

**Soc380 Global Health: Sociological Perspectives**  
**(01:920:380:01)**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00-3:20 pm LOR 115**  
**(Douglass Campus)**  
**Fall 2022**

Professor: Lei Lei, Ph.D.  
Office hours: Tuesdays 11:00-12:00 am via zoom or by appointment  
Zoom link: [office hours zoom link](#)  
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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will provide a sociological introduction to the field of global health, focusing on the disease burden in developing countries. In this course, we will critically discuss how poverty, inequality, culture, socioeconomic development, globalization, and health systems are related to health. Using existing statistics and literature, we will explore the economic, social, environmental, and institutional determinants of various diseases across population groups. Through case studies and discussion of controversial issues in global health, students will become familiar with the success stories, lessons, and challenges in improving global health. In addition to attending lectures, students will learn through active participation in in-class discussions, presentations, and writing assignments.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

1. Define and discuss key concepts, theories, frameworks, and core principles of global health.
2. Outline the determinants of health and risk factors for conditions of importance to global health.
3. Discuss the burden of disease in various regions of the world, how it varies both within and across countries, and how the disease burden can be addressed in cost-effective ways.
4. Use key analytical tools and concepts to determine how critical health issues might be addressed in cost-effective, efficient, and sustainable ways.
5. Review key challenges that are likely to arise in the next decade in addressing the health of the poor in low- and middle-income countries.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Skolnik, Richard. *Global Health 101, Fourth Edition*. Jones & Bartlett Learning, 2019.

You will also be assigned key articles and reports on the topics to be covered.

### **COURSE WEBSITE ON CANVAS**

Course file folders will contain

- Additional reading materials
- PowerPoint slides
- Useful links to videos, websites, and data

## LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

During the lectures, I will clarify the reading materials, show relevant videos, and organize discussions. Discussion questions will be distributed ahead of time. **Students should read the assigned materials and prepare for the discussion prior to class.** Remember that attendance and class participation account for nontrivial portion of your final grade.

## INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENTS

There will be six individual take-home assignments. In these assignments, you will need to answer several questions after reading the assigned articles on a specific global health topic, such as women's health, children's nutritional status, etc. You are expected to write one to two paragraphs to answer each question. Please do NOT use bullet points. The assignments should be uploaded to Canvas before noon on the due dates.

## INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS

Students will be responsible for one short in-class presentation, in which you will introduce a country's health system or facts about a certain disease. You may use the materials in the textbook and search for information online. For each presentation, you should prepare three pages of PowerPoint slides and send your slides to the instructor before class. The presentation should be about 5 to 8 minutes. Your slides will be posted on Canvas for the class to study the topic. More detailed instructions will be provided as we get closer to the presentation dates.

## GROUP PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

You will be assigned to groups containing three students and asked to choose your country at the beginning of the semester. You will be working with this group throughout the semester on **three** group-writing assignments. Each of them should be written as a **policy brief** from you, the Secretary of Health, to the Minister of Finance. Each paper should be four pages long, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font. Please also list your bibliography using ASA or APA style.

On the due date of the paper, each group will also give a **presentation** of their policy brief. A **six-page PowerPoint** and a **15-minute presentation** are expected. Every member of the group should deliver part of the presentation.

A copy of your paper and your PowerPoints should be emailed to the instructor by noon on the presentation day/due date. No late papers or presentations will be accepted.

### *Paper 1*

Paper number 1 will summarize, for a country of your choice, the key nutrition issues faced by the country, who they most affect, key risk factors (both proximate and distal), their link with health and economic development, and what might be done (or have been done) to address them in cost-effective ways. Make sure you write concisely and answer all the questions in your report and presentation.

### *Paper 2*

Paper number 2 will summarize, for the same country of your choice, the key issues in women's

OR children's health (please choose one), who is most affected by them, key risk factors (both proximate and distal), the links between these issues with social and economic development, and what might be done (or have been done) to enhance the health of women and children in your country in cost-effective ways. Make sure you write concisely and answer all the questions in your report and presentation.

