canning, D. (2006) “Priority setting and the ‘neglected’ tropical diseases.” *Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene* 100: 499-504.
- Hotez, PJ, Fenwick, A, Savioli, L, Molyneux, DH. (2009) “Rescuing the bottom billion through control of neglected tropical diseases.” *Lancet* 373: 1570-1575.

- Rosenfeld, A, Maine, D. (1985) “Maternal Mortality – A Neglected Tragedy. Where is the M in MCH?” *Lancet*, July 13, 1985.
- Ronsmans, C, Graham, WJ. (2006) “Maternal mortality: who, when, where, and why.” *Lancet* 368: 1189-1200.

14. December 14: Culminating case discussion

The readings and instructions for this case will be distributed a few weeks before the session