Ginsburg Ingerman Overseas Students Program  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
Health in the Age of Globalization  
Prof. Nadav Davidovitch  
Dr. Anat Rosenthal  
13-5-340  
Spring 2017

Course Description:
In this course we introduce students with key concepts and leading theories of global health. It comprises of two parts: In the first part we would delve into the study of global health from the perspectives of public health as well as from the viewpoint of globalization theories. In the second part of the course we would tackle specific topics of global health, discussing the different ways in which global processes impact the distribution of health resources, pose new bioethical quandaries and alters our understanding of health.

Objectives:
Our main goal is to introduce students with the intersection of public health and globalization. We provide students with a theoretical background for analyzing specific issues in public health.

Learning Outcomes:
On successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand the origins of Global Health.
2. Understand the political aspects of health and illness.
3. Recognize the different structures of the Global Health System.

Field of Education and Discipline(s): Global Health, Medical anthropology

Course Structure:
Lecture: 4 hours  
Total # of Credits: 4 POINTS  
ECTS (European Credit Transfer System): 6

Teaching Method:
In addition to formal lectures and class discussions, we will offer three field trips in the field of public health in the Negev and in Israel.
Grade structure:
Attendance: 10%
Class presentation: 20%
Final paper: 70%

Note:
- Work handed in late, will not be graded!
- Penalties and course policies should be clearly articulated (i.e. students will have their final grade lowered an entire grade level if they miss more than 3 class meetings unexcused)
- Language of instruction is English.

Course Schedule Layout:

Week 1
March 13: What is Global Health?
Prof. Nadav Davidovitch

In this session students are introduced with key concepts of public health such as health determinants and measurements, the interplay between public health and social sciences, and the role of public health experts.

Readings:

March 15: Patterns of Globalization
Prof. Nadav Davidovitch

Globalization is a disputed concept. In this session we discuss the problems in theorizing globalization patterns. Students will be acquainted with globalization's conceptual lexicon and with ways to understand global realities.

Readings:

Week 2
March 20: Globalization and Health
Prof. Nadav Davidovitch

The convergence of public health and globalization studies provides a new disciplinary field. This session presents the challenges globalization processes pose for public health both at the practical and at the theoretical levels.
March 22: The History of Global Health
Dr. Anat Rosenthal

In this session the students will be introduced to the history of global health and the changes in social and political processes that lead to the current moment we call global health.
Readings:
TBD

Week 3
March 27-29: Health Inequities worldwide
Prof. Nadav Davidovitch and Dr. Anat Rosenthal

When we compare different countries with regards to health and healthcare, we often find vast discrepancies. However, a closer look may reveal great differences also within the population of one country. What do we call, then, health disparities, inequalities and/or equities and why? And how can we explain that, over the recent decades, some of the above health discrepancies – both between and within countries – have been diminished while others persist and, as a matter of fact, in some areas health inequalities even seem to grow?
Readings:

Week 4
April 3-5: HIV/AIDS – A Global Challenge
Dr. Anat Rosenthal

Some have argued that the HIV/AIDS epidemic was the catalyst for creating the movement we now call Global Health. In this session we will discuss the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and the ways it confronted the global communities with one of the biggest health related challenges
Readings:

Week 5
Friday April 21, Fieldtrip – Health in the backyards of Tel Aviv

Week 6
April 26: Migration and Public Health: a Brief Historical Review and an Israeli Case Study
Prof. Nadav Davidovitch

Throughout history, the construction of immigrants as a health risk to the local population has shaped public health policy responses towards them. In this session we will look at a few examples – from the Middle Ages to today – including a case-study from the Israeli context.
Readings:

Week 7
May 3: The Israeli Healthcare System and Health Inequalities in the Negev
Prof. Nadav Davidovitch and Dr. Anat Rosenthal
The Israeli healthcare system is faced by many of the challenges associated with health systems in rich countries such as the allocation of resources and the tensions between private and public services. However, like many other healthcare systems in rich countries it also suffers from pockets of poverty and health inequalities. In this session we learn about the many faces of the Israeli healthcare system.

Readings:

Week 8
May 8: Human Resources in Resource-Limited Health Systems
Dr. Anat Rosenthal
The shortages in health workers in under-resourced health systems are one of the challenges facing any global health intervention. In this session we will explore some of the reasons for the crisis in human resources in health, its impact, and some of the solutions being explored by global health programs and governments.

Readings:

May 10: Human Resources in Health, Migration and Brain Drain
Prof. Nadav Davidovitch
Healthcare workers are one of the most important assets of system. The World health Organization has declared the crisis in health work force as one of the major barriers to reaching the goal of “health for all”. In this session we will discuss the forces shaping the shortage in workforce and both rich and poor countries.

Readings:

Week 9
Friday May 19, Fieldtrip – Health in the Negev

Week 10
May 22-24: Influenza
TBD

Week 11
May 29: Student Presentation
Week 12
June 5: Public Health Association Conference

June 7: Student Presentation

Week 13
Friday June 16, Fieldtrip – Health in the Negev

Week 14
June 19: Student Presentation

June 21: Conclusion - So what is Global Health?

In the last meeting we review the themes discussed in class over the semester, figuring out general outlines of global health today. We would also discuss upcoming trends of health and society in a global age.