Global Health 301/Public Health 390
Introduction to International Public Health

William R. Leonard

Mondays 6:00 – 9:00 PM

March 30 – June 8, 2015

Daniel Hale Williams Auditorium
2nd floor, McGaw Pavilion
240 East Huron
Chicago Campus
Introduction to International Public Health (GH 301/PH 390)
Mondays 6 – 9 PM; March 30th – June 8th, 2015

Course Director

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Director of Global Health Studies
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Graduate Assistant

TBD

Course Faculty

Judith Helzner, MA
Special Advisor to the President and Vice President, International Programs
MacArthur Foundation

Aaron Miller, PhD
Research Associate
Department of Anthropology
Northwestern University

Elise Levin, PhD/MPH
Research Fellow
School of Public Health
University of Illinois, Chicago

Nikhil Prachand, MPH
Senior Epidemiologist
STI/HIV/AIDS Division
Chicago Department of Public Health

Hannah Wilson, PhD
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Department of Anthropology
Northwestern University
Course Description

Introduction to International Public Health will orient students to the biological, socio-cultural and economic influences on population-level variation in health and well-being. The continuum between health and illness will be explored, focusing on both the proximate and distal determinants of variation in health and well-being. Students will learn about key players in international health—the multilateral and bilateral donor communities, Ministries of Health, UN agencies, foundations, NGOs—and understand important shifts in donor policies towards healthcare delivery. They will be introduced to the major health problems currently affecting the developing world, and alerted to the importance of employing a population-based vs. a purely clinical approach to solving these health problems.

Course Objectives

- Describe the importance of culture, class, and gender on (a) objective measures of health, (b) perceptions of health and illness, and (c) access to health services.
- Delineate the difference between population-based and clinical approaches to health improvement and why population-based approaches are more effective in resource poor settings.
- Discuss the ethical issues implicit in conducting research in the developing world.
- Identify the key players in international public health.
- Discuss the main causes of ill health in the developing world.

Course Structure

The course will employ a lecture/discussion/small group participation format. The first class will introduce students to the field of international health. Lectures 2 through 8 will cover specific international health issues. The final class will be a poster session where students will present their term projects.
Evaluation

Attendance & participation. Students are expected to attend all sessions, complete required readings, and participate in group assignments. Class attendance and discussion will account for 10% of the final grade.

Assignment. During our class on April 6th, we will discuss and practice methods for assessing food requirements and nutritional status. The assignment handed out on April 13th, and will involve assessing individual- and population-level food/energy demands and nutritional well-being. The write-ups will be due in class on April 27th and will constitute 20% of the final course grade.

Group presentations. During the first class, students will sign up for teams that will be responsible for presenting and critiquing a research paper related to the topic for that week. Each group will give their presentation and lead class discussion during the second half of each class during weeks 3 through 8. Performance of the Discussion Team will account for 20% of the course grade.

Final papers. Students will prepare a final 12-15 page paper on a topic of their choice. The papers should address key research and/or policy issues related to International Health. All papers are due on June 8th. The final paper will account for 25% of the course grade. Deductions for late papers will be 10% per day.

Posters. The last session will be devoted to a poster session. Students will create and present a poster on their final paper topic. The poster presentation will count for 25% of the final grade. The final poster session will be held in Hardin Hall (Evanston campus) on June 1st.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percent of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment (Assessing Food Security and Nutritional Health) (due April 27th)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper (due June 8th)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poster Presentation (June 1st; Hardin Hall)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Northwestern International Public Health
Course evaluation (Public Health 390 Students):

The MPH Program administers web-based course evaluations to students for each course near the end of the quarter. *Your completion of both the unit (course) and faculty evaluation components is required; failure to complete either of the evaluations will result in an incomplete grade until the evaluations are submitted.* You will be sent the web link and instructions via email later in the quarter. You will have about two weeks to complete the evaluations before grades are submitted.

Academic Integrity

Every Northwestern faculty member and student belongs to a community of scholars where academic integrity is a fundamental commitment. The Program in Public Health abides by the standards of academic conduct, procedures, and sanctions as set forth by The Graduate School at Northwestern University. Students and faculty are responsible for knowledge of the information provided by The Graduate School on their Web page at [http://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/academics/academic-services/integrity/index.html](http://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/academics/academic-services/integrity/index.html)

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to

1. Receiving or giving unauthorized aid on examinations or homework
2. Plagiarism
3. Fabrication
4. Falsification or manipulation of academic records
5. Aiding or abetting any of the above

The PPH follows The Graduate School’s procedure for evaluating alleged academic misconduct, as outlined on the TGS website. [http://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/academics/academic-services/integrity/dishonesty/index.html](http://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/academics/academic-services/integrity/dishonesty/index.html)

Faculty reserve the right to use the “Safe Assignment: Plagiarism Detection Tool” that is part of the Course Management System to evaluate student assignments. Information about this tool can be found at [http://www.it.northwestern.edu/education/course-management/support/assessments/safeassignment.html](http://www.it.northwestern.edu/education/course-management/support/assessments/safeassignment.html)
Class Schedule

March 30th
Introduction: What is International Public Health? How Healthy is the Developing World?
Instructor: William Leonard

April 6th
Nutrition and Health: Assessing Risk & Consequences of Over- and Undernutrition
Instructor: William Leonard

April 13th
Child Growth, Nutritional Health & Survival
Instructor: William Leonard

April 20th
The Evolution of International Family Planning to Reproductive & Sexual Health
Instructor: Judith Helzner

April 27th
Mixed Methods in International Health Research
Instructor: Elise Levin

May 4th
Dual Health Burden & the rise of Metabolic diseases
Instructor: Hannah Wilson

May 11th
Fertility, Reproduction and Maternal Health
Instructor: Aaron Miller

May 18th
Global Perspectives on HIV/AIDS
Instructor: Nikhil Prachand

May 25th
Memorial Day (no classes)

June 1st
Poster Session

June 8th
Final Papers due

Northwestern International Public Health
Required Readings

Session One: March 30th

What is International Public Health? How Healthy is the Developing World?


Session Two: April 6th

Nutrition and Health: Assessing Risk & Consequences of Over- and Undernutrition


Session Three: April 13th

Child Growth, Nutritional Health and Survival


**Session Four: April 20th**

**The Evolution of International Family Planning to Reproductive & Sexual Health**


**Session Five: April 27th**

**Mixed Methods International Health Research**


**Session Six: May 4th**

**Dual Health Burden and the Rise of Metabolic Diseases**


Northwestern International Public Health

Session Seven: May 11th

Fertility, Reproduction and Maternal Health


Session Eight: May 18th

Global Perspectives on HIV/AIDS
