

## **Sample Syllabus Summary:**

**Assignments and readings subject to change at instructor's discretion – use as an example ONLY.**

### **Introduction to Global Health (GH 600-EMPH) 3 Credits, Fall 2010**

**Instructor:** Wendy Johnson, MD, MPH      **email:** wjohns@u.washington.edu  
**Office Hours:** By appointment

#### **Course Description**

The course explores relationships between political, socioeconomic, cultural and demographic conditions of developing countries and their impact on health and health services. A major focus of the course is the evolution of primary health care and alternative responses to health problems, and health as a human right. Other topics addressed include the effects of development policy, macroeconomic policy, and population dynamics on health; maternal child health and child survival policies; water and sanitation; AIDS; appropriate technologies; the role of governmental, private, non-profit, and international organizations health and health services; pharmaceutical policy; and human resources development. The material is presented mostly in online readings and in posted lectures/podcasts and case studies. Content of the discussions is shaped by the experience of the students and lecturers.

The course is based around two basic themes: the determinants of health in poor countries of the developing world and the nature of the responses to developing world health problems. Throughout this exploration, students will learn both about the “upstream” and “downstream” factors affecting health in the developing world and how to systematically assess international health problems, devise interventions, and begin to plan implementation of programs.

#### **Determinants of Health**

What are the major factors that determine poverty and health in poor countries? How does social and economic development influence disease patterns? What are the roles of education, family income, national income, population pressures, and land reform on health and well being? How do countries differ with respect to the complex tapestry of systems, values, politics, and socioeconomic processes that influence health? How are health and disease distributed among different social classes within countries?

#### **Responses to Health Problems**

What have been major responses to the world health situation, and how have they evolved over the past several decades? What is the mix of biological, technical, socioeconomic, and political responses? How do technical or disease-specific

interventions affect the overall pattern of disease causation? Who makes decisions about priorities and health related policies? On what basis? For what end? How much local community involvement exists in decision-making? What difference does it make? What is the nature of international responses to health problems? What assumptions and intentions underlie aid programs? How do different approaches to improving health affect different countries and different groups within countries of the developing world? Given underlying political and socioeconomic inequalities, is it possible to intervene locally to address major health problems in resource-poor settings? If so, how can we, as public health professionals, play a constructive role? How can we assess priorities, define problems, determine key intervention points, and develop effective programs and implement them?

### **Course Requirements**

*The grade for this course will be based on the following:*

1. Bi-weekly posting
3. A short assignment
4. A 5-7 page **analysis**
5. A short assignment “**defining**” a key public health problem in the country
6. A short assignment creating a **conceptual diagram**
9. A 15 minute presentation

**Grading** of all assignments will be based on the clarity of your thinking, your logic and evidence supporting your arguments, the organization and effectiveness of your presentation, and, for the papers, the quality of your writing (including grammar, spelling and adherence to a consistent editorial style for citations and footnotes, e.g. APA style: [http://www.apastyle.org/.](http://www.apastyle.org/))

### **Class Reading Materials**

- There are no required textbooks.
- Weekly reading assignments or links to resources will be posted on the Moodle site.