***Paper 3***

Paper number 3 will summarize, for the same country of your choice, the burden of either an important infectious disease OR a group of the most important infectious diseases OR an important non-communicable disease OR group of important non-communicable diseases: the people most affected by this disease or diseases, key risk factors (both proximate and distal), the economic and social costs of the disease(s), and what might be done (or have been done) to address the disease(s) in cost-effective ways. Make sure you write concisely and answer all the questions in your report and presentation.

**EXAMS**

**Two exams** will be given during the semester. The exams are non-cumulative, closed-books, closed-notes exams that consist of multiple choices and short-answer questions. The exams will be focused on the most important issues, concepts, theories, and facts that we have discussed in class. The exams will contain about 30 multiple choices and five short-answer questions. I will provide a review sheet and organize review sessions to help you prepare for each test. Each exam will be approximately one hour.

**GRADING**

Final grades will be based on the points you earned from individual homework, group papers and presentations, exams and attendance. Final grades will be determined according to the following percentage allocation:

Exam 1 .....	20 percent
Exam 2 .....	20 percent
Group Papers .....	27 percent (9 percent each)
Group Paper presentations.....	9 percent (3 percent each)
Individual presentation .....	4 percent
Individual assignments .....	12 percent (2 percent each)
Class participation .....	8 percent

Final letter grades will be based on total points achieved during the course. Letter grades will be determined in the following way:

- A 90 – 100 pts.
- B+ 85 – 89 pts.
- B 80 – 84 pts.
- C+ 75 – 79 pts.
- C 70 – 74 pts.
- D 60 – 69 pts.
- F 59 pts. and less

## **CLASSROOM COURTESY**

Classroom courtesy is necessary to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn without distractions. This means no talking during lectures (unless recognized by the professor or discussion leader) or leaving and returning during class. **Cell phone or laptop are NOT allowed during classes.** Also, please sit in the front part of the classroom!

## **ASA AND APA STYLE GUIDES**

Your papers should be formatted based on ASA or APA Style, especially for the in-text citation and references. ASA and APA Style Guides are easy to locate using an internet search. You could consult the Purdue Online Writing lab through the following links:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/583/1/>

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/1/>

## **KEEPING CURRENT IN GLOBAL HEALTH**

The best way to keep up with global health issues and evidence about what works will be to subscribe to the newsletters of the Kaiser Family Foundation, Childsurvival.net, and Global Health Now. It will also be important to keep up with the publication of the Disease Control Priorities Project (DCP3).

## **LEARNING RESOURCES**

Learning Centers: <https://rlc.rutgers.edu/>

Academic Advising for SAS students: <https://sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/advising/advising>

Online Learning Tools from Rutgers University Libraries including Rutgers RIOT, Searchpath and RefWorks <http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/tutorials>

## **TECHNOLOGY**

Please visit the Rutgers Student Tech Guide page for resources available to all students.

If you do not have the appropriate technology for financial reasons, please email Dean of Students deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu for assistance. If you are facing other financial hardships, please visit the Office of Financial Aid at <https://financialaid.rutgers.edu/>.

## **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

You should familiarize yourself with the Rutgers University policies and procedures on academic honesty, available at [https://slwordpress.rutgers.edu/academicintegrity/wp-content/uploads/sites/41/2014/11/AI\\_Policy\\_2013.pdf](https://slwordpress.rutgers.edu/academicintegrity/wp-content/uploads/sites/41/2014/11/AI_Policy_2013.pdf). All violations of academic integrity, such as cheating on exams or plagiarizing others' work for written assignments, will be referred to the appropriate authorities and sanctioned accordingly.

## **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

In accordance with university policy, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please contact me at the beginning of the semester. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Student Disability Services and must provide verification of their eligibility for such accommodations.

