

Foundations for Global Health Practice
Population Health Sciences 650 section 34
Fall 2008

Monday 5:00-7:30, HSLC 1309

Dates: September 24th, October 8th, November 5th, December 3rd, December 10th
Course Syllabus

Course Description: Foundations for Global Health Practice is a 1-credit interdisciplinary course designed to prepare health professional students graduate students in the health sciences and related fields, as well as community health professionals who take part as UW-Madison special students, for specific global health field experiences. The course fosters a general understanding of global health topics, and focuses on individualized readings and assignments, which, taken together, walk the students through the critical steps needed to prepare for a global health field experience.

Course Objectives:

1. To familiarize students with general precepts of global health.
2. To prepare students to use quantitative and qualitative data to gain an understanding of the health situation related to their selected country and health topic of focus, so that they may maximize what they learn and contribute during their international field experience.
3. To enable students to take concrete steps toward planning a global health field experience, such as selecting a site, identifying a counterpart organization, developing a scope of work that is of mutual benefit to the student and the counterpart organization, and preparing to travel (health and safety).

The course includes five 2.5-hour classroom sessions during the semester. Sessions combine lecture, discussion, guest lectures (classes 2 and /3) based on students area of interest, and student presentations and feedback. Classroom-based learning is supported by online readings and resources and complemented by web-based interaction on learn@UW. The course open to graduate students, health professional students, special students who are candidates for the Certificate in Global Health, and others by consent of the instructor. Other special students and undergraduates will be permitted with permission of the instructor on a space available basis.

Instructor:

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Teaching Assistant:

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Required Texts available at University Book Store and on Reserve at Ebling:

Skolnik, Richard. *Essentials of Global Health.*, Jones and Bartlett Publishers, Inc. Sudbury, MA. 2007.

Holbrook, Kim, Palmer, Portney. *Global Values 101 : A Short Course.*

Grading and Assignments:

In each of the course modules, students will be asked to complete an assignment that applies lessons from the course readings to the country and site where they will carry out their global health field work. Course assignments build on each other so that, taken together, they form a core of background documents that function as a “briefing book” for the student’s particular field assignment. Each assignment will be graded on the point system below. “Participation” points will be based on participation in the group sessions and any on-line discussions associated with the course.

<u>Points</u>	<u>Assignment Number and Title</u>
10	1- Personal Statement
15	2- Health and Culture Assignment
20	3- Geo-Journal Worksheet
15	4- Health Topic Assignment
20	5- Field Assignment Presentation
20	Participation (in class and online discussions)

100 points

The grading scale for the course will be: 90-100 A, 85-89 AB, 80-84 B, 74-79 BC, 69-73 C, 64-68 D, 63 or below F. All assignments should be posted in the submitted to the lead faculty in the drop box at learn@UW. They should also be posted in the discussion boards for peer review and comment by other students. Please include name, e-mail and assignment title on all submissions.

Class 1: Overview of International Health

Objectives:

- To review various definitions of international medicine and international public health
- To review history of international health
- To consider current global health challenges
- To explore how belief systems relate to health, disease, cure (introduce Assignment 2- Health and Culture)

Readings:

Paul Basch, Textbook of International Health , Oxford University Press, 1999. Introduction, pp. 1-10.

Bloom, Barry. Public Health in Transition, Scientific American, September 2005. pp.92-99.

WHO Global health: Chapter 1: today's challenges (skim)
<http://www.who.int/whr/2003/chapter1/en/print.html>

Review the Millennium Development Goals at www.developmentgoals.org .

Assignment 1-Personal Statement: Write a 300-word statement about why you are interested in international health and your reasons for selecting the site for your field experience. This can be thought of as a personal statement of your mission, goals and objectives. What professional skills do you hope to develop? How do you expect this experience to affect you as a person? What impact do you think it have on your life and career? What aspect of this experience will be the most challenging for you? **Please e-mail to instructor (dipretebrown@wisc.edu before the first class).**

Classroom session #1 will include a course overview, introductory lecture, explanation of assignment #2, and student introductions. Small groups will meet for the first time to discuss an article that will be handed out in class. Readings include: To Hell with Good Intentions by Ivan Illich, and Roberts, Maya. (2006) Duffle Bag Medicine. JAMA. Vol. 295 No. 13, 1491-1492.

Learn@UW- Please post your personal statement in your assigned small group discussion boards.

Class 2: Measurement of Health and Disease in Populations

Objectives:

- To appreciate the importance of data in understanding health problems and the ability of health services to address them

- To be able to access epidemiological and health care service information related to the health of populations around the world
- To begin to prepare a descriptive overview of the global health field site (Introduction to Assignment 3-Geo-journal)

Readings:

Skolnik, , Chapter 2: Measure of Health and Disease in Populations, pp. 17-40.
Chapter 6: Culture and Health, pp.97-110.

Review journal articles as needed to complete assignment 2.

