

Global Health 101 (Introduction to Global Health)

Year 1 / Year 2 Elective

(Other health professions welcome to register)

Elective Director: Simon Williams, PhD

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Student Directors: Margaret Coulter, Prudhvi Gundupalli, Riley McCready, Zeba Momin, Kailin Opella, Kiran Sagani, Julie Sang, Ramya Yedatore

Course Description

Interest in global health is rapidly increasing among students pursuing healthcare professions. Both faculty and students are actively seeking opportunities to engage in global health experiences, participate in humanitarian service opportunities, and establish international collaborations. This course is designed to introduce students to key concepts in global health, while expanding their foundational knowledge to incorporate both theoretical frameworks and practical applications.

Students will explore a range of topics, including income level and socioeconomic status, policy, emerging trends, and the healthcare issues associated with health disparities. The overarching perspective of the course is encapsulated by the Global Health Council's view: "When it comes to global health, there is no 'them' only 'us'.

Participants in this course will be expected to read a book that examines global trends and highlights the need to rethink our approach to global health in light of these trends. The book specifically addresses instincts and perceptions that can impede critical and accurate thinking about global health issues.

Learning Objectives

1. **Define Global Health:** Articulate a comprehensive definition of global health, encompassing its scope, significance, and the interconnectedness of health issues across borders.
2. **Analyze the Ten Dramatic Instincts:** Describe the ten dramatic instincts, examine how they shape our worldview, and critically assess the validity and reliability of data sources through these lenses.
3. **Examine the Impact of Socioeconomic Status on Health:** Investigate the influence of socioeconomic status on health outcomes, exploring the multifaceted ways in which income inequality, systems, and social determinants affect health.
4. **Identify Current Gaps in Global Health:** Describe the existing gaps in global health and critically evaluate the challenges inherent in addressing these issues.
5. **Propose Long-Term Solutions for Improvement in Health Equity:** Consider viable, evidence-based solutions aimed at achieving sustainable improvements in global health equity.
6. **Cultivate a Global Health and Humanitarian Focus among TTUHSC Students:** Establish a foundational knowledge base in global health and inspire TTUHSC students to pursue and sustain a global minded and humanitarian focus throughout their professional careers.

7. **Engage in Discourse on Global Health Competencies:** Actively participate in discussions related to global health competencies, fostering critical thinking and collaborative learning.

Time and location: Class sessions will be held 6:00-7:00 p.m. in Room 5D115. Most sessions will be scheduled on Tuesdays or Thursdays, to minimize conflicts with other elective courses. All sessions will be held in person.

Food: Given the meeting time, pizza will be provided. Participants are encouraged to bring their own water or other beverage.

First class start date: 09/17/2024

Total number of contact hours, percent lecture, and percent other: 11 hours total

Grading System: This course is graded on a Pass/Fail basis, determined by attendance. Participants are required to attend at least 9 out of 11 scheduled discussion sessions. Make-up sessions may be available.

In addition, participants must attend 3 Office of Global Health (OGH) events of your choice each semester (e.g., film series, lecture series, Opening Space series), for a total of 6 events per year. These events must occur within the current academic year. Volunteering for OGH-sponsored events or attending additional OGH-approved events may compensate for a maximum of 2 missed discussion sessions.

Students must register and sign in appropriately at each OGH event or volunteer activity to demonstrate proof of participation. Additionally, students are required to sign in for each discussion session. Failure to do so may result in forfeiture of attendance credit. If a participant fails to sign in, they must remedy this within two weeks by contacting the Office of Global Health. To receive attendance credit, participants must be present for at least 50% of each discussion session.

Readings:

Details will be provided during the course introduction and prior to each class session when applicable.

While readings from the course text and other supplementary literature are not mandatory, they are highly recommended to enhance your understanding of the topics and issues discussed. Engaging with these materials will allow for a more comprehensive grasp of the subject matter. Although a full literature review is not required, it is advisable to explore a broad range of literature covering the key discussion points to develop a well-rounded perspective.

Discussion Schedule

Session	Date	Title	
1	Tuesday, 9/17	Course Introduction	Dr. Williams
2	Tuesday, 10/1	Understanding the Instincts & Rules of Thumb, pt 1	Prudhvi
3	Tuesday, 10/15	Understanding the Instincts & Rules of Thumb, pt 2	Julie
4	Tuesday, 11/5	Exploration of the 4 Income Levels and How to Find Data	Kiran
5	Tuesday, 11/19	Cultural Intelligence and Cross-cultural Communication Among Health Providers	Kailin
6	Tuesday, 12/3	Decolonizing Global Health	Maggie
7	Tuesday, 1/14	Social Determinants of Health and Structural Violence	Riley
8	Tuesday, 1/28	Global Burden of Disease and DALYs	Zeba
9	Tuesday, 2/4	Climate Change and Global Health	Dr. Williams
10	Tuesday, 2/11	Migration and Movement	Ramya
11	Tuesday 2/25	Ethical Global Engagement	Michelle
12	Tuesday 3/11	Movie Night	New leadership

All meetings for the course will be in-person unless otherwise specified.

Sessions by general topic with main points of interest to describe, discuss, and explore challenges to global health:

- 1. Introduction to Global Health 101**

- Define the concept of global health.
 - Discuss the importance of redefining one's worldview in the context of global health.
- 2. Understanding the Instincts & Rules of Thumb Part 1**
- Define a fact-based worldview.
 - Introduce the concept of dramatic instincts.
 - Understand the impact of dramatic instincts on worldview and perspectives.
- 3. Understanding the Instincts & Rules of Thumb Part 2**
- Review the dramatic instincts introduced earlier.
 - Conduct an exploration of the dramatic instincts.
 - Engage in peer discussions to identify dramatic instincts through case studies and activities.
- 4. Exploration of the 4 Income Levels & Data Utilization**
- Introduce the 4 income levels.
 - Analyze the relationship between income and health/wellness outcomes.
 - Discuss strategies to address health disparities related to socioeconomic class.
- 5. Cultural Intelligence & Cross-Cultural Communication in Healthcare**
- Define cultural intelligence, with a focus on its application in healthcare practice.
 - Understand how healthcare approaches vary across different cultural contexts.
 - Apply cultural competence skills through the analysis of a case study.
- 6. Decolonizing Global Health**
- Examine the colonial history of global health and its lasting impacts.
 - Discuss the interplay between historical context, policy, & health outcomes.
 - Consider strategies for future global health practices.
- 7. Social Determinants of Health**
- Define social determinants of health and provide examples.
 - Differentiate between structural violence and social determinants of health.
 - Utilize the 4 income levels to analyze socioeconomic determinants of health.
 - Compare social determinants of health across various countries.
- 8. Global Burden of Disease and Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs)**
- Understand the measurement of Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) and their significance in global health.
 - Define the concept of global burden of disease and discuss its historical development.
 - Explore the global burden of disease at the country level.
- 9. Climate Change and Global Health**
- Discuss the relationship between climate change and health outcomes.
 - Analyze current data on climate-related health issues.
 - Identify strategies and goals for mitigating the health impacts of climate change.
- 10. Migration & Movement**
- Define key terms related to migration and movement and their relevance to global health.
 - Discuss the health implications of migration and movement.
 - Explore future goals and actions to address migration-related health challenges.
- 11. Ethical Global Engagement**
- Discuss the complexities of navigating power dynamics in global engagement.

- Explore the importance of building and supporting local systems.
- Consider effective strategies for ethical global engagement.