

## Syllabus for “Global Health”



College of Veterinary Medicine  
Department of Diagnostic Medicine

Course: Global Health Issues in a Dynamic World

Term: Fall Semester 2011

Number: DMP 844

Credit Hours: 3

Contact Hours: 36 online

Course Type: Online

Lecture Hours:

Lab Hours: 0

Instructor: Dr Deborah J. Briggs; [briggs@vet.ksu.edu](mailto:briggs@vet.ksu.edu)

**Instructor Bio:** Dr. Deborah Briggs is a global expert in the field of rabies and serves on the World Health Organization Committee for rabies. She is currently the Executive Director of the 501 c3 registered not-for-profit organization “Global Alliance for Rabies Control”. In her role as a global rabies expert, Dr. Briggs has travelled throughout the world visiting many resource-poor countries and has worked with representatives from international health organizations including WHO, OIE, FAO, PAHO, CDC and others. Dr. Briggs has published numerous scientific articles and book chapters and also teaches the public health course DMP 770, Fundamentals of emerging infectious diseases. Dr Briggs currently resides in Europe.

### Course Description

“Global Public health in a dynamic world” includes a review of how economic and political factors have and continue to affect global public health. The course outlines the major players in global public health and their various roles. The course also explains epidemiological profiles of disease and how they differ in low, medium and high income countries and how the structure of societies influence the state of public health in these populations, including the role of social inequalities in explaining persistent differences in health status. The class will learn public health outcomes after ecological disasters and how the cost to human life and suffering can be reduced through political and social structures and reactions. Additionally, the course will focus on the link between neoliberal globalization and illness, death and injury and discuss how neoliberal globalization affects the work place and occupational safety. Students will learn how globalization influences public health and how it has the potential to benefit and harm population health. Students will also learn how international occupational health and safety is a critically neglected area of global health. The course will provide a description of some different types of health care systems, health care reform systems and concepts. The course stresses the fact that although the control of diseases is an important

factor in improving the health of a population, it is not the only fact that one needs to consider when strategically developing health plans. It provides examples of some developing countries that have made extraordinary gains in health conditions and have done so through investing broadly in the social welfare of their citizens. It also explains how collective commitment to social justice and equity through social action and grassroots organizing in addition to more formal political channels is essential in the making of healthy societies.

## **Course Objectives**

### **Module 1. Historic Origins of International Public Health**

- Understand historical perspectives of public health, and how these perspectives continue to influence public health today
- Review the historical documents that formed the basis of the modern public health system
- Examine how economic and political factors affected public health
- Provide examples of some historical attempts at controlling infectious diseases and improving public health of communities

### **Module 2. The Organization and Logistics of Health Systems and International Health Agencies**

- Define the major players and their roles in promoting global public health policies and action
- Examine how the various agencies have evolved over the past century into the current set-up
- Discuss various conflicts that exist between global agencies and their differing approaches to solving public health problems
- Define major philanthropic organizations and their financial support and influence on global public health organizations and programs

### **Module 3. Politics, Health and Development**

- Define the underlying causes of health
- Provide models of understanding health and disease
- Describe the effect of political and economic policies on health

### **Module 4. Data Collection and Profiles of Disease**

- Review the limitations of data collection and analysis at a local and global scale
- Examine the various types of health data that are available
- Determine how evaluation of data can provide an insight into the health of a population

**Module 5. Society, Culture and Health**

- Explain how the structure of societies impact the health of a population
- Discuss the influence of social inequalities on the quality of health of a population
- Define factors that influence health at all levels of society
- Describe theories that explain how social inequalities affect health and their implications for local, national and global policies

**Module 6. Health Under Crisis**

- Discuss the public health outcome of ecological disasters and how the cost to human life and suffering can be reduced through political and social structures and reactions
- Examine how political action or inaction is highly intertwined with public health on all levels

**Module 7. The Impact of Globalization on Public Health**

- Review factors that link neoliberal globalization and illness, death and injury
- Discuss how neoliberal globalization affects the work place and occupational safety
- Examine how trade regulations may favor industrialized countries at the expense of developing countries
- Discuss the influence of international financial institutions on public health and human rights

**Module 8. Economics, Health and Health Care Systems**

- Examine health economics as it relates to international and national health policies
- List the tools of health economics and how they influence priorities
- Examine national health care spending as it relates to health outcomes
- Provide examples of various health care systems and their relationship to market economics

**Module 9. Successful Policies for Health**

- Describe specific examples of successful national public health care policies
- Summarize issues discussed in previous modules
- Outline factors that are critical to improve the health of a nation

**Instructor Expectations of Learning**

Students are expected to participate in the on-line class on a regular and consistent basis, and to review the links provided for a more in depth understanding of the material. Since this is an on-line course, students are responsible for their own progress. The course grade is dependent upon completing the review tests at the end of each module and submitting THREE written projects which they will select from the multitude of choices listed at the end of each module. In order to receive a grade for the class, students need to submit all class work on or before the last day of class.

