



Global Health & Development

A/Y 2023-24 Syllabus

Instructors (in alphabetical order)

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Course Description

This course lays out the broad research area of global health, with a special emphasis on how it relates to development. Relying on lectures and class discussions of cutting-edge research, we will cover three broad issues: global health governance (classes 1-2, taught by Kentikelenis), global health epidemiology (classes 3-4, taught by Melegaro), and global health policy (classes 5-6, taught by Torbica). This sequence will enable students to identify *who* is involved in global health, *what* the subject matter of many global health interventions is, and *how* policies are designed and implemented to improve health status. By the end of the course, students will have a broad knowledge of the main strands of this field of research and how they fit together, as well as what current academic and methodological discussions are currently taking place.

Assessment

Exam (100%): Students will sit for a two-hour exam, which will cover all the material covered in class and associated readings. Students will be offered three exam questions, of which they must answer two.

Detailed contents and readings

Global health governance

This section will cover the role of major organizations—multilateral institutions, bilateral donors, and ‘philanthropic’ foundations—in global health, and will outline the interconnections between them, with special emphasis on financial flows, decision-making authority, and policy implementation procedures. We will also review two major controversies: the role of global health governance in tackling health emergencies; and the interplay between global economic and health governance. Finally, we will discuss recent research in this field of study, with an emphasis on research design and methodological choices.

The basics

- Clinton, Chelsea, and Devi Sridhar. 2017. *Governing Global Health: Who Runs the World and Why?* Oxford: Oxford University Press. [esp. Chapters 1 and 4]
- Szlezák, Nicole A et al. 2010. ‘The Global Health System: Actors, Norms, and Expectations in Transition’. *PLoS Medicine* 7(1): e1000183 EP-.

- McCoy, David, Gayatri Kembhavi, Jinesh Patel, and Akish Luintel. 2009. 'The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Grant-Making Programme for Global Health'. *The Lancet* 373(9675): 1645–53.
- Storeng, Katerini T. 2014. 'The GAVI Alliance and the "Gates Approach" to Health System Strengthening'. *Global Public Health* 9(8): 865–79.

Key debates

- Kamradt-Scott, Adam. 2016. 'WHO's to Blame? The World Health Organization and the 2014 Ebola Outbreak in West Africa'. *Third World Quarterly* 37(3): 401–18.
- Gostin, Lawrence O., Suerie Moon, and Benjamin Mason Meier. 2020. 'Reimagining Global Health Governance in the Age of COVID-19'. *American Journal of Public Health* 110(11): 1615–19.
- Hughes-McLure, Sarah, and Emma Mawdsley. 2022. 'Innovative Finance for Development? Vaccine Bonds and the Hidden Costs of Financialization'. *Economic Geography* 98(2): 145–69.

Research frontiers

- Kentikelenis, Alexander et al. 2022. 'Global Financing for Health Policy and Systems Research: A Review of Funding Opportunities'. *Health Policy and Planning*: czac109.
- Kentikelenis, Alexander E, and Leonard Seabrooke. 2021. 'Organising Knowledge to Prevent Global Health Crises: A Comparative Analysis of Pandemic Preparedness Indicators'. *BMJ Global Health* 6(8): e006864.
- Barlow, Pepita, Rachel Loopstra, Valerie Tarasuk, and Aaron Reeves. 2020. 'Liberal Trade Policy and Food Insecurity across the Income Distribution: An Observational Analysis in 132 Countries, 2014–17'. *The Lancet Global Health* 8(8): e1090–97.

Global health epidemiology

Global health epidemiology is a multidisciplinary field of study that focuses on understanding the distribution and determinants of health and disease across populations on a global scale. It involves the systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of data to identify patterns of disease, risk factors, and health disparities that transcend national boundaries. The primary goals of global health epidemiology are to improve public health outcomes, prevent and control the spread of diseases, and promote health equity by informing evidence-based policies and interventions that address health challenges worldwide. During this part of the course we will go through the basic principles and metrics in epidemiological research and dive into global burden of diseases topics as well as the main global health challenges, including the recent pandemic. The main principles of infectious diseases dynamics and the basics of epidemiological modelling as a tool to study the spread of infections at a global scale will be discussed.

