

Graduate Seminar in International Health

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Location: Science 1, room 112 (Rightmire's lab)

Course Description

Covers current trends and issues in the health and well-being of developing nations and disenfranchised populations in industrialized nations including maternal and child health (e.g., breastfeeding, pre- and post-natal care), new and re-emerging infectious diseases (e.g., HIV, TB), nutrition (e.g., micronutrient deficiencies, food security), family planning and maternal mortality (e.g., post-abortion care).

Chris Reiber, PhD MPH

Role	Instructor
Office Location	Science 1, Room 211
Phone	x7-2643
Email	creiber@binghamton.edu
Office Hours	Tuesday 11:30 - 1:00 pm Thursday 11:30 – 1:00 pm and by appointment

Plan

This course is a graduate seminar, which means that the instructor will not spend the class lecturing. Instead, you will be expected to read and research topics, and come to class prepared to discuss them and debate the relevant issues with your peers as collegial academics. Students will be assigned to groups, and each group will be given a major topic to research and present to the class for review and thorough discussion. Each group will run its class session in its entirety. Students will also be required to do one 30-minute individual presentation. Participation in class discussions will also contribute to your grade, so it is critical that you attend regularly even though I will not be recording attendance per se.

Requirements

1. Group Presentation – 50%

For this assignment, students will be assigned to groups. Each group will be assigned to one of the 5 major topics, and will research the topic and run the class session for that topic. For each topic, groups need to cover the following information:

Define the issue; what does it include?

What is the historical context of the issue, and its component parts?

What is the current state of the issue and its component parts?

In the U.S?

In other world regions?

Are there currently any particularly problematic areas within this thematic area? What are they? Where are they? Why?

What goals currently exist to address the issue?

What plans or programs have been developed to implement those goals?

What goals do YOU think should apply, and how would you implement plans to achieve them?
What measures need to be taken to evaluate progress in goal attainment?
What problems have interfered with achieving goals, or will interfere in the future?
What assumptions have underpinned the goals that have been set, or the goals that YOU would set?
What alternatives can you think of that might eliminate or counter those assumptions?
What insights can you, as an anthropologist, add that might be beneficial in the understanding, goal-setting, or implementation of programs?

This is NOT an all-inclusive list. It is intended to guide you with some broad strokes about the types of things that health professionals deal with. Please feel free to elaborate in additional areas, add more topics, etc. Be thorough with your treatment of the area. You will have three hours to fill with discussion. Please try to provoke your classmates into argument concerning your goals, your assumptions, the types of solutions you might foresee, etc. This is intended to be a lively discussion, with many possible “solutions”. There is no “right answer” to these questions, so challenging ourselves to think constructively is the goal.

Your group can divide the work however you wish. Each person can take one question and apply it across world regions, or each person can take the entire list and apply it to a different world region, or however you think it would work best for your group. All members are expected to speak and lead discussions.

2. Individual Presentation – 40%

Topic of your choice. 30 minute presentation to the class. Topics must be approved by the instructor by **February 28th**. Those in GROUP1 will be assigned the latest dates for their individual presentations; those in GROUP 5 will have the earliest dates. Please use this to delve into the topic, issue, world region, administrative problem, etc, that is most interesting and useful to you. Let this help you learn what you want to learn in this class!

3. Participation – 10%

Readings:

The textbook for the class is strongly recommended. Materials will be largely based on its structure and content. The textbook is:

Basch, PF. Textbook of International Health, 2nd edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

On the following pages, you will find the schedule of assigned readings for the course. Some of the items are websites that you are to spend some time perusing; other items are articles or book chapters. Material in the readings may not be covered directly in class, but unless you ask questions, I will assume that you understand the readings and have no questions about them. It is absolutely essential that you read the material corresponding to the day's topic PRIOR to coming to class. If you do this, you will be better prepared to ask questions and integrate the material from the readings and lectures, and participate in the discussions. Most of the reading materials that are not from the textbook are available for you on Blackboard.

