PUBHLTH 600-0100  
Introduction to Global Health  
Autumn 2009  
Credits: 2  Call Number: Lec 28973  
Building/Room: Smith Laboratory/Room 1042

Instructor: Mary Ellen Wewers, Ph.D., M.P.H.  
Professor  
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Office Hours: Wednesdays 2:30-3:30 and by appointment

Course Description: This course will offer students an opportunity to deepen their knowledge and interest in the global health field. The purposes of this survey course are to provide an overview of current and emerging global health issues and their determinants; raise students’ awareness of health issues that transcend national borders and culture and that require multinational and multi-sectoral action; describe interventions and programs being implemented by major governmental and non-governmental organizations to address key problems areas across the world; discuss different guiding philosophies behind specific health interventions; and identify factors that may impact the success or failure of an intervention.

Learning Objectives
Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

• Describe worldwide patterns of leading causes of morbidity and mortality and identify priorities for investment in global health;
• Discuss the concept and significance of demographic and epidemiologic transitions; explain and describe major factors contributing to communicable and chronic diseases incidence worldwide;
• Recognize/understand the role of political, social, economic, environmental and cultural factors as contributors to current global health issues;
• Recognize ethical and human rights considerations in the field of global health;
• Identify key governmental and non-governmental players in international health, and discuss barriers and possible approaches to solving diverse key global health issues.

Required material

1. All required course readings will be available on Carmen www.carmen.osu.edu

2. Textbook:
Expectations
You are expected to read materials assigned before each class. You are expected to attend each lecture and actively participate in class discussion.

Course evaluation and grading
Attendance and class participation: 20 points
Midterm exam: 30 points
Final Paper: 50 points
Total score: 100 points

Final Paper
A five page (maximum) final paper is required. The paper should include: 1) a brief overview of a global health threat with a description of its prevalence and area(s) of the world that are at increased risk; 2) critical analysis of social, behavioral and biological factors that contribute to the existing or emerging threat; 3) a potential evidence-based strategy to reduce the threat; 4) existing challenges to implementation of the proposed strategy; and 5) references (not included in five page limit). The paper format includes one-inch margins (all around) and Arial 11 font. The paper is due Wednesday December 9, 2009 by 5:00 PM.

Grading Scale

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Academic misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term ‘academic misconduct’ includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc/asp).

Disability services

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office of Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; http://www.ods.osu.edu/
Course Outline

• Wednesday Sept 23
Course introduction: the global burden of disease and its major determinants
Introduction to the course with a general overview of the distribution of disease & mortality worldwide; environmental, demographic and socioeconomic factors influencing world’s health; trends and measurements of disease burden

Readings


• Wednesday Sept 30
Communicable Diseases: epidemiology, risk factors and control
Focus on malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis - Agents, methods of transmission, control and prevention; challenges and on-going efforts to control these major communicable diseases

Readings


• Wednesday Oct 7
Chronic Diseases: epidemiology, risk factors and control worldwide, chronic diseases in developing countries
Focus on epidemiologic trends, risk factors, major conditions, economic impact, health inequalities, and policy

Readings


• **Wednesday Oct 14**  
Chronic Disease Exemplar: “What are the global challenges in cancer?”

**Readings**


**Note:** Public Health Seminar Wednesday October 14, 2009  
10:00-11:00 AM Fifth Floor Prior Health Sciences Library  
Patrick Kelley, MD, DrPH  
Director, Board on Global Health, Institute of Medicine  
Topic: To be announced

• **Wednesday October 21**  
Midterm Examination

**Women’s Health and Child Survival.**  
Importance of women’s health to global health; causes and effects of the most prominent causes of illness, disability and death for mothers, babies and children; existing programmatic interventions addressing these problems

**Readings**


Additional readings to be announced

• **Wednesday Oct 28**  
Environment Threats  
Focus on principles of sustainable access to safe drinking water; reduction in loss of environmental resources including clean air and land conservation; forces of climate change

**Readings**


• **Wednesday Nov 4**  
Nutrition  
Focus on food security and malnutrition, examination of causal factors, detection, prevention and mitigation of famine

**Readings**


• **Wednesday Nov 18**  
  **Unintentional Injuries and Violence**  
Focus on global burden of injuries, risk factors for injuries and violence and prevention strategies

**Readings**


• **Wednesday Dec 2**  
  **Comparing health care systems and delivery around the world**

**Readings**


Anderson GF, Reinhjardt UE, Hussey PS, Petrosyan V. (2003). It's the prices, stupid: Why the United States is so different from other countries. *Health Affairs, 22*, 89-105.

**Course Evaluation**