**COUNSELING, ADAP & PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES (CAPS):** (848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 <http://health.rutgers.edu/medical->

counselingservices/counseling/ CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professionals within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community, and consultation and collaboration with campus partners. Crisis Intervention: <http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counselingservices/counseling/crisis-intervention/> Report a Concern: <http://health.rutgers.edu/do-something-to-help/>

**VIOLENCE PREVENTION & VICTIM ASSISTANCE (VPVA):** (848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 [www.vpva.rutgers.edu/](http://www.vpva.rutgers.edu/) The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

### **ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE**

You are required to attend all class meetings. However, if you have been told to quarantine, or are experiencing symptoms of any transmittable disease, you should remain at home and not attend in-person class meetings. **One unexcused absence** is allowed for each student throughout the semester without any punishment. If you have to be absent for an extended period, please email the instructor as soon as possible to make arrangements for assignments and other course tasks.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

The dates indicated are tentative and may change based upon how this class proceeds. Some topics may take a bit more time and some may take less time than indicated below. Any changes in dates, including assignment due dates, will be announced in class and through email. You are responsible for finding out about any announcements made in class.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics and Readings</b>	<b>Items Due</b>
Tuesday, Sept 6	Topic 1: Introduction to global health	
Thursday, Sept 8	Topic 2: Development goals Readings: GH Chapter 1	
Tuesday, Sept 13	Topic 3: Sociological theories about health Readings: article on Canvas	Assignment 1
Thursday, Sept 15	Topic 4: Determinants and measurements of health Readings: GH Chapter 2 and articles on Canvas	
Tuesday, Sept 20	Topic 5: Demographic and epidemiologic transition Readings: articles on Canvas	Assignment 2
Thursday, Sept 22	Topic 6: Health, poverty, and inequality Readings: GH Chapter 4, articles on Canvas	
Tuesday, Sept 27	Topic 7: Undernutrition and obesity Readings: GH Chapter 9 and article on Canvas	
Thursday, Sept 29	Topic 8: Global aging Readings: Articles on Canvas	
Tuesday, Oct 4	Topic 9: Migration and health Readings: articles on Canvas	Assignment 3
Thursday, Oct 6	<b><i>Paper presentation 1</i></b>	Group paper 1 and ppt
Tuesday, Oct 11	Topic 10: Ethical Concerns; Culture and health Readings: GH Chapters 5 and 7	
Thursday, Oct 13	Topic 11: Health systems overview Readings: GH Chapter 6	<i>Individual presentation 1: country cases</i>
Tuesday, Oct 18	<b><i>Review and Q&amp;A before exam</i></b>	
Thursday, Oct 20	<b><i>Exam 1</i></b>	

Tuesday, Oct 25	Topic 12: Gender and health Readings: GH Chapter 10 and articles on Canvas	Assignment 4
Thursday, Oct 27	Topic 13: Maternal health Readings: articles on Canvas	
Tuesday, Nov 1	Topic 14: Child health Readings: GH Chapter 11 and articles on Canvas	Assignment 5
Thursday, Nov 3	Topic 15: Women and child health continued	
Tuesday, Nov 8	<b><i>Paper presentation 2</i></b>	Group paper 2 and ppt
Thursday, Nov 10	Topic 16: Adolescent health Readings: GH Chapter 12 and articles on Canvas	
Tuesday, Nov 15	Topic 17: Challenges of communicable diseases Readings: GH Chapter 13 and articles on Canvas	<i>Individual presentation 2: communicable diseases</i>
Thursday, Nov 17	Topic 18: Challenges of noncommunicable diseases Readings: GH Chapter 14 and articles on Canvas	<i>Individual presentation 3: noncommunicable diseases</i>
Tuesday, Nov 22	<b><i>Review and Q&amp;A before exam</i></b>	
Tuesday, Nov 29	<b><i>Exam 2</i></b>	
Thursday, Dec 1	Topic 19: Residential environment and health Readings: articles on Canvas	
Tuesday, Dec 6	<b><i>Paper presentation 3</i></b>	Group paper 3 and ppt
Thursday, Dec 8	Topic 20: Life course and health Readings: articles on Canvas	Assignment 6
Tuesday, Dec 13	Topic 21: COVID and social inequality Readings: articles on Canvas	

Notes: GH refers to our textbook “Global Health 101.”  
Articles will be posted on our class website.