E-mail policy:

The Instructor will attempt to reply to e-mail messages within 2 working days. However, system outages or other electronic mishaps may prevent me from always being able to do so. Thus, you should NOT rely on email for any crucial, time-dependent correspondence.

Also, please note that email messages are not the appropriate way for students to ask questions concerning course content. If you have a question about course materials, chances are that someone else has the same

question. Please ask questions concerning course content during office hours or DURING CLASS so that everyone can benefit from the chance for clarification, further explication, etc. If you email me with a content-related question, I may email you back saying “ask it in class”.

CLASS SCHEDULE

1. Jan. 31st – Review of syllabus, group assignments, and Introduction
 - a. definition of public health
 - b. introductory quiz and concepts
 - c. attitudes toward public health and their effects

2. Feb. 7th -- The nexus of Health
 - a. What is health? DALY's, deaths, lost productivity?? (tables, p.111, 108, 109*)
 - i. Illness
 - ii. Disease
 - iii. Sickness (p.163-165)
 - b. Morbidity and mortality
 - c. Health delivery systems and international health advocates and suppliers
 - i. Physician/patient agreement: trust? (p.163-168)
 - ii. Cultural constructs and health behavior (p.144-155, 155-163)
 1. http://www.who.int/topics/traditional_medicine/en/
 - iii. Informed consent and ethical issues: intercultural complications (p.495-503)

3. Feb. 14th -- Evolutionary Medicine (Darwinian Medicine) and Anthropological Perspectives
 - a. Nesse, RM & GC Williams. Evolution and the Origins of Disease. 1998 (Nov.). SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN 279(5): 86-94.
 - b. Boyd Eaton, S, et al. Evolutionary Health Promotion. 2002. PREVENTIVE MEDICINE 34: 109-118.
 - c. Garruto, RM, et al. Natural Experimental Models: the Global Search for Biomedical Paradigms among Traditional, Modernizing, and Modern Populations. 1999 (August). PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF THE SCIENCES, USA 96: 10536-10543.

4. Feb. 21st -- **GROUP 1**: Infectious diseases (p.189-197, 455-585, 243-248)
 - a. Binder, S, AM Levitt, JJ Sacks, & JM Hughes. 1999. Emerging Infectious Diseases: Public Health Issues for the 21st Century. SCIENCE 284: 1311-1313.
 - b. Cohen, J. The Flu Pandemic that might have Been. 1997 (Sept). SCIENCE 277(5332): 1600-1601.
 - c. Cookson, S, et al. Immigrant and Refugee Health. 1998 (July-Sept.). EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES 4 (3): 427-428.
 - d. Ewald, PW. Evolution of HIV in Africa. 1992. SCIENCE 257: 10.
 - e. Walther, BA, & PW Ewald. Pathogen Survival in the External Environment and the Evolution of Virulence. 2004. BIOLOGICAL REVIEWS 79: 849-869.
 - f. Ewald, PW. Evolution of Virulence. 2004. INFECTIOUS DISEASE CLINICS OF NORTH AMERICA 18: 1-15.
 - g. Heymann, DL, & GR Rodier. Global Surveillance of Communicable Diseases. 1998 (Sept.). EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES 4(3):362-365.
 - h. Lederberg, J. Emerging Infections: An Evolutionary Perspective. 1998 (July-Sept.) EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES 4(3): 366-371.

- e. <http://www.who.int/topics/vaccines/en/>

Note: Mar. 27th – no class (Spring/Easter break)

- 9. Apr. 3rd -- student presentations

Note: Apr. 10th and 17th – no class – HBA meetings, and Passover begins the 18th

- 10. Apr. 24th -- student presentations

- 11. May 1st -- student presentations

- 12. May 8th – any remaining student presentations, and Conclusions
 - a. review definition
 - b. review introductory quiz and concepts
 - c. concluding quiz
 - d. attitudes and their affects

*citations that are page numbers only refer to pages in:

Basch, PF. Textbook of International Health, 2nd edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.