PLCY 590: SPECIAL TOPICS IN PUBLIC POLICY – GLOBAL HEALTH POLICY

Benjamin Mason Meier, JD, LLM, PhD
Assistant Professor of Global Health Policy
Department of Public Policy
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
204 Abernethy Hall, CB #3435
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3435
919-962-0542
bmeier@unc.edu
http://www.unc.edu/~meierb/

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Global health policy impacts the health and well being of individuals and peoples throughout the world. Many determinants of health operate at a global level, and many national policies, social practices, and individual health behaviors are structured by global forces. Concern for the spread of infectious diseases, increasing rates of chronic diseases and the effectiveness of health systems to provide quality care are among the daunting challenges to health policy makers. With profound social, political and economic changes rapidly challenging global health, the aim of this course in Global Health Policy is to provide students with a variety of opportunities to understand the epidemiologic trends in world health, the architecture of global health governance, and the effects of globalization on global and national health policy.

This course provides an introduction to the relationship between international relations, global health policy and public health outcomes. As a survey course, it ranges broadly over theoretical approaches and concrete issues relating to the realization of public health outcomes in the context of domestic and international health policies. For public policy, public health, and law students seeking to gain an understanding of global health policy, this course will complement other health and policy courses at UNC, giving students a foundation for future studies at the intersection of public health and public policy.

The focus of this course will be on public policy approaches to global health, employing interdisciplinary methodologies to understand selected public health policies, programs, and interventions. For students who already have a basic understanding public health, this course will teach students how to apply policy analysis to a wide range of critical issues in global health determinants, interventions, and impacts. Upon completion, students will have acquired an understanding of the social, economic, cultural, legal, and political processes by which global health policy influences global health objectives.
COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Delineate the social, political and economic determinants of global health;
- Identify the evolving national institutions, international organizations, NGOs and private interests structuring global health policy;
- Analyze the ethical, moral and legal norms that frame global health governance;
- Evaluate how global health governance and international policy impacts global health indicators;
- Apply mechanisms of global health policy to address disease prevention and health promotion;
- Understand the effects, both positive and negative, of globalization on health policy at the international and national level; and
- Conceptualize the effects of social and economic policies on underlying determinants of health.

COURSE STRUCTURE

This course is divided into four major units at the intersection of global health and public policy:

Unit 1: Frameworks of Global Health Policy
Unit 2: Global Health Governance
Unit 3: Economic Institutions & Health Policy
Unit 4: International Efforts to Address Determinants of Health

ASSIGNMENTS

Student grades will be based on:

- Three (3) Position Papers  30%
- Final Paper  50%
- Participation  20%

Position Papers
The position papers should provide a succinct (<500 word) analysis and/or critique of a specific aspect of the readings. The three (3) position papers will be due one (1) week after the conclusion of each respective unit. (Note: There will be no position paper due at the conclusion of the fourth unit.) The position papers should not be summaries of the readings but should instead offer thoughtful reactions to several of the readings in that unit.
Final Paper
The final research paper is a substantial piece of writing (10-12 pages) relying heavily on secondary source material (and primary sources to the degree necessary). The paper should make use of both course and outside readings and investigate an issue of global health policy that is of interest to the student.

Participation
The course is a seminar and will not rely entirely on professorial lecture. Consequently, attendance and participation are mandatory. Students should come to class having read all of the required readings, prepared to raise provocative questions for discussion.

As half of the student’s participation grade (10% of the total grade), each student will be responsible for presenting a written and oral summary of a week’s readings. Summary assignments will be selected during the first class.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Unit 1: Frameworks of Global Health Policy

Session 1-What is Global Health? What is Global Health Policy?
Required Readings

Optional Readings

Required Readings
(Eds.), *Dying for Growth: Global Inequality and the Health of the Poor* (pp. 177-224). Monroe, Me: Common Courage Press.

**Optional Readings**

- Koivusala, M. & Ollila, E. (1997) Ch 2, WHO (pp. 6-22), Ch. 3, The World Bank, (pp. 23-45), Ch. 4, UNICEF (pp.46-61), UNDP (pp. 62-70), UNFPA (pp. 71-19), and , Other Actors in International Health Policies (pp. 80-93) In *Making a Healthy World*, Zed Books, Ltd. London.

**Session 3-Globalization, Global Public Goods and Global Policy for Health**

**Required Readings**


**Optional Readings**


**Session 4-Normative Frameworks for Global Health Policy: Collective Action, Ethics & Individual Rights**

**Required Readings**


**Optional Readings**

Session 5-Processes: How is Global Health Policy Developed?

Required Readings


Optional Readings


Unit 2: Global Health Governance

Session 6-Infectious Disease Control: Isolation, Eradication, and the International Health Regulations

* First Position Paper Due

Required Readings


Optional Readings


Session 7-Non-Communicable Disease Prevention: Tobacco, Obesity, and Food Safety

**Required Readings**


**Optional Readings**


Session 8-Health Promotion: Breastfeeding, Water and Nutrition

**Required Readings**


The WHO/UNICEF Code on Breastmilk Substitutes
Optional Readings

Session 9-Health Protection: TNCs and Corporate Compacts

Required Readings
- United Nations Global Compact ([www.unglobalcompact.org](http://www.unglobalcompact.org))

Optional Readings
- WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

Unit 3: Economic Institutions & Health Policy

Session 10-Economic Development Policy for Public Health
* Second Position Paper Due

Required Readings
- From economic development to human development – G8, UNDP

Optional Readings

Session 11-Global Economic Policy and National Health Systems

Required Readings


**Optional Readings**


**Session 12 - Trade Regimes & International Frameworks for Intellectual Property**

**Required Readings**

- Lipson, D. J. (2001). The World Trade Organization’s health agenda: Opening up the health services markets may worsen health equity for the poor. *British Medical Journal, 323*, 139-140.

**Optional Readings**

Unit 4: International Efforts to Address Determinants of Health

Session 13-Environmental Health, Pollution & Climate Change
* Third Position Paper Due

Required Readings


Optional Readings


Session 14-Reproduction and Family Planning

Required Readings


Optional Readings


Session 15-Social Determinants of Health

Required Readings


Optional Readings


[Date]: Final Research Paper Due