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will have understood that the health of a nation and its people is dependent upon more than disease detection and vaccination programs. It is expected that the student, upon completing this course, will have had an opportunity to reflect upon the larger picture of global public health and how politics and globalization play a major role. Students are encouraged to think independently about the myriad of issues that influence public health on a global scale and to realize that there are no easy answers and very rarely 'silver bullets' for solving complicated public health issues.

### Student Assignments

1. Complete the module including reviewing information from the links provided
2. Complete the quizzes at the end of each module
3. Chose a total of three projects from the list of topics provided at the end of each module
4. Write a one to two page opinion term paper on what you consider to be **the most important factors influencing the public health of resource poor countries as compared to industrialized countries**

### The Online Course Approach

This course will be taught fully online. Students are expected to submit assignments electronically.

The learning will involve some multimedia (audio and video). These do not generally require special purchases but may require free viewer downloads.

The course is presented as modules. Each module consists of a week of study **except that Week 8 consists of Modules 8 and 9**. Each module will include:

- An introduction to the topic
- Some videos
- Reading assignments in the main textbook
- A discussion assignment (to be posted to the Message Board), and
- A light quiz.

Students will also complete three activities and one term paper for this course.

**Course Prerequisites:** NONE

**Required Text:** Textbook of International Health: *Global Public Health in a Dynamic World*. (Third Edition). Anne-Emanuelle Birn, Yogan Pillay, and Timothy H. Holtz. New York: Oxford University Press. 2009. ISBN: 978-0-19-530027-7.

**Additional Supplies:** None.

**Additional Fees:** Distance education fee (in tuition).

### **Suggested Computer Requirements**

- Desktop or Laptop with dual-core processor or better
- Windows XP, Vista or Mac OS X operating system
- 1024x768 resolution or higher and 128 MB video RAM or more
- Ethernet (100 Mbps) or wireless (802.11 b/g) Internet connection
- CD-R/W, DVD-R/W or USB mass-storage device
- 1 gigabyte RAM (memory) or more
- 80 gigabyte or larger hard drive
- Sound card and speakers
- Updated (free) Web browsers (Mozilla Firefox, Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, or Safari), Microsoft Office Suite **or** the Microsoft PowerPoint viewer (free) and Open Office (free)

### **Course Grading**

<b>Student Work</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Course Grade</b>
Three Activities (Dropbox Assignments) (3 total)	57 (19 points each)	
Quizzes (9 total, 1 per module)	45 points	
1 Term Paper	100	
Discussion Questions in Message Board / Participation (per module) (9 topics)	100 points total	
<b>Total</b>	<b>300 points possible</b>	<b>100% possible</b>

### **Disabilities**

If you are a student with a disability, and if you will be requesting accommodations, it is your responsibility to contact the proper campus office. These course contents have been built with

Section 508 compliance in mind, which includes alt text for images and transcription for video and audio files.

**Course Copyright Policy ©:** All the multimedia and other digital materials in this course are copyrighted and may not be used, copied or distributed outside the confines of this course, without the legal, express and written permission of the copyright holder and Kansas State University. Some copyrighted materials may be used in this course based on limited copyright release, and the intellectual property rights of those materials revert to the original copyright holder. Any Web links used in this course do not indicate endorsement of the contents in those sites.

### **Course Schedule**

#### **Module 1: Historic Origins of International Public Health**

Aug. 22 – 26, 2011

#### **Module 2: The Organization and Logistics of Health Systems and International Health Agencies**

Aug. 29 – Sept. 2, 2011

#### **Activity 1 Due**

Sept. 2, 2011

#### **Module 3: Politics, Health and Development**

Sept. 5 – 9, 2011

#### **Module 4: Environmental Health and Globalization**

Sept. 12 – 16, 2011

#### **Activity 2 Due**

Sept. 16, 2011

#### **Module 5: Society, Culture, and Health**

Sept. 19 – 23, 2011

#### **Module 6: Health under Crisis**

Sept. 26 – 30, 2011

#### **Activity 3 Due**

Sept. 30, 2011

#### **Module 7: The Impact of Globalization on Public Health**

Oct. 3 – 7, 2011

**Term Paper Due**

Oct. 7, 2011

**Module 8: Global Health under Crisis and the Future****Module 9: Social Inequities in Health Systems**

Oct. 10 – 14, 2011