George Mason University
Department of Global and Community Health
GCH 205-001 International Health
Spring 2012

Instructor: Carol Corso M.P.H.  
Office: Robinson B420  
E-mail: ccorso@gmu.edu  
Office hours: By appointment  
Course: GCH 205-001  
Days: Tuesday and Thursday  
Time: 1:30 – 2:45 pm  
Location: Innovation Hall - Rm. 132

Course Description

This course covers the biological and social aspects of major international health issues, especially in the areas of maternal and child health, 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.

Course Objectives

After completion of this course, students will be able to:

• Develop understanding of global patterns and processes and their interaction with society.
• Demonstrate understanding of the interconnectedness, difference, and diversity of a global society.
• Apply awareness of global issues to a consideration of individual or collective responsibilities within a global society.
• Identify common causes of morbidity and mortality by world region.
• Describe the various causes of disease, such as infection, malnutrition, and genetics.
• Explain the socioeconomic factors that contribute to health inequalities.
• Identify the health needs of special population groups like women and children.
• Explain the differences between various types of infectious agents and how they are transmitted.
• Identify infectious diseases of global importance, including HIV/AIDS, malaria, and TB, and describe their modes of transmission, symptoms, methods for prevention, 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 water, sanitation, air quality and other aspects of environmental health relate to human health.
• Explain how environmental changes impact human health and cite examples of communities that have worked together to create a healthier environment.
• Identify major organizations that are involved in global health.
• Propose important global health priorities and formulate a plan to address them.
• Use maps to identify and compare regions and countries.

**Additional Course Materials**
Additional course materials will be available online or distributed in class.

**Learning Methods**
Class time will consist of lectures, discussions, multimedia presentations, guest speakers and other activities. Students are expected to spend approximately 2 hours outside of class to prepare for the next class (i.e. by completing the assigned readings) and additional time to write papers and prepare for exams.

**Evaluation Methods**
**Exams:** A total of two 100-point exams and one cumulative final exam worth 150 points will be given during the course of the class. Exams will consist of multiple-choice, true-false, and/or matching questions. A Scantron sheet will be required to complete the exams. Scantrons (Red Nursing Scantron Sheets with 100 questions in the front) can be purchased at the GMU bookstore. Missed exams cannot be made up unless there is a documented emergency (see make-up policy).

**Current events in global health:** Students will be required to search the respected popular press, e.g. *The Washington Post, New York Times, Newsweek*, etc. for an article related to global health. The topic of the article and due date will be assigned at the beginning of the semester. Each student is responsible for:

- A two page, double-spaced summary of the article to be submitted on the assigned due date with a copy attached of the entire article (25 points).
- A brief five-minute presentation to the class to critique the issue covered in the reviewed article (25 points). Please include the following points in your article and presentation:
  - What is the global health issue/problem discussed? Mention several factors that have contributed to this issue. Discuss this from a population/public health perspective rather than an individual health perspective.
  - What is being done or what do you think could be done to address the issue?

The article summary and the class presentation will be due the same day. The article reviewed cannot be older than one year. If the article is older than one year, students will earn a zero for the assignment. The article must be taken from the popular press and not from a scholarly journal or a health or organization website.

If a student misses the class in which the summary and presentation are due, the assignment cannot be made up. Only students who missed the class due to an emergency (with appropriate documentation) or have requested accommodations ahead of time will be able to make up the assignment (see make-up policy).

Please note that the summary of the article needs to be written in your own words and should not be quoted from the article reviewed. If quotes are included in the summary or sentences from the article copied, the student will receive a zero for the assignment. See the academic honesty section of the syllabus for further information.
Grading

Exams (Three: two at 100 points each; final exam at 150 points). 350 points
Current events in global health (50 points). See above description. 50 points
Attendance and participation 50 points
Total 450 points

Grading Standards
Final grades are calculated based on the cumulative number of points you earn in the class based on a total of 450. See above. The grade breakdown is as follows:

- 435 - 450 = A+
- 390 - 402 = B+
- 345 – 357 = C+
- 286 – 312 = D
- 417 - 434 = A
- 372 - 389 = B
- 327 - 344 = C
- < 286 = F
- 403 - 416 = A-
- 358 - 371 = B-
- 313 - 326 = C-

Make-up policy
Students are responsible for obtaining the information they missed due to absence. If an emergency occurs before an exam or current event article presentation the student must contact the professor within 24 hours of the exam/presentation and must have the proper documentation for the absence. If a student knows that he/she will be missing an exam or assignment ahead of time, the student must speak with the professor at least one to two weeks before the exam or assignment due date.

