PSCI 490: Global Health/Governance
Spring, 2014
AL 209, Thurs., 9:30 am -12:20 pm

Instructor: Michael Stevenson
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Office Location: Hagey Hall 340
Office Hours: Thurs. 12:30 – 2:00 pm.

Contact Policy: Appointments are not necessary to see me during office hours. If you are unable to meet during these times, alternative arrangements can be made. For all correspondence, please use my UW email address.

Course Description: This course examines public health in the context of globalization, and the ideas, actors and institutions involved in attempts to resolve global health disparities. The first half of the course explores the concept of global health, the multiple and often overlapping determinants of some the world’s most important public health challenges, and the consequences of global health inequity. The second half focuses on global health governance: how power is distributed in the international health policy-making arena; what ideas inform the management of global health problems; who formulates the rules and strategies upon which so many lives depend; and what impact these are having on the problems under scrutiny.

Pre-Requisites: Honours Political Science or permission of instructor.

Course Objectives:
- To increase your appreciation of the scope and scale of the major public health threats in the world today and the reasons underlying their existence and in many cases, persistence.
- To facilitate your understanding of global governance as both a perspective on world politics, and a functional approach to solving global problems.
- To provide you with opportunities to further hone your skills in selective-reading and constructing concise arguments, both verbally and in writing.
University Regulations:

Cross-listed course:
Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity:

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, Student Discipline http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, Student Petitions http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70. In addition, consult Student Grievances http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes for the Faculty of Arts’ grievance processes.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, Student Appeals http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72.

Academic Integrity website (Arts): Academic Integrity http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): Academic Integrity Office http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/
Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

**Note for students with disabilities:** The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.

Readings:
All required readings will be available online via LEARN. Assigned readings should be read *before* the relevant classes.

Course Requirements, Expectations, and Standards:

Overview of individual assignments:

4 Short Reaction Papers (20%)

For four weeks (May 15, 22, 29, and June 19) students are required to submit a short ‘reaction paper’. These papers, which must be submitted electronically via LEARN before the start of class, should be no more than one page single-spaced (11-12 font in .doc/x format) and should outline some of your reactions to the assigned readings. While papers should attempt to link your reactions to the broader themes addressed that week, these are not research papers and therefore there is no need to consult any sources beyond assigned readings. Marked papers will be returned electronically within 7 days of their submission. Late reaction papers will not be accepted.

Book Review Essay (20%)

Book review essays require the development of an original argument informed in part by the core ideas of a book or set of books. The first section of the essay (no more than one third of the total essay length of some 2000 words) must describe the central argument/theme of the book. The second section should evaluate the books’ arguments in the context of the readings and discussions of the course, making reference to at least six required readings. A list of book titles eligible for review is included on the final three pages of the syllabus. While this list is by no means exhaustive, to be eligible for review, book titles must first be approved by the instructor. Review essays are due June 26th and must be submitted electronically via LEARN.
Presentation of Research Topic/ work in progress (10%)

A 10-minute presentation on your research paper topic outlining the issue in question; why it is significant; how it relates to issues examined thus far, and your perspective or anticipated argument. Presentations will take place over weeks 7–11, with individual presentation dates to be decided upon in the first class.

Research Paper (30%)

Papers should be between 3000-4000 words. Consultation with the instructor regarding potential topics is encouraged. Please use 12pt font, double-spaced pages, and include the word count on the bottom of the last page. Papers are due via LEARN and in hard copy on July 24, and will not be accepted after July 31. Marked papers will be returned electronically or in hard copy in HH 340 on August 6.

Participation (20%)

All students are expected to attend seminars, keep up with the required readings and actively participate in seminar discussions, and your participation grade will reflect these expectations

Late Policy:

Unless accompanied by appropriate documentation (e.g. healthcare worker's note), late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 3 per cent per day (including weekends) each day that they are late. This provision does not apply to reaction papers, which must be submitted electronically on or before the date they are due before the start of class.

Schedule
May 8 - Week 1: Introduction

No readings

Section 1: Perspectives on Global Health

May 15 – Week 2: What is Global Health?


Reading 5: *Declaration of Alma-Ata*, from the International Conference on Primary Health Care, Alma-Ata, USSR, 6-12 September 1978 Reading 5 [http://www.who.int/hpr/NPH/docs/declaration_almaata.pdf](http://www.who.int/hpr/NPH/docs/declaration_almaata.pdf)


**May 22 - Week 3: Perspectives on Determinants of Health in the Globalization Era**


**May 29 – Week 4: Perspectives on Global Health Inequity**


**June 5 – Week 5: Chronic Diseases and Environmental Health**


June 12 – Week 6: Perspectives on the Implications of Global Health Inequity


SECTION 2: Global Health Governance

June 19 – Week 7: What is Global Health Governance? A (very) Brief History
Reading 1: Dingwerth, K. and Pattberg, P. (2006): “Global Governance as a Perspective on World Politics” Global Governance 12(2) 185-203


June 26 – Week 8: The Westphalian Model: Strengths and Weaknesses


**July 3 – Week 9: The Emergence of a Post-Westphalian World Order?**


**July 10 – Week 10: Global Health Partnerships**


**July 17 – Week 11: Critical Assessments of Priorities and Governance Structures**

Reading 1: Shiffman, J. (2009) “A social explanation for the rise and fall of global health issues” *Bull World Health Organ*: 87: 608-613


Reading 5: Yach, D. Can we leave industry to lead efforts to improve population health? *Yes BMJ* 2013; 346:f2279

**July 24 – Week 12: Ongoing Challenges and Alternative Visions**


List of books eligible for review:


Benson P. *Tobacco Capitalism* (Princeton UP, 2011)


Dubos, R. *Mirage of Health: Utopias, Progress and Biological Change* 1959


Goldacre, B. *Bad Pharma: How drug companies mislead doctors and harm patients* 4th Estate, 2012

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1 While this list is not exhaustive, please first seek instructor approval for reviewing any titles not listed here.


Marcellin S. *The Political Economy of Pharmaceutical Patents* (Ashgate, 2013)

Markowitz G. and Rosner D. *Lead Wars* (Milbank, 2013)


Oreskes N & Conway E. *Merchants of Doubt* (Bloomsbury Press, 2010)


Polman, Linda. *The Crisis Caravan: What’s Wrong with Humanitarian Aid?* Metropolitan 210


Wiist W. ed. The Bottom Line or Public Health (Oxford University Press, 2010)