GLOBAL HEALTH GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Course Description

Traditionally, governments have the ultimate responsibility for assuring the conditions for their people to be as healthy as they can be. In this sense one of the fundamental societal goals of health services may be considered the health improvement of the population served and for which the individual government is responsible. As our understanding of the multiple determinants of health has dramatically expanded, exercising this responsibility calls for a national health policy that goes beyond planning for the personal health care system and addresses the health of communities. Broader issues of political, economic, social, institutional, educational, and environment circumstances, among others, are now seen as important determinants of health. Of particular importance is the issue of equity of access to all these resources within a country.

In the face of this added complexity, all countries, and most especially developing countries, face challenges from a number of global health threats. Their national health strategies may be compromised by the effects of globalization and global decision making on issues that affect health. Government leaders must not only address health problems within their borders, but those that come across their borders, whether specific diseases like HIV/AIDS, avian influenza, or the pressures of the global labor market that lead to movement of health professionals seeking better pay and working conditions from the developing to the developed world.

After discussing definitions of health in international agreements and the general influences of globalization on health and health equity, the course will explore the roles and responsibilities of national health leadership, primarily Ministries of Health and governmental institutions, in assuring the health of their populations and the different strategies and variable capacities of national governments in developed, developing and countries in transition. The role of regional and local governments, professionals, civil society, communities and individuals, will also be explored.

We will then consider in some depth the role, functions and effectiveness of global organizations...
affecting health in the UN, NGO and business sectors as well as multilateral and bilateral donors and how they interact with each other and with national leadership. Finally we will look at emerging instruments for global health governance, how they operate and their effectiveness for promoting health action at the country level.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. To understand an ecological definition of health and the standing of health as a human right as reflected in international instruments, including consideration of giving operational expression to the concept of health as a human right;

2. To understand the effects, both positive and negative, of globalization on health at country level;

3. To understand the roles and responsibilities of national health leadership and the variability of health policies and management capacities among selected developed, developing and countries in transition;

4. To understand the role of international organizations in the governmental, NGO and business sectors and the role of donors and the effect of donor strategies on health at global and country level;

5. To understand current mechanisms for global health governance and perspectives on their impact on health and equity at country level, using selected case studies;

6. To understand the dynamics of interaction at the interface between countries and global bodies and donors working for health and potential steps that could be taken to improve the interaction.

**Course Prerequisites**

Wagner students should have completed: Introduction to Public Policy P.11.1022 and Community Health and Medical Care P11.1830. Non-health students with international concentration are welcome by permission of instructor.

**Course Requirements**

At the beginning of the course, students will be assigned/volunteer (especially if they are from this region) to join one of five “regional groupings”—Africa, South Asia, Western Pacific, Latin America/Caribbean, and Newly Independent States (NIS). They will be asked to familiarize themselves with the unique characteristics of these regions (websites will be provided for access to basic health and development documents) and to reflect on the various elements of the course “through the lens” of their region. These observations will be the basis for presentations by “teams” during the last two sessions of the course on what they see as the key challenges for their region. The group presentation will constitute 20% of the grade.

Students will be expected to do two “response papers” to specific questions they choose from a set that will be provided. Each of these papers will constitute 20% of the grade. There will be a final time-limited take home exam for 30% of the grade and class participation will constitute 10% of the grade.
Course documents

The articles mentioned are public domain items and will be found on the Course Blackboard site, or when indicated at a separate reference point.

5 and 12 September 2012

1. Course Introduction and Overview
2. Globalization and Health

An ecological model of health will be presented and its implications for national health policy making discussed. The session will also explore the definitions of health in international agreements and their link to the use of human rights frameworks for national and global policy making and governance.

Globalization and its effects on health have become an increasing focus for study and debate. We will discuss the key factors in globalization and review debates about their positive and negative effects on health and health systems functioning at country level.

Recommended readings


- Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals, Millennium Project: Report to the Secretary General, New York 2005, p. 1-65 (for most recent progress on Millennium Development Goals, go to [www.un.org] and click Millennium Development Goals)


3. Health Sector Governance at Country Level: The Role of the State and Functions of Ministries of Health
4. Role of International Organizations in Health and Health Systems

A framework for analysis will be presented to analyze the potential roles of ministries of health as “governors/stewards” of national level health systems and another will be used to review the areas of decision making needed for design and management of national health systems. Case presentations will explore the application of these to country experience.

The role of international organizations will also be considered. The World Health Organization is the UN specialized agency for health and plays a central role in the normative function of global health standard setting and in leadership for health technical cooperation, especially with developing countries and those in transition.