Classroom policy
Attendance: It is strongly encouraged that students attend class on a regular basis. Please make sure to sign in on the sign up sheet that will be available at the beginning of each class. It is expected that students are prompt. Students coming into class more than 10 minutes late will not be permitted to sign into class that day.

Participation: It is expected that students actively participate in the class discussion. There is an opportunity to participate in each class. Students are expected to read the chapter ahead of class and be prepared to discuss the topic area in class.

Cell phones and pagers: Students are required to turn-off cell phones and pagers at the beginning of each class.

Computers: Students are limited to note taking on their computers during class. Students using their computers for any other purposes during class will be asked to turn off and put away their computer.

Talking: During class please refrain from side conversations. These can be disruptive to your fellow students and your professor. The professor reserves the right to remove any disruptive student(s) from the classroom if necessary.
**E-mail:** The prefer method of communication outside of class is via e-mail. Students must activate their GMU email accounts to receive important University information, including messages related to this class.

**IMPORTANT:** E-mails do not express tone of voice or body language, so strive to use careful wording to convey your desired message. Please take an extra minute when sending an e-mail to think about what you want to say, spell-check your e-mail, and use appropriate, courteous, and professional language. Your professor will strive to do the same in all communications. E-mails will be answered within 24 hours during weekdays. If an email is sent during a weekend or holiday, please expect a reply the following working day.

**Blackboard:** All important communication regarding class will be posted under announcements on Blackboard. Please check the class blackboard frequently for communication between classes, reminders and any changes to the posted schedule.

**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 (http://www.gmu.edu/org/honorcouncil/guidelines.htm). 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 who are caught cheating during exams or plagiarizing in the current events in global health assignment will receive a zero for the exam/assignment and will be sanctioned according to Honor Code specifications.

**Office of Disability Services**

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see your professor, preferably within the first 2 weeks of class, and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS. http://ods.gmu.edu

**Other Campus Resources**

- **Writing Center:** A114 Robinson Hall; (703) 993-1200; http://writingcenter.gmu.edu
- **University Libraries:** “Ask a Librarian” http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html
- **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS):** (703) 993-2380: http://caps.gmu.edu

**University Policies**

The University Catalog, http://catalog.gmu.edu is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university affairs.

**School Closings and Inclement Weather**
In case of inclement weather please check [www.gmu.edu](http://www.gmu.edu) and/or your GMU e-mail where announcements of school closings will be made.

**Tentative Class Schedule (subject to change)**

**Schedule: Spring 2012**

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<td>1/24</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Syllabus Review, Introduction to Global Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/26</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>The Principles and Goals of Global Health</td>
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<td>1/31</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Health Determinants</td>
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<td>2/2</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Measurements and Trends</td>
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<td>2/7</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Health, Education, Poverty and the Economy</td>
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<td>2/9</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Ethical and Human Rights in Global Health</td>
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<td>2/14</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>An Introduction to Health Systems</td>
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<td>2/16</td>
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<td>Health Systems</td>
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<td>Culture and Health</td>
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<td>Exam 1 (Chapters 1-6)</td>
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<td>The Environment and Health</td>
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<td>3/13</td>
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<td>Maternal and Child Health</td>
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<td>Communicable Diseases</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Communicable Diseases</td>
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<td>4/3</td>
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<td>Non-communicable Diseases</td>
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<td>Non-communicable Diseases</td>
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<td>Unintentional Injuries</td>
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<td>4/12</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td><strong>Exam 2 (Chapters 7-13)</strong></td>
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<td>Tues</td>
<td>Natural Disasters and Humanitarian Emergencies</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Working Together to Improve Global Health</td>
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<td>4/24</td>
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<td>Science, Technology and Global Health</td>
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<td>Working in Global Health</td>
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<td>Profiles of Global Health Actors</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Course Wrap-Up and Review</td>
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<td>5/10</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM – Thursday May 10 1:30-4:15 pm</strong></td>
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