Course title: Global Health and Emerging Diseases
Course code: (GI) PUBH 3010 ROIT
Programs offering course: Rome Open Campus Block
Open Campus Track: Global and Community Health
Language of instruction: English
U.S. semester credits: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Spring Block I 2021

Course Description

This course is oriented to analyze the current situation of global health and emerging diseases as priority topics that affect population health. Focusing on a global health scenario, the course will deal with the complexities of achieving global coordination, which is needed between multiple organizations to achieve improvements in the respective fields. Three related areas determine global health action: the socioeconomic situation, security, and public health. These issues play out against a background of demographic change, economic development, and urbanization. Infectious diseases remain critical factors, but are no longer the major cause of global illness and death. A global geopolitical and environmental scenario needs to identify how major threats to health have changed in order to devise ways to confront them. Undoubtedly, poverty and social inequality constitute the greatest challenges in addressing health problems at the population level. By learning about different local realities, theoretical frameworks, and specific sets of problems, the class will facilitate a better understanding of those approaches and global health topics.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Evaluate the complexity of the social and environmental settings that contribute to the emergence of specific diseases.
- Apply indicators to characterize population health and the relation with diseases risk.
- Understand the current debates regarding global health scenarios, public policies and political decisions related to the control of emerging diseases.
- Link those public policies and political decisions to debates about economic asymmetries and cultural differences between the global north and the global south.

Course Prerequisites

Students should have completed a level 2000 class in health studies and/or health issues and/or zoonosis prior to taking this course.

Methods of Instruction

The course will be taught using lectures, seminars, case study projects, and group presentations. Analyzing data, interpreting them and preparing them for presentation, which plays an important role in this course, will typically be done in groups. Case studies and scenarios on individual countries in particular will be facilitated by the instructor. Debates in the class forum will focus on understanding complex concepts and theories related to public and global health. Students will also do site visits and interviews. Invited guest speakers will add to the learning experiences of the class.

Attendance

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for Open Campus and Short Term programs, absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a written warning.
Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent.

Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to any required field placement. Students may not miss placement/work hours at an internship or service learning site unless approved in advance by the Academic Director and placement supervisor. All students must complete all of the requisite 100 minimum work hours on site at the internship or service learning placement to be eligible for academic credit.

Students who miss class for personal travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Absences for classes will lead to the following penalties:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Total Course Hours Missed</th>
<th>Minimum Penalty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 10%</td>
<td>Participation graded as per class requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 – 20%</td>
<td>Participation graded as per class requirements; grade penalty &amp; written warning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 20%</td>
<td>Automatic course failure, and possible expulsion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1**

Class: 1.0 Global Health and Its Impacts on Human Wellbeing

During this class students will be introduced to major global health challenges, programs and policies. The principal conceptual frameworks on which global health research and strategies are based will be introduced to the students.

Class: 2.0 Basic Determinants of Emerging Infectious Diseases

In this class students will analyze the determinants and drivers of infectious diseases. For this, students will analyze and interpret specific data subsequently to be presented to the rest of the class. Students are asked to come to class with a personal computers/tablet/smartphone with internet access for this session.

**Reading:**


**Due Date for Submission of the Weekly Report**

**Week 2**

Class: 3.0 Managing the Health Effects of Environmental Changes
This class will help the students to understand the most important links among environmental changes and its effects on the living conditions of the populations related to how they can affect their wellbeing and health.

**Reading:**


**Class: 4.0 Ecosystem-Mediated Health Effects by Environmental Changes**

In this class students will be introduced to the analysis of how certain social and environmental settings contribute to the emergence of specific diseases. For this purpose, students will analyze and discuss data based on guided readings that expose them to the complexity of establishing such correlations.

**Reading:**


**Class: 5.0 Analysing the Data: Impacts**

Based on the data previously collected and the information provided by the instructor, students will work on case studies. After they finish they will present it to discuss in class their results and findings.

**Reading:**


**Due Date for Submission of the Weekly Report

**Week 3**

**Class: 6.0 Principal Aspects of Mobility and Migration in a Global World**

In this module students will explore the relationship between migration and health as a complex weft of the associations between population growth and environmental effect which have large implications for global health.

**Reading:**


**Class: 7.0 Migration and Health in the Host Country**

This class will be divided into two parts:

**Part One:** by means of the presentation of a guest speaker (TBA), students will be introduced to the differences in health outcomes between migrants and residents born in the host country in order to understand the specific issues that affect migrant’s health in the host country and to analyze the ‘healthy migrant’ effect. The guest speaker will introduce students to the differences in health outcomes between migrants and residents born in the host country and the key health issues faced by the migrant population.
Part Two: each group of students will discuss with the instructor the structure of their research topics, based on the selected topic, sources needed and research approach.

Reading:


Class: 8.0 Communicable Diseases: Life Conditions Matter

In this class students will approach the problem of the communicable diseases and the association that primarily linked them with poverty. Therefore, the class will cover the analysis of topics like migration based on war, conflict or economic crisis that certainly increase the risks of communicable diseases, particularly measles, and food- and waterborne diseases, such as tuberculosis (TB), HIV/AIDS and others.

Reading:


Due Date for Submission of the Weekly Report

Week 4

Class: 9.0 Emerging Infectious Diseases and One Health

Most human infectious diseases, especially recently emerging pathogens, originate from animals, and ongoing disease transmission from animals to people presents a significant global health burden.

Reading:


Class: 10.0 Emerging Infectious Diseases and its Representation in Cinematography

The films "Outbreak" and "Contagion" will be discussed and analyze the theme of both films in relation to the global health and the distribution of the emerging infectious diseases. Students will be divided into two groups to present the arguments of the debate.

Reading:


Class: 11.0 Site Visit

Students will visit a neighborhood to observe and collect environmental, social and demographic data to analyze how some of the diseases covered by the class had impact in the local context.

Readings:


Due Date for Submission of the Weekly Report

Week 5

Class: 12.0 Emerging Infectious Diseases by Arbovirus (Part 1)
This class will focus on the principal vector-borne emerging infectious diseases and their impact on global health. To do so students will have to analyze specific data and the instructor will provide them with reading guidelines.

**Reading:**


**Class: 13.0 Emerging Infectious Diseases by Arbovirus (Part 2)**

This class will focus on the principal vector-borne emerging infectious diseases and their impact on global health. To do so students will have analyzed specific data and the instructor will provide them with reading guidelines.

**Readings:**


**Class: 14.0 Emerging Infectious Diseases by Bats and Rodents**

This class will focus on the principal emerging infectious diseases transmitted by bats and rodents and their impact on global health. To do so students will have analyzed specific data and the instructor will provide them with reading guidelines to facilitate group debates in class. Each group will be asked to prepare some of the articles listed below to do so.

**Readings:**


**Due Date for Submission of the Critical Reflection**

**Week 6**

**Class: 15.0 Global Health + Emerging Infectious Diseases: The Political and Economic Agenda**

In this class, students will explore the relationship and the importance of crucial universal issues—such as protecting health and climate and the political decisions and economics supports for achieve the better solutions. Although these commitments are welcome proof of political will, actions (not advocacy) must now follow. A major challenge in the governance of research funding is agenda-setting, given that the priorities of funding bodies largely dictate what health issues and diseases are studied. The challenge of agenda-setting is a consequence of a larger phenomenon in global health financing. The reality might yet inspire the development of a global health ethic that all of society eventually embraces.

**Class: 16.0 Shared Knowledge**

Group research presentation and open debate

**Reading:**


**Due Date for Submission of the Presentation Assessment**
Course Materials

Readings