Recommended readings
The World Health Report 2000, Health Systems: Performance Improvement, Ch. 6 “How is the Public Interest Protected: Governments as Stewards of Health Resources,” p. 119-141, WHO Geneva


Sanders, David and Chopra, Mickey “Key Challenges to Achieving Health for All in an Inequitable Society: The Case of South Africa” in AJPH, January 2006, Vol96, No. 1, p.73-78


3 and 10 October 2012

5. Other UN agencies

6. International NGOs

The roles of health related agencies in the UN system other than WHO in the context of UN reform efforts, the Millennium Development Goals for health and political realities

In recent years, non-state actors have become more critical to effective governance at country and global level. There are two major categories of these actors—“NGOs” which tend to refer to non-profit
organizations of civil society and corporations. While their interactions with government and each other are quite variable at country level, their involvement at global level is increasingly influencing global health policy making and governance.

Recommended readings

- Haque, M.S., “Governance based on partnership with NGOs: implications for development and empowerment in rural Bangladesh” in International Review of Administrative Services, 70(2), June 2004, p.271-290
- Global Health Council Faith in Action: Examining the Role of Faith Based Organizations in Addressing HIV/AIDS. Executive Summary, p. 9-12 Catholic Medical Mission Board, 2005
- Mafunisa, M.J., “The role of civil society in promoting good governance in the Republic of South Africa” in International Review of Administrative Services, 70(3), September 2004, p. 489-496

17 and 24 October 2012

7. Other interested parties, partnerships, and the role of donors

8. The pharmaceutical industry

This segment of the course explores the role of partnerships in the global health field, as well as the specific roles of major categories of donors in health—the multilaterals—the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and regional development banks; the bilaterals—countries through their government international development agencies; and Foundations active in international health. The session will also explore the dynamics of donor-recipient relationships. There will be a session on the role of the pharmaceutical industry, as well as the challenges facing this sector.

Recommended readings

- Newsclips: “GE Becomes a General Store for Developing Countries” (NY Times, July 16, 2005) and “Will Social Responsibility Harm Business?” in WSJ, May 18, 2005
9. Multilaterals: The World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Regional Development Banks Foundations and Bilateral Agencies

These sessions will explore the roles of “multilateral donors”, with emphasis on the World Bank, the role of the “new philanthropy” i.e. foundations, as well as the role of bilateral donors

Recommended readings

- “Investing in Global Health: Best Buys and Priorities for Action in Developing Countries” The Disease Control Priorities Project, April 2006, entire report available at www.dcp2.org
- Specter “What Money Can Buy” in The New Yorker, October 24, 2005, p. 57-71


Kristof, Nicholas “Meet the Fakers” in NYT, September 13, 2005

Strom, Stephanie “Poor Nations Complain Not All Charity Reaches Victims” in NYT, January 29, 2006

Roodman, David, “The 2005 Commitment to Development Index: Components and Results”, Center for Global Development, Washington, D.C.

7 November and 14 November 2012

10. History and Emergence of Mechanisms for Global Health Governance

These sessions will explore the evolution of mechanisms for global health governance from inter-state agreements to the development of new forms of global organizations involving governments, corporate and civil sectors - alliances, funds, public-private partnerships-- to facilitate shared action on general and disease specific health challenges.

Recommended readings

- Developing Successful Global Health Alliances, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, 2001
- Global Health Partnerships: Assessing Country Consequences, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Sponsored by the High Level Forum, April, 2005

21 November 2012

11. Case Studies of Mechanisms for Global Health Governance – the goals and realities

While some of these cases will have been discussed by earlier speakers in the NGO, Corporate and
Donor session, 2-3 (as time allows) will be discussed in class, especially in relation to the variable impact of the mechanisms in the different regions.

Required Readings

Case #1 Health Workforce Migration

- “The Global Migration of Talent: What does it Mean for Developing Countries “Center for Global Development, October 2005

Case #2 Cairo Summit on Women’s Health and Development


Case #3. Global regulation of the Pharmaceutical Industry: The TRIPS agreement on essential medicines


Case #4 -The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco
28 November and 5 December 2012

12. Student Team Presentations and Wrap Up

Guidance to be provided

Websites for Regional Background on Health and Development


- OECD http://oecd.org

- Center for Civil Society Studies at Johns Hopkins University http://www.jhu.edu/~ccss/pubs

- The World Health Chart www.whc.ki.se provides graphic displays of global health statistics and development)