SPH 295 - Introduction to International Health Course Syllabus

Spring Quarter 2011

Course # SPH 295
CRN: 50553
Credits: 2 units

Location: Davis campus: classroom Olson 227

Days/Time: Wednesdays 5:10-7:00 PM

Course Co-Directors

Patrick Marius Koga, MD MPH
Associate Clinical Professor
Tel 916-254-9959
Email: pmkoga@ucdavis.edu

Maria Lucia Pecoraro, MD, MPH
Associate Clinical Professor
Tell: 707-718-3564
Email: mcpecoraro@ucdavis.edu

Course Faculty

Marius Koga, MD, MPH, UC Davis School of Medicine
Maria Lucia Pecoraro, MD, MPH, UC Davis UC Davis School of Medicine
John Cary Sims, JD, University of Pacific, McGeorge School of Law
Ivana Steigman, MD, PhD, ITP, InWorld Solutions, Palo Alto
Lee Riley, MD, UC Berkeley, School of Public Health
Heike Thiel de Bocanegra, MPH, PhD, Bixby Center for Global Health, UCSF
Cy Carpenter, MD, Tulane School of Medicine
Louis Downs, PhD, CSUS; UC Davis-CHPR; VIRTIS

Course Description

Introduction to International Health will orient students to the socio-cultural and economic influences on population-level variation in health and illness. We will explore the health-illness fractal continuum focusing both on the proximate and the distal determinants of health and well-being. Students will learn about
key players in international health the multilateral and bilateral donor communities, Ministries of Health, UN agencies, foundations, NGOs and understand important shifts in donor policies towards healthcare delivery. They will be introduced to the major health problems currently affecting the developing world, and alerted to the importance of employing a population-based vs. a purely clinical approach to solving these health problems. Students will also learn about the UC Global Health Institutes mission, objectives, research projects and initiatives, its local and international partners, and about opportunities to gain experience in transnational health.

Course Objectives

1. Describe the importance of culture, class, and gender on perceptions of health and illness, on health status, and on access to services;
2. Describe the health situation of a country using the concepts of demographic and epidemiological transition
3. Delineate the difference between population-based and clinical approaches to health improvement and why population-based approaches are more effective in resource poor settings;
4. Explain how international health status is measured and communicated;
5. Discuss the ethical issues implicit in conducting research in the developing world;
6. Identify the key players in international public health;
7. Outline the major policy and program shifts in international public health over the last 25 years;
8. Discuss economic, community, and social development issues as related to the definition of health problems and the development of interventions
9. Recognize the role of health systems and the impact of health care financing mechanisms in international public health
10. Enumerate and discuss the main causes of ill health in the developing world.
11. Integrate law and human rights in the analysis of international health problems
12. Discuss the dynamics of international health responses in natural disasters and complex emergencies

Course Structure
The course will employ a lecture-discussion-small group participation format. There will be 10, two-hour, sessions. The first class will introduce students to the field of international health. Lectures 2 through 8 will cover specific international health issues; the last two classes will be poster sessions where students will present their final term projects.

Evaluation

Attendance & participation. Students are expected to attend all sessions, complete required readings, and participate in group assignments. Class attendance and discussion will account for 40% of the final grade. During the first class, students will sign up for teams that will be responsible for guiding discussion of the lecture topics during the second half of each class during weeks 2 through 8.

Final papers. Students will prepare a final 10-12 page paper on a topic of their choice. The papers should address key research and/or policy issue related to International Health.
All papers are due by the last class session on June 01. The final paper will count for 30% of the course grade.

Abstract presentation. The last session will be devoted to a poster or Power point session. Students will create and present a poster or a PPT on their final paper topic. The abstract presentation will count for 30% of the final grade.

Grading
Pass: 65% or >65% Fail: <65%

Class Schedule

Session 1: March 30
Introduction to International Public Health. Cross-Cultural Perspectives and Competence in International Health
Instructor: Patrick Marius Koga, MD, MPH

Readings

Session 2: April 06
Instructor: Patrick Marius Koga, MD, MPH

Readings
http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/02779536

Session 3: April 13
World Bank, Economics, and Major Players in Global Health
Virtual Community Environments (VCEs) in Public Health
Instructor: Marius Koga, MD, MPH
Guest Speaker: Ivana Steigman, MD, PhD
Virtual Reality in Global Health

Readings
Tb provided a week prior to class

Session 4: April 20
Disaster Mental Health: War, Terrorism, and Trauma
Instructor: Patrick Marius Koga, MD, MPH

PTSD intervention in Kyrgyzstan (30 min)

Guest Speaker: Heike Thiel de Bocanegra, MPH, PhD
Public health Lessons from the World Trade Center Attack and 9/11 (1 hr)

Readings
3. Trueman W. Sharp, Frederick M. Burkle, Jr., Andrew F. Vaughn, Rashid Chotani, and Richard J. Brennan Challenges and Opportunities for Humanitarian Relief in Afghanistan. Clinical Infectious Diseases 2002;34:S2 15-S228. This article is in the public domain at http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/CID/journal/issues/v34nS5/020228/020228.text.html?erFrom--4987797285588775981

Session 5: April 27

International Women’s Health
Instructor: Maria Lucia Pecoraro, MD, MPH

Readings

Session 6: May 04
Human Rights, National Security, and International Health
Guest speaker: Professor John Carry Sims, JD, University of Pacific, McGeorge School of Law
Readings

Session 7: May 11

**Slum Health: Emerging and Re-Emerging Infectious Diseases**

Guest Speaker: Lee Riley, MD, UC Berkeley
Instructor: Maria Lucia Pecoraro, MD, MPH

Readings

Session Eight: May 18

**Global Health Responses to Natural Disasters and Complex Emergencies:**

Instructor: Patrick Marius Koga, MD, MPH
Guest speaker: Cy Carpenter, MD, Tulane University
Guest Speaker: Louis Downs, PhD, CSUS, UCD-CHPR

Readings

Session Nine: May 25

**Poster Session**

Session Ten: June 01
Poster Session
(Final papers due)

Readings available online on the course webpage.

Further suggested (not mandatory) readings
Textbook of International Health, Paul F. Basch, ISBN 019513204
Price at Amazon.com: from $44.99 (new and used)