Course Description

This course will explore health and health outcomes in developing countries. A large part of global health concerns mitigating diseases, improving access to health services by the poor, and strengthening health systems in the developing world. That is because the burden of disease is highest in such areas as Africa and Asia and especially among the poor globally. We will examine the challenges and key issues in global health, global health policy, the important international actors involved, funding trends, health demand and supply issues, as well as ways of strengthen health systems.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Articulate the main issues in global health as well as the key concepts and frameworks used to examine those issues.
2. Identify who key actors are in global health.
3. Analyze the positive and negative effects of globalization on health policy at the international and national levels.
4. Identify key barriers to health service delivery in developing countries and develop policy recommendations to address these challenges.

Course Policies and Expectations

Attendance and full participation is expected by all students and required in order to do well in this class. In accordance with WII guidelines, if a student incurs more than two unexcused absences, their grade will drop by one letter grade for each absence. If you know that you will not be able to come to class, you must give me notice at least 48 hours prior to the start of a class. Required readings and assignments must be completed by the start of each class. Because this course will be an interactive class, it is to your benefit to be thoroughly prepared for class so that you can be an integral part of the conversation.
Readings

There is no required book for this class. All assigned readings will be sent to you via e-mail each week so please check your e-mails.

Assignments and Grading

The final grade for this class will be based upon:

1. **Class participation and discussions (worth 30%)**: You are expected to read all assignments before class and to come prepared to engage in lively in-class discussions. Please pay attention to the central thesis of the readings as well as supporting arguments. I will moderate all discussions.

2. **Two Policy Memos (each worth 20%)**: An important skill for those working in global health is the ability to summarize complex issues and to articulate arguments concisely. You will, therefore, be asked to write two (3-4 page maximum) policy memos. Memo assignments will be handed out two weeks before they are due as well as a guideline for writing those memos.

3. **A written analysis of a case study (worth 20%) and an in-class presentation of that case study (worth 10%)**: You will be given a case study to analyze as well as guiding questions for conducting that analysis. Please prepare written responses to these questions. The responses must be completed individually and will be due on the last day of class (December 9); your presentations will also be done on that day. Further instructions on this assignment will be discussed in class.

The WII uniform grading policy is as following:

A= 90-100
B= 80-89
C= 70-79
D= 60-69
F= 59 or below

If a student has not completed a certain assignment by the end of the semester, he/she will be given a “0” (zero) for that assignment, the grade for which may only be changed by agreement of the faculty member and WII.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with WII’s policy on academic integrity as they will be expected to adhere to such policies at all times as students of the Institute. Students are expected to follow standards of excellence, including respect, honesty and responsibility. This course does not tolerate violations to academic integrity, including:
1. Plagiarism
2. Cheating on an exam
3. Submitting your own work toward requirements in more than one course without prior approval from the instructor
4. Collaborating with other students for work expected to be completed individually
5. Giving your work to another student to submit as his/her own
6. Purchasing or using papers or work online or from a commercial firm and presenting it as your own work

Any case of cheating or dishonesty by students will be treated as a serious offense. Students who engage in this type of behavior will face punishment and receive a “0” for the assignment at hand. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to ask me at any time.

Course Outline

INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL HEALTH POLICY:
PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

September 9: The Poor and Global Health
What is global health? Why is it important? What are the challenges and key issues? The Millennium Development Goals expire in 2015; what is the final scorecard?

Readings:

September 16: Global Health Policy Debates
Vertical-horizontal-diagonal approaches

Readings:

GLOBAL ARCHITECTURE OF HEALTH ASSISTANCE: ACTORS AND GLOBAL HEALTH FUNDING

September 23: Important Actors in Global Health
Who are the main actors? How has the global health landscape changed? What are the implications of those changes? How do international actors influence national health priorities?

Readings:

First policy memo assignment given (due October 7)

September 30: Funding Global Health
How has development assistance for global health evolved over time? Does global health funding respond to recipients’ needs? Why do global actors focus on some diseases and not others?

Readings:

**October 7: Visit to Center for Global Development** *(tentative date)*

*First policy memo due* *(please e-mail them to me)*

**DEMAND, SUPPLY, AND HEALTH SYSTEMS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

**October 14: Demand, Supply, and Health Systems in Developing Countries**

*What factors affect the demand for and supply of health care in developing countries?*

*What is the nature of health systems in developing countries?*

**Readings:**


**October 21: Access to Pharmaceuticals**

**Readings:**


*Second policy memo assignment given (due November 4)*
October 28: Addressing Demand Issues

*How can demand issues in health be addressed? Some examples: use of vouchers, social marketing, abolishing user fees, insurance*

Readings:


November 4: Second Visit to Center for Global Development *(Tentative: Massachusetts Avenue Development Seminar)*

*Second policy memo due (please e-mail them to me)*

November 11: Strengthening Health Systems: Case Studies in Service Delivery

Readings:

**November 18: Strengthening Health Systems: Case Studies in Health Financing and Information**

**Readings:**

**December 2: Strengthening Health Systems: Case Studies in Health Governance and Pharmaceutical Management**

**Readings:**

**December 9 (last class): Wrap up and Presentations**

*Written case studies due*

*Presentations*