

Course Information

Course Title: Health and Illness in Global and Cross-national Perspective

Class Section: SOC4385

Class Location and Time: Tuesday & Thursday: 11:30am-12:45pm [FN 2.106](#)

Notes:

- Each student must have access to a computer in order to complete the course.
- Syllabus is subject to change at instructor's discretion

Professor Contact Information

Zachary R. Simoni, PhD

Office location: Green Hall 2.232

Office hours: Tuesday/Thursday 1:30 PM – 4:00 pm and by apt.

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Course Description

This course provides an overview of global health with an emphasis on society and health. Topics include the social determinants of infectious and noninfectious diseases, major pan-epidemics and the global response to them; environment and health including risk factors, indicators, and vital statistics. Furthermore, areas of interest will include special populations including adolescents, women and the elderly; global health policy, and ethics. Lastly, the effects of social forces on global health, including social inequality, culture and lifestyle, and occupational influences on health will be thoroughly discussed.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Gain a wide vocabulary of global health terms and concepts
2. Describe the threat of pan-epidemics
3. Describe how social forces influence health disparities around the globe
4. Understand infectious as well as non-infectious diseases and their impact on global DALY's
5. Garner perspective on the meaning and experience of illness around the globe
6. Discuss vital actors in the global health network
7. Understand healthcare delivery systems from a global perspective

8. Learn about ways in which students can influence global health

Required Textbooks and Materials

Skolnik, Richard. 2016. Global Health 101 (third edition). Jones and Bartlett Learning. ISBN-13: 9781284050547

Course Requirements

Your final grade will be based on:

12 Weekly Quizzes (10 pts. Each)	120 points	Grade Scheme
3 Exams (50 pts. each)	150 points	100-90% A
Final Paper 100 pts.)	100 points	89-80% B
10 Reflection assignments (10 pts. Each)	100 points	79-70% C
		69-60% D
Total	470 points	59 and below F

Course Requirements Explained

Weekly Quizzes

On each Tuesday, a short online quiz is due 10 minutes before class (11:00 am). Quizzes will cover content from the book the week they are due. For instance, Quiz 1 will cover material from Week 2 and it is due before Week 2 (Tuesday 8/30 at 11:00am). The quiz will be available on the Blackboard Learn homepage for the entirety of one week before class. For instance, Quiz 2 will be available on Blackboard from Wednesday, 8/24 to Tuesday 8/30 at 11:20am. I allow students to use the book while taking the quiz. They will be taken individually. The purpose of quizzes are to make sure you have read the material and are prepared for class. I do not try to stump students; instead I formulate basic multiple choice questions that demonstrate whether a student has a general grasp of the material. There will be 12 quizzes throughout the term. Each quiz will have approximately 5 multiple choice questions each worth 2 points each for a total of 10 points. Students will have 10 minutes to complete the quiz. I do not allow make-ups for quizzes unless there is documentation of a technical error. Documentation of a technical error entails an email from IT or a screenshot indicating the date of issue.

Reflection Assignments

Each week, I assign a reflection assignment. The goal of reflection assignments is to apply important concepts covered in class in order to further understand and clarify key course material. Reflection assignments are preceded by a video or some form of media viewed in class. The assignment requires short (2 to 3 sentences) responses to two to three questions. They will be completed individually and occasionally in groups. After that class, a link will open in Blackboard with the questions. Students will have until the

next class period to complete the assignment in Blackboard. I take off half credit for each day they are late.

Exams

There are 3 exams for this course meant to assess your grasp of important concepts and ideas related to the course material. They will be taken in class. Exam questions are based off both the textbook and in class lectures. Material from critical writing assignments will not be in the exams. As exams are taken in class, late grades will not be accepted unless you have a doctor's note or some kind of emergency the day of the exam. Exams consist of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. Scantrons will be provided to students for each exam. Make-up exams will not be given without documentation for a serious illness, death in the family, or required university-sponsored event **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to make arrangements with me to schedule your make-up; don't wait for me to come to you. Do not be late for an exam. If you show up after the first person has already finished and left the room you will not be permitted to take the exam, and you will receive a 0. Please be on time so you have the entire class period to take the exam.

Term Paper

Adopt a Disease Literature Review

Begin by selecting a particular disease (e.g., tuberculosis, malaria, AIDS) or chronic health condition (e.g., diabetes, cancer). Your selection is due at the end of Week 4 (9-14).

Your task is to develop a sociological analysis of your selected disease/health condition using published resources and other scholarly sources. The first part of your paper should describe the disease/health problem in detail, highlighting what medical science knows about it and why this particular disease/health problem should be of concern to global health.

The primary focus of your paper, however, should be on presenting a detailed analysis of the social groups or populations most likely to be affected by your disease/health condition. In addition to describing the basic social epidemiological variation, you should also discuss the social forces, you believe, are shaping the disease-related patterns you document. Lastly, discuss the social determinants that contribute to this disease. For instance, how does the environment influence the spread of this disease, what about culture?

Please use a minimum of five journal articles and/or books cited as references, provided in your bibliography. Please use ASA format. Do not expect to find the analysis already drawn within the literature; you will need to synthesize both medical and social scientific research on your topic. In sum, your job is to pull together the empirical evidence and develop a coherent and cogent sociological analysis about a particular disease, chronic health problem or another health condition. The general outline for your paper should be as follows:

Part 1 (1 page) – General introduction to your disease/health problem. Define the history of your health problem and why it is important to global health.

