HPAM-GP 1831 INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL HEALTH POLICY

SYLLABUS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

FALL 2012

Professor Richard Alderslade
ra78@nyu.edu

Course: Mondays 4.55-6.35 PM Building GCASL Room 361

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, malaria, access to pharmaceuticals, human resources for health, corruption, health reform, 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 back-ground knowledge. It is open to students in all graduate degree concentrations.

Course Competencies

At the end of this course, students should have mastered the following competencies:

1. The ability to assess population and community health needs from a public service perspective.

2. The ability to examine social and behavioral determinants of health and understand how health systems can address the needs of vulnerable populations

3. The ability to understand how policy and delivery processes work, and to consider the demographic, cultural, political and regulatory
factors involved in and influencing health policy decision making at the global level.

**Learning Objectives**

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the distribution of health and disability around the world and to understand the individual, social, and institutional factors that affect the burden of disease;

2. Identify and describe the role of key actors in the global health system as well as the historical foundations of these institutions;

3. Describe the key frameworks that influence the global health priority setting process and apply these different concepts to current global health issues;

4. Understand the concept of a health system and describe the factors that influence the productivity of these systems;

5. Describe current methods of health financing in use globally and articulate the strengths and weaknesses of these various modes of financing;

6. Identify key barriers to health service delivery in developing countries and develop policy recommendations to address these challenges;

**Grading**

Your final grade in this course will be composed of the following elements:

1. 3 policy memos (15% each for a total of 45% of final grade)

2. A group project (5% for outline, 25% for written report, 5% for individual participation) for a total of 35% of your final grade)

3. Class participation (20% of final grade)

**Assignments**
**Memos.** An important skill for anyone interested in working in global health is the ability to summarize complex issues and to articulate concise arguments. During the semester you will be asked to write three (2 page maximum policy memos. Memo assignments will be posted online 1-2 weeks before they are due at the start of the assigned class. Each policy memo is worth 15% of your final grade. More details on the expectations from these memos will be distributed on Blackboard. Memos should be uploaded onto Blackboard before class on the day that they are due.

**Class participation.** 15% of your grade will reflect the quality and effort of class participation.

**Group project.** During the second week of class, you will be asked to join an “important health issue” group. During the course of the semester, your group will be required to prepare a 20-page (approximately) report on “How to Address this Important Issue”. More details regarding the expectations for the group project will be circulated at the start of the second week. During the last two classes, students will be required to make a short 20 minute presentation (including Q&A) to the class, although not every student needs to present (although all group members must be present). More details regarding the content and expectations of this project will be distributed shortly. This work will represent 40% of your final grade.

**Textbooks**

The textbook for this course is the "Textbook of International Health: Global Health in a Dynamic World, 3rd Edition" by Anne-Emanuelle Birn, Yogan Pillay, and Timothy H. Holtz. It is available for purchase at the NYU bookstore and through online retailers. There are also copies available at Bobst on reserve.

**Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the University's policy on academic integrity as they will be expected to adhere to such policies at all times as students and alumni of New York University. Students are expected to follow standards of excellence set forth by New York University, including respect, honesty and responsibility. The program does not tolerate violations to academic integrity including:
1. Plagiarism

2. Cheating on an exam

3. Submitting your own work toward requirements in more than one course without prior approval from the instructor

4. Collaborating with other students for work expected to be completed individually

5. Giving your work to another student to submit as his/her own

6. Purchasing or using papers or work online or from a commercial firm and presenting it as your own work

Course content

1 An Introduction to Global Health Policy and Course Specifics

2 Why are some populations so much healthier than others? How do we know some people are healthier than others?

3 Priority and agenda setting: how should we allocate limited resources?

4 Group project planning

5 Global health governance, and the political economy of development

6 Advocacy and the NCDs, Health systems, health system performance

7 Paying for the sick: health financing around the world

8 Pharmaceuticals and access to new technologies

9 Health service delivery - demand side issues

10 Health service delivery - supply side issues
11 HIV/AIDS, Malaria and the neglected tropical diseases

12 Reproductive health

13 Corruption and Health

Course details and dates

(1) 10 September An Introduction to Global Health Policy and Course Specifics

Topics covered:

1. What are the key themes in this course?

2. Why should the world care about improving global health?

3. Course expectations, grading, outline of lecture

Readings:


(2) 17 September Why are some populations so much healthier than others? How do we know some people are healthier than others?

