Course Syllabus

Course Title: Ethics, Global Health, & the Fundamental Causes of Disease
2011 sec 002, CRN #32167

Meeting: Tu-Th 3:30-4:45 PM
Mamie Jenkins Seminar Room 104

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: None

Grading System: A-F

Course Instructor: Daniel S. Goldberg, J.D., Ph.D
Assistant Professor
Department of Bioethics & Interdisciplinary Studies
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Course Description:

What causes disease across the globe? What causes people in some parts of the world to have much higher rates of certain diseases than others? And what are the implications for global health policy and ethics? This course aims to provide preliminary answers to these questions, but more so to provide students with the knowledge base and understandings needed to begin answering these questions for themselves. The interdisciplinary course will draw readings, insights, and analysis from a number of domains including public health, health policy, law, history, and ethics.
Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, learners will be able to

1. Explain the distinction between global health and global health care.
2. Describe the effects of social and economic conditions on global health.
3. Evaluate the ethical responsibilities of the developed world for the health problems of the developing world. In so doing students will learn the subject matter for ethics as it relates to international affairs and global health (Foundations Curriculum Goal for the Humanities Goal 1, Goal 3).
4. Evaluate public policy recommendations for improving global health and compressing global health inequities. In so doing, students will learn the research methodology needed to assess public policy from an ethical perspective (Foundations Curriculum Goal for the Humanities Goal 2).

Writing Intensive (WI)

2011 sec 002, CRN #32167 is a writing intensive course in the Writing Across the Curriculum Program at East Carolina University. In using WI Model # 1, this course contributes to the twelve-hour WI requirement for students at ECU. Additional information is available at the following site: http://www.ecu.edu/writing/wac/.

Evaluation:

Students will be graded according to their written work and class participation. There will be three writing assignments for this course. The first is a structured assignment requiring short answers to several questions, totaling 6-8 pages. The second is a cohesive essay of 6-8 pages (topic to be provided). Each of these first two assignments is worth 20% of the final grade.

The third writing assignment will be a 10-12 page paper worth 40% of the final grade. Students may write the third writing assignment on any topic of their choosing so long as it relates to the course material. Topics can be provided by the instructor if desired.

For each of the writing assignments, citation should generally conform to the Chicago Manual of Style. Wikipedia may not be used as a source.

Writing assignments will be graded along the following criteria:
1. Cogency of and technical rigor in the argument;
2. Engagement with and use of course material (readings, in-class discussion, electronic discussion board postings, etc.); and
3. Mechanical aspects of good essay writing, including the existence of a clear thesis, proper paragraph structure, correct grammar and spelling, and appropriate diction and syntax.

Class preparedness and participation is worth 20% of the final grade and consists of familiarity with the readings and engagement with the class material. As part of the class participation grade, each week one 250-word reading response will be due by 9 am of the Tuesday morning on which class is schedule. Please plan your schedules accordingly and contact the professor in advance if you anticipate any difficulties in completing the reading responses.

Several fora will be provided for class discussion, including in-class discussion and in-class group work, the electronic discussion board on Blackboard, regularly scheduled online chats, and a class weblog.

**Accommodations for Qualified Individuals with Disabilities:**

It is the policy of East Carolina University to make reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability and desire accommodations to complete your course requirements, please contact me after class or make an appointment within the first two weeks of classes. All discussions will remain confidential. Additionally, students should contact the Department for Disability Support Services.

**Honor Code/Academic Integrity:**

Students are expected to show academic integrity and to adhere strictly to the [ECU Honor Code](#).

**Policy on Late Papers/Extensions**

Extensions of up to 48 hrs will generally be granted if requested **at least 24 hrs prior to the due date.** An extension carries with it a penalty of 2/3 of a letter grade (i.e., from an “A” to a “B+”). In all other cases, late papers will not be accepted for any reason. **Please plan your schedules accordingly.**
Readings:

There are no required texts for this course. All readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Schedule of Topics, Readings, & Assignments:

Class 1: January 10

Introduction, Class Mechanics, Syllabus

Reading Assignment:


Class 2: January 12

Health & Its Distribution
Class 3, 4: January 17, 19

History of Public Health and Its Relevance to Modern Global Health

Reading Assignment:


Class 5, 6: January 24, 26

Disease Causality and Why It Matters

Reading Assignment:


Class 7, 8: January 31, February 2

Health vs. Health Care

Reading Assignment:


Class 9, 10: February 7, 9

Social Determinants of Health I (Introduction)

Social Determinants of Health II (Social Inequalities & Health Inequalities)

Reading Assignment:


*First Writing Assignment Due February 14.*

Class 11, 12: February 14, 16


Social Determinants of Health IV (“Closing the Gap in a Generation” - Assessment)
Reading Assignment:


Class 13, 14: February 21, 23

International Political Economies & Global Health

Reading Assignment:


Class 15, 16: February 28, March 2

Just Deserts? Ethical Responsibility for Global Health Inequities

Reading Assignment:


No Class Week of March 5 (Spring Break)

Class 17, 18: March 13, 15

Ethics, the Developed World, & Global Health

Reading Assignment:


*Second Writing Assignment Due March 20.*
Class 19, 20: March 20, 22

Health & Human Rights Talk

Reading Assignment:


Class 21, 22: March 27, 29

Bioethics & Global Health

Reading Assignment:

Class 23, 24:  April 3, 5

Priorities in Global Health Policy

Reading Assignment


Class 25:  April 10

Priorities in Global Health: Chronic vs. Infectious Disease

Reading Assignments:


Class 26:  April 12

In-Class Peer Review Writing Sessions (conducted by University Writing Program)
Class 27: April 17

Stigma as a Global Health Priority


Class 28: April 19

Final Class: Discussion and Last Thoughts

Reading Assignment:


*Third Writing Assignment Due April 25.*