Part 2 (2 pages) – This is the meat of the paper! Review and write a summary of recent social science/public health/global health research published on this topic. Describe the profile of the people most likely to suffer from your disease/health problem. Is this disease more prevalent in one country or one part of the world? What about key demographic groups (race, gender, social class and age)? Most importantly, describe the relevant social forces that may influence the spread of this disease. Please use a minimum of five journal articles and/or books cited as references, provided in your bibliography.

Part 3 (1-2 pages) – Discuss the social implications of your observations. What social, policy, or medical responses would be appropriate/are needed to respond effectively to the disease/health problem analyzed in your paper. Explain why the policies or interventions you advocate for are important/needed. What is the likelihood that we can respond in ways you describe?

Instructor and Institutional Policies

Participation and Attendance

Students are expected to attend class lectures, participate in class discussions and exercises and read required material. It is important that you actively engage in the class. You need to do more than just show up. Arriving late and leaving early is not acceptable. If a student is consistently late, I reserve the right to ask that student to leave. Attendance will be recorded and may factor in for close grades.

Classroom Etiquette

I expect a level of dignity and respect for your fellow classmates and myself. While I will allow the use of computers for note-taking, I will not tolerate distractions from technology in class. Please do not make incoming or outgoing phone calls, text messaging, surf the web, gaming, or instant messaging during class. If you are expecting an important phone call (e.g., from a child care provider or a job interview), you must inform me of this before class, set your phone to vibrate, and sit near a door so that you can leave immediately if you receive a call. I have the right to deny the use of cell phones, laptops, and any other communication devices during class. Moreover, any use of cell phones during exams, quizzes or reflective assignments will be considered academic misconduct and may result in an "F."

Student Conduct and Discipline

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the Student Discipline and Conduct, UTDSP5003 (<http://policy.utdallas.edu/utdsp5003>). Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and

regulations (SSB 4.400, 972-883-6391) and online at <http://www.utdallas.edu/deanofstudents>.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration at UT Dallas has established deadlines for withdrawal from any course. These dates and times are published in the Comet Calendar (<http://www.utdallas.edu/calendar>) and in the Academic Calendar (<http://www.utdallas.edu/academiccalendar>). It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, a professor or other instructor cannot drop or withdraw any student unless there is an administrative drop such as the following:

Have not met the prerequisites for a specific course. Have not satisfied the academic probationary requirements resulting in suspension. Judicial affairs request. Have not made appropriate tuition and fee payments. Enrollment is in violation of academic policy. Was not admitted for the term in which they registered. It is the student's responsibility to complete and submit the appropriate forms to the Registrar's Office and ensure that he or she will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if he or she chooses not to attend the class after being enrolled.

AccessAbility Services

It is the policy and practice of The University of Texas at Dallas to make reasonable disability-related accommodations and/or services for students with documented disabilities. However, written notification from the Office of Student AccessAbility (OSA) is required (see <http://www.utdallas.edu/studentaccess>). If you are eligible to receive disability-related accommodations and/or services and to ensure accommodations will be in place when the academic semester begins, students are encouraged to submit documentation four to six weeks in advance. Students who have questions about receiving accommodations, or those who have, or think they may have, a disability (mobility, sensory, health, psychological, learning, etc.) are invited to contact the Office of Student AccessAbility for a confidential discussion.

The Office of Student AccessAbility provides: Academic accommodations for eligible students with a documented permanent physical, mental or sensory disability. Facilitation of non-academic and environmental accommodations and services. Resources and referral information, and advocacy support as necessary and appropriate. OSA is located in the Student Services Building, suite 3.200. They can be reached by phone at 972-883-2098, or by email at studentaccess@utdallas.edu.

Course Calendar

*Calendar subject to change at Professor's discretion

DATE	DAY	TOPIC	READING	ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS
Week 1				
8/22	T	Introduction to class	Chapter 1	
	R			
Week 2				
8/29	T	Health Determinants	Chapter 2	
	R			
Week 3				
9/5	T	Health, Education, Poverty and Economics	Chapter 3	
	R			
Week 4				
9/12	T	Ethical and Human Rights Concerns in Global Health	Chapter 4	
	R			Global Health Problem Selection Due
Week 5				
9/19	T	Health Systems	Chapter 5	
	R			
Week 6				Exam 1
9/26	T	Culture and Health	Chapter 6	
	R			
Week 7				
10/3	T	The Environment and Health	Chapter 7	
	R			
Week 8				
10/10	T	Nutrition and Global Health	Chapter 8	
	R			
Week 9				
10/17	T	Women's Health	Chapter 9	
	R			
Week 10				
10/24	T	The Health of Young Children	Chapter 10	
	R			Exam 2
Week 11				
10/31	T	Communicable Diseases	Chapter 12	
	R			
Week 12				
11/7	T	Noncommunicable Diseases	Chapter 13	
	R			
Week 13				
11/14	T	Science Technology and Global	Chapter 17	

		Health		
	R			Term Paper Due
Week 14				
11/21	T	No Class	No Class	No Class
	R	No Class	No Class	No Class
Week 15				
11/28	T	Working in Global Health	Chapter 17	
	R			Exam 3
Week 16				
12/5	T	Finals Week		Relax
	R			