

The objective of the course is to provide insight into the challenges currently facing global health. The student should understand why tackling global health issues is an important endeavor, and how this endeavor is connected to poverty alleviation, economy, and promotion of peace. An additional value of the course is to develop greater understanding of global health issues by applying social theories – which then brings about the combination of bio- and social perspectives (done through case studies);

Unit I: Global health as an area of study and research that focuses on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide; health governance mechanisms; comparative health systems; global health and global governance; global health institutions; social actors, social forces, and social institutions in global health;

Unit II: Globalization and its implications for human health and its treatment & prevention aspects; how commerce, communications and mobility have deep and pervasive bearings on connectedness with respect to development, application and regulation of knowledge and technology; movement of disease, contaminated food/water/air/toxic substance (and terrorism) across borders; universality in healthcare;

Unit III: Vast array of determinants of health and disease; intrinsic factors, such as genetics, behavior, and exposure to infections, as well as extrinsic factors, such as poverty, trade, and environmental degradation;

Unit IV: Exposure to the major communicable and non-communicable diseases that are known to pose a significant effect on health (especially the developing nations); effect of socioeconomic and demographic differences on the burden of disease; diverse case studies (spanning many nations);

Unit V: How research is planned and implemented, how data is analyzed in this area (brief coverage), and how the observations/findings are transferred into policy and practice; and understanding the multi-disciplinary nature of the subject - including the interactions & involvement of the sciences (including social sciences), ethics, economics and diplomacy.

TEXT BOOKS/ REFERENCES:

1. Global health case studies from a biosocial perspective (Harvard MOOC): <https://www.edx.org/course/global-health-case-studies-biosocial-harvardx-sw25x-0#!>
2. Basch, P.F. (1999). *Textbook of international health*. New York: Oxford University Press.
3. Birn, A.E., Pillay, Y. & Holtz, T. (2009). *Textbook of international health: Global health in a dynamic world*, 3rd Ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
4. Easterly, W.R. & Birdsall, N. (2008). *Reinventing foreign aid*. Massachusetts: The MIT Press.
5. Ehiri, J.E. (ed.) (2009). *Maternal and child health: Global challenges, programs, and policies*. New York: Springer-Verlag.
6. Evans, T. Whitehead, M. Diderichsen, F., Bhuiya, A., Wirth, M. (Eds) (2001). *Challenging inequities in health: From ethics to action*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
7. Frost, L.J. & Reich, M.R. (2008). *Access: How do good health technologies get to poor people in poor countries?* Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.
8. Gunn, S.W.A., Piel, A. & Davies, A.M. (2005). *Understanding the global dimensions of health*. New York: Springer.
9. Jamison, D.T., Breman, J.G., Measham, A.R., Alleyne, G., Claeson, M., Evans, D.B., Jha, P., Mills, A., Musgrove, P. (2006). *Disease control priorities in developing countries* (2nd Ed). Washington, D.C. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank. Retrieved from <http://files.dcp2.org/pdf/DCP/DCP.pdf>
10. Merson, M.H., Black, R.E. & Mills, A.J. (2006). *International public health: diseases, programs, systems and policies*. 2nd Ed. Gaithersburg, Maryland: Aspen Inc.
11. Keefe, T. J. & Zacher, M. W. *The Politics of Global Health Governance*. (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008).
12. Staff, G. H. W. *Global Health Watch 2005-06: An Alternative World Health Report*. (Zed Books, 2005).