Basics

- Koplan, J. P., Bond, T. C., Merson, M. H., Reddy, K. S., Rodriguez, M. H., Sewankambo, N. K., & Wasserheit, J. N. (2009). Towards a common definition of global health. *The Lancet*, 373(9679), 1993-1995.
- Fried, L. P., Bentley, M. E., Buekens, P., Burke, D. S., Frenk, J. J., Klag, M. J., & Spencer, H. C. (2010). Global health is public health. *The Lancet*, 375(9714), 535-537.
- Global burden of 369 diseases and injuries in 204 countries and territories, 1990–2019: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019. *The Lancet*. 2020; 396: 1204–22.
- Murray, C. J. L., & Lopez, A. D. (1997). "Alternative projections of mortality and disability by cause 1990-2020: Global Burden of Disease Study." *The Lancet*, 349(9064), 1498-1504.

- Chinazzi M, Davis JT, Ajelli M, et al. The effect of travel restrictions on the spread of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. *Science*. 2020 Apr 24;368(6489):395-400. doi: 10.1126/science.aba9757.

Key debates

- World Health Organization. "Global health sector strategies on, respectively, HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections for the period 2022-2030." (2022).
- Sachs, Jeffrey D., et al. "The Lancet Commission on lessons for the future from the COVID-19 pandemic." *The Lancet* 400.10359 (2022): 1224-1280.

Research frontiers

- Agyepong, Irene Akua, et al. "The path to longer and healthier lives for all Africans by 2030: the Lancet Commission on the future of health in sub-Saharan Africa." *The Lancet* 390.10114 (2017): 2803-2859.
- Khraishah, Haitham, et al. "Climate change and cardiovascular disease: implications for global health." *Nature Reviews Cardiology* 19.12 (2022): 798-812.

Global health policy

Global health policy refers to the collective decisions, actions, and strategies implemented by international organizations, governments, and non-governmental entities to address health issues on a global scale. It encompasses a comprehensive approach at global scale with ultimate aim of improving health outcomes and ensuring healthcare access for populations worldwide. Consequently, it is intrinsically connected with global health governance and epidemiology issues. In the first part we will discuss some fundamentals of global health policy and matters it addresses. Then we will discuss major current themes in global health policy (including: Universal Health Coverage, One Health, Health For All, Health in All Policies, Health Equity). Finally, we will discuss relevant research frontiers in the field.

Basics

- Brugha R, Bruen C, Tangcharoensathien V. Understanding Global Health Policy. Chapter 1. Global Health Policy and Global Health Governance in *The Handbook of Global Health Policy*, Wiley Blackwell 2014. p.21-46
- Harman S. Critical Reflections on Global Health Policy Formulation: From Renaissance to Crisis. Chapter 2. Global Health Policy and Global Health Governance. in *The Handbook of Global Health Policy*, Wiley Blackwell 2014. p.47-62
- Yamey G and Valmik J. An Argument for Evidence Based Policy Making in Global Health Chapter 7. Narrowing the Gap Between Knowledge and Action in *The Handbook of Global Health Policy*, Wiley Blackwell 2014. p.133-156

Key debates

- Monti M, Torbica A, Mossialos E, McKee M A new strategy for health and sustainable development in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic. *The Lancet*, Volume 398, Issue 10305, 1029 – 1031
- <https://www.who.int/europe/publications/m/item/drawing-light-from-the-pandemic--a-new-strategy-for-health-and-sustainable-development>
- FAO/OIE/WHO (2017). The tripartite's commitment: Providing multi-sectoral, collaborative leadership in addressing health challenges. Rome: FAO (https://www.who.int/zoonoses/tripartite_oct2017.pdf)

Research frontiers

- Greer, Scott L et al. From Health in All Policies to Health for All Policies. The Lancet Public Health, Volume 7, Issue 8, e718 - e720