Course Description: Building on P11.4830, this course examines current health policy debates in developing countries from an economics perspective. Topics may vary but are likely to include the relationship between health and economic development, the need for financial risk protection against health shocks, the economics of HIV/AIDS prevention and transmission, the control of malaria, the determinants of fertility, the development of new pharmaceuticals and vaccines, and other related topics. There will be a strong focus on applying theoretical insights from P11.4830 and interpreting the relevant empirical literature.

Pre-requisite: P11.4830 Principles of Health Economics or permission of instructor

Academic Integrity: Students are reminded that they have signed an Academic Oath at NYU-Wagner and they are bound by this oath and the principles of the academic code of the school. More details can be found here: http://wagner.nyu.edu/current/policies/

Late Assignment Policy: Extensions will be granted only in case of emergency, out of respect to those who abide by deadlines despite equally hectic schedules. Late submissions without extensions will be penalized 10% per 24-hour period.

Students with disabilities: Any students requiring accommodations should contact me to make proper arrangements. Please be prepared to share your documentation from the NYU disabilities office regarding appropriate accommodations.

Grading: Your final grade will be composed of the following components:

- 1 Reading Response (20% of final grade)
- 1 Policy Memo (20% of final grade)
- 1 take-home final exam (40% of your final grade)
- Class participation (10% of final grade)

Textbooks (optional, but highly recommended):


Readings and Sessions (7 sessions):


Questions to be addressed:
   1. What is the relationship between health and economic development?
   2. To what extent is health a barrier to development today?
   3. What is the rationale for public investment in health in developing countries today?

Readings:

2. The Demand for Health Services and Health Insurance in Developing Countries (March 29, 2011)

Questions to be addressed:
   1. How do health shocks affect consumption and savings in developing countries?
   2. How does health insurance protect against health shocks?
   3. What other public policies influence the demand for health services?

Readings:

3. The Supply of Health Services in Developing Countries (April 5, 2011)

Questions to be addressed:
   1. What are some of the main challenges associated with the supply of health services in developing countries?
   2. How can we motivate health care providers to provide more and higher quality of health services?
Readings:


4. Fertility and early-life Health (April 12, 2011)

*Questions to be addressed:*

1. What is the demographic transition?
2. What factors influence the decision for children or contraception?
3. What factors influence the health of children?

Readings:


5. HIV/AIDS (April 19, 2011)

*Questions to be addressed:*

1. How do biological and behavioral factors influence the spread of HIV/AIDS?
2. How should public policies be designed to promote prevention?
3. What are the macro-economic and micro-economic impacts of HIV/AIDS?

Readings:


6. Malaria and the Neglected Tropical Diseases (April 26, 2011)

Questions to be addressed:
1. What are the roles of public and private actors in the prevention of malaria?
2. What impact does malaria have on the economy?
3. Why are the neglected tropical diseases so neglected?

Readings:

7. Pharmaceuticals and Health Technologies (May 3, 2011)

Questions to be addressed:
1. Why is the development of new drugs and vaccines for the developing world so challenging?
2. How is the development of vaccines different from the development of drugs?
3. How should new vaccines and drugs be priced and financed in the developing world?

Readings: