

Introduction to International Health

GCH 205-003

Fall 2009

Time: MWF 10:30 – 11:20 AM

Location: Innovation Hall 133

Credit: 3 hours

CRN: 74065

Instructor: Clarice Chau, MS

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Office: Robinson B 420

Office Hours: By appointment only

Course Description:

This course covers the biological and social aspects of major international health issues, especially in the areas of infectious disease, nutrition, and environmental health. Other topics include population groups with special risks, policies and programs designed to reduce health inequalities, and basic methods used to study global health.

General Education: Fulfills the “Global Understanding” core requirement.

Learning Objectives:

- Use maps to identify and compare regions and countries.
- Explain the socioeconomic factors that contribute to health inequalities.
- Explain the health needs of special population groups (like women and children).
- Understand the various causes of disease (such as infection, malnutrition, and genetics).
- Explain the differences between various types of infectious agents (like bacteria, viruses, fungi, and helminths) and how they are transmitted.
- Identify infectious diseases of global importance (including HIV/AIDS, malaria, and TB) and provide a description of prevention, transmission, symptoms, treatment, and other characteristics.
- Identify components of a healthy diet and explain the effects of poor nutrition.
- Describe some of the major issues in global nutrition (like cultural aspects of eating, food security, and food safety).
- Explain how environmental changes affect human health.
- Analyze global health reports.
- Identify major organizations that are involved in global health.

Textbook: *Introduction to Global Health*. Kathryn H. Jacobsen. Jones & Bartlett; 2008.

Additional Course Materials: Most of the readings for the course are available free online from the World Health Organization and other international health organizations. Additional course materials will be distributed in class or posted online.

Academic Honesty: George Mason University operates under an honor system, which is published in the University Catalog and deals specifically with cheating, attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing. Please familiarize yourself with the honor code, especially the statement on plagiarism. If you have questions about when the contributions of others to your work must be acknowledged and appropriate ways to cite those contributions, please talk with the professor.

Students with Disabilities: All students with questions or concerns about this class are encouraged to set up a time to meet with the professor, preferably during the first 2 weeks of the semester. Students with disabilities should work with the Disabilities Resource Center (DRC) to identify appropriate accommodations and communicate those with the professor.

Grading: Grades will be based upon points accumulated during the semester. There is a possibility of earning a total of 550 points, distributed among five tasks. There will be 10 quizzes given throughout the semester. All quizzes will be announced one class prior to quiz date. There will be two exams and one cumulative final. Participation will be based on attendance, which will be taken at random throughout the semester.

Quizzes (10 total throughout semester)	100 points (total)
Exam 1	100 points
Exam 2	100 points
Final Exam	200 points
Participation	50 points
Total (Possible)	550 points

Letter Grades:

A+ = 550-539	B+ = 494-484	C+ = 439-429	D = 384-330	F = <329
A = 538-506	B = 483-451	C = 428-396		
A- = 505-495	B- = 450-440	C- = 395-385		

Schedule: Fall 2009

Date	Day	Topic	Chapter
08/31	M	Class Introduction, Syllabus Review	--
09/02	W	Introduction to Global Health	1
09/04	F	World Geography – Regions & Countries	Appendix I
09/07	M	<i>Labor Day – No Classes</i>	--
09/09	W	Risk Factors and Prevention	1
09/11	F	Health Inequalities	2
09/14	M	Health Inequalities: Causes of Death	2
09/16	W	Poverty and Health	3
09/18	F	Economic Indicators	3
09/21	M	Occupation, Education, and Health	3
09/23	W	Children’s Health	4
09/25	F	Women’s Health	4
09/28	M	Demography and Population Control	4
09/30	W	Health of Special Populations	5
10/02	F	EXAM 1	--
10/05	M	Infectious Agents 1	6
10/07	W	Infectious Agents 2	6
10/09	F	Infectious Disease Transmission	6
10/12	M	<i>Columbus Day – No Classes</i>	--
10/13	T	HIV/AIDS	7
10/14	W	Malaria	7
10/16	F	TB	7
10/19	M	Globalization and Health	8
10/21	W	Emerging Infectious Diseases	8
10/23	F	Nutritional Needs	9
10/26	M	Undernutrition and Micronutrient Deficiencies	9
10/28	W	Nutrition Issues	9
10/30	F	EXAM 2	--
11/02	M	Introduction to Environmental Health	10
11/04	W	Environmental Health: Water and Sanitation	10
11/06	F	Environmental Health: Indoor Air Quality	10
11/09	M	Industrial and Occupational Health	11
11/11	W	Health Effects of Local Environmental Change	11
11/13	F	Health Effects of Global Environmental Change	11
11/16	M	Paying for Health	12
11/18	W	Implementing Health Programs 1	12
11/20	F	Implementing Health Programs 2	12
11/23	M	Health and Human Rights	13
11/30	M	Global Health Priorities 1	13
12/02	W	Global Health Priorities 2	13
12/04	F	Reading Public Health Reports	14
12/07	M	Study Design	14
12/09	W	Research Ethics and Screening	14
12/11	F	Review	--
12/16	W	FINAL EXAM	--