Assignment 2-Health and Culture: Through a literature search, identify 2 or 3 key articles about health, disease and culture in the country where you will work. Write a brief summary of each key article. Reflect on how these cultural issues might affect your work. Are there aspects of the beliefs that you can embrace? Are there beliefs or cultural practices that you feel put the health of populations at risk? How will you respond to these if they come up in your work?

Learn@UW: Please post your health and culture assignment on your small group discussion board (assignment 2) before class.

Classroom session #2 will include a lecture about using health data to prepare for global health field work, small group discussions about the assignment 2 (quantitative information about health and culture) an introduction to assignment 3 (Geo-journal worksheet). The session will also include an orientation about how to access information about global health research.

Begin Assignment 3 Geo-journal assignment (due by December 10th): Using web sites and other resources, complete the geo-journal worksheet for your global health field site to the best of your ability. It is not necessary to gather all the data suggested in the worksheet, however, you are encouraged to be as comprehensive as you can so that you have a broad understanding of your site.

Class 3: Planning Field Activities

Objectives:

- To gain insight about how international agencies (bilateral, multi-lateral, PVO, NGO, etc.) differ in mission, scope and objectives
- To explore how to work with counterparts and communities to develop a realistic and mutually beneficial scope of work for the global health field experiences
- To provide an introduction to the ethical responsibilities and review processes necessary to carry out international research
- Gain more in-depth understanding of a selected health issue or area (i.e. infectious disease, primary care, etc.) in focus country

Readings:

Skolnik, Chapter 4 Ethical and Human Rights: Concerns in Global Health

Review IRB application process at

<http://info.gradsch.wisc.edu/research/compliance/humansubjects/tutorial/>

Jeffrey Sachs, Can Extreme Poverty be Eliminated? Scientific American, September 2005, pp.56-65.

Amartya Sen, Development as Freedom (pp. i-xx).

Skolnik, Part III, The Burden of Disease, pp. 113-143 (skim and study selectively for assignment 4).

Assignment 4 – Global Health Topics: Select and review the chapter(s) from the Merson text that is most relevant for your field work (environmental health, nutrition, women’s health, child health, communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases, unintentional injuries). Review articles about a selected health topic in your focus country. Write brief synopses of 3 articles that are relevant for your work. Relate the articles to the work that you hope to do in your field experience.

Learn@UW: Please post your global health topic assignment on your small group discussion board (assignment 4) before class.

Classroom session #3 will include a presentation about developing partnerships for global health, discussion of assignment, overview of the IRB process, and discussion of articles by Sachs and Sen and others.

Class 4: Global Health Field Experiences: Student Presentations

Objective:

- To provide students with an opportunity to present their projects for comment by Global Health Faculty and their peers.
- To provide students with an opportunity to constructively review and comment on the Global Health Field experience planned by others.

Readings for Discussion:

Paul Farmer, Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights and the New War on the Poor, Introduction (pp.1-22) Chapter 9: Rethinking Health and Human Rights (pp.213-246).

Discussion: What are the main points that Farmer makes about health and human rights? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the arguments presented? Was there a particular writer or idea that resonates strongly with your own values about health and development?

Learn@UW: Prepare a PowerPoint for oral presentation to class which describes your plans for a global health field experience. Please post PowerPoint in small group discussion board (assignment 5).

Classroom session #4 will include student presentations and small group discussions about the designated discussion articles.

Class 5: Global Health Field Experiences: Student Presentations (Continued)

Readings for discussion:

Holbrook, Kim, Palmer, Portney. Global Values 101: A Short Course. (read at least 3 essays of interest to you for group discussion.)

Classroom session #5 will include student presentations and small group discussions about the designated discussion articles.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The **Global Health Education Consortium** has a rich website with educational resources, specific advice about international travel, and ideas about sites. The site includes a comprehensive annotated bibliography and an annotated list of global health websites. http://www.globalhealth-ec.org/GHEC/Resources/QAguidance_resources.htm

Global Health Council. Very informative website that posts many job opportunities and publishes an excellent global health news summary weekly for its listserv members. (subscription is free). www.globalhealthcouncil.org

The **American Medical Student Association** (AMSA) Global Health Action Committee aims to educate, empower and promote action on global health issues. They achieve this by facilitating medical professionals' experiences abroad. Extensive information about how to prepare for a clerkship, and a data-base of possible sites for Global health experiences can be found at www.amsa.org/global/ih/ihopps.cfm .

The **International Council of Nurses** website would be of interest to all health science students. www.icn.ch.

National Institutes of Health www.nih.gov

UNICEF www.unicef.org

WHO www.who.int

US Agency for International Development www.usaid.gov

Health and Safety Resources: <http://www.globaled.us/peacecorps/index.html>.
Review country-specific health and safety information at the CDC and State Department websites. www.cdc.gov/travel and <http://travel.state.gov/travel/warnings.html> . Other useful sites include www.who.int/ith/en, www.traveldoctor.co.uk , www.tripprep.com/scripts/main/default.asp (register to use, but it's free)

Please see the Center for Global Health Website www.pophealth.wisc.edu/gh and the links at Learn@UW for more links.