Topics covered:

1. How is it that people in some countries live twice as long as in others?

2. What are the determinants of population health?

3. Where does global health population data come from? How are estimates generated?

4. What are the implications for policy and management on relying on such imperfect data?

Readings:


3. e1000155.


5. Grepin, KA. (2010) "Are my made up numbers better than your made up numbers?" (blog post) Available online at: http://karengrepin.com/2010/04/are-my-made-up-numbers-better-than-your.html.

(3) 24 September Priority and agenda setting: how should we allocate limited resources?

Topics covered:

1. How are global health priorities set?
2. What is cost-effectiveness and how can it be used to determine priorities?

3. What other frameworks have influenced global health priorities?

Readings:


4. Daniels, N. Just Health Care, Chapter 1.


(4) 1 October Group project work session

(5) 8 October Global health governance and the political economy of development

Topics covered:

1. What role do international actors play in health service delivery in developing countries?

2. How are national priorities influenced by international priorities?

3. How has development assistance for health evolved?

4. What is the role of non-governmental actors (both international and domestic) in health service delivery?
Readings:


(6) 22 October Health systems, health system performance health reform, and politics of health reform

Topics covered:

1. What is a health system?

2. How do we measure health system performance? What are limits of this approach?

3. Why do some health systems perform so much better than others?

4. What does it mean to strengthen a health system?

Readings:


(7) 29 October Paying for the sick: health financing around the world

Topics covered:

1. What are the main modes of financing health services in developing countries?

2. What are the main kinds of health financing systems?

3. What incentives are created from the various health system financing options?

Readings:


(8) 5 November Pharmaceuticals and access to new technologies

Topics covered:
1. The concept of access: Frost and Reich Framework

2. Overview of the role of pharmaceuticals in health systems

3. Intellectual property law

Readings:


2. Reich, MR \The Global Drug Gap.".


4. Roberts, MJ, Reich, MR. \Chapters 1 and 3". In Pharmaceutical Reform:


(9) 12 November Health service delivery - demand side issues

Topics covered:

1. What factors affect the demand for health services in developing countries?

2. How do households select among health care providers?

3. How does quality affect the demand for health care services in developing countries?

4. What is the impact of user fees on the demand for health services?
5. What is the rational for expanding access to health insurance in developing countries?

Readings:


(10) 19 November Health service delivery supply side issues

Topics covered:

1. The distribution of human resources for health

2. Incentives of health care providers

3. Quality of health care providers

4. The migration of health care providers

Readings:

2. Das, J, Hammer, J. "Location, Location, Location: Residence, Wealth, and the Quality of Medical Care in Delhi, India." Health Affairs: w338. March 27, 2007.


(11) 26 November HIV/AIDS, Malaria and the neglected tropical diseases

Topics covered:

1. What explains the patterns of prevalence of HIV around the world?

2. How successful has the response to the HIV epidemic been?

3. What are some of the main challenges for the HIV response going forward?

4. What have we learned from five decades of trying to eliminate malaria?

5. How should malaria be addressed globally?

6. How have the neglected tropical diseases become less neglected?

Readings:


(12) 3 December Reproductive health

Topics covered:

1. What are some of the main challenges in addressing maternal health issues?

2. What programs have been successful and why?

3. Why is there not more advocacy for maternal health issues?

Readings:


(13) 10 December Corruption and health

Topics covered:

1. What is corruption and how does it manifest itself in health systems?
2. What are some of the effects of corruption on health service delivery?
3. What if anything can be done to address corruption in health systems?

Readings:

