The Global Health System: Governance Challenges and Institutional Innovations

Harvard School of Public Health: GHP 548 (2.5 credits)
Harvard Kennedy School of Government: IGA 230M (0.5 credits)

January Term 2011
Jan 10-14, 2011, 9:00a – 4:00p
Location: HSPH, Room TBD

Instructors’ Information

Instructor Name: Julio Frenk
Instructor’s Title: Dean, HSPH and T&G Angelopoulos Professor of Public Health and International Development
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Phone: 617-432-3524
Office Hours: by appointment by email to Marah Brown at mabrown@hsph.harvard.edu
Office Address: 677 Huntington Avenue., Kresge 1005, 10th Fl.

Instructor Name: Suerie Moon
Instructor’s Title: Instructor
Department: Harvard School of Public Health, Dean’s Office
Instructor’s email: suerie_moon@hksphd.harvard.edu
Phone: 646-309-4460
Office Hours: By appointment (email) and during course (January 10-14, 4-5pm daily)
Office Location: TBD

Course Website
- GHP 548 course page

Course Description
Public health challenges – for example, pandemic flu, HIV/AIDS, obesity, neglected diseases, or tobacco use – increasingly shape and are shaped by the political, economic and social aspects of globalization. Outbreaks of new infectious diseases, such as SARS or H1N1 flu, can wreak immediate economic havoc on a regional or global scale. Neglected diseases, such as sleeping sickness, continue to cause immense human suffering. Meanwhile, international rules that fall outside the traditional health sphere – such as those governing intellectual property, trade in agriculture, human migration, and greenhouse gas emissions – can have profound impacts on human health. While strong national health systems are critical for meeting population needs, the effects of and capacities to respond to a particular health threat often lie outside the control of any one nation state.

How suitable are existing international/global and national institutions for responding effectively and equitably to such challenges? What functions must the ‘global health system’ achieve? Where are the major governance gaps? What institutional innovations have succeeded? And
how can we improve our collective capacity to respond to the increasingly complex nature of global health challenges? Through an intensive five-day session, this course is intended to equip students with an analytic approach to answering these questions through: a basic introduction to major public health challenges and key questions in global governance; an understanding of the current functioning of the global health system and its shortcomings; and exposure to new approaches to addressing global public health challenges.

The course is expected to be of particular interest to students of public health and public policy, but is open to all graduate students across the university.

**Course Objectives**
At the end of the course, students should be able to:
- Identify major global health challenges and key features of the ‘global health system’
- Diagnose major governance gaps in the system
- Describe important institutional innovations intended to improve governance, and analyze the strengths and weaknesses of such innovations
- Design and evaluate alternate and/or improved governance arrangements

**Outcome Measures**

**Assignments:**
- **Assignment 1**: Thought piece on what constitutes “good” global health governance (350-500 words).
- **Assignment 2**: Policy recommendations (team): presentation and memo (Teams will be comprised of a mix of 3-5 students from HKS, HSPH and other graduate school students). Teams will have one-hour in class and one evening to prepare a presentation, and two days to prepare a policy memo (<1000 words).
- **Assignment 3**: Short term paper (10pp or ~2500 words) (individual): Analyze a governance challenge in global health: what is the problem (describe) and why is it a problem (analyze)? Critique an already proposed/implemented “solution” to the problem, or propose one of your own (prescribe); provide a clear argument for why your proposed solution will improve on the status quo. Evaluate the ‘solution’ based on clearly-specified criteria for what constitutes “good governance” in global health (ref Assignment 1).
Grading Criteria

Grading and Due Dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due</th>
<th>% of Grade (out of 100%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1 (Good governance)</td>
<td>Tues, 1/11, 9am</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 2 (Policy recommendation)</td>
<td>Presentation: varies by team</td>
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<td>Policy Memo: one day after presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 3 (Term paper)</td>
<td>Monday, 1/24, 9am</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<td>Class participation</td>
<td>Throughout course</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Students may take the course for a grade, pass/fail or as auditors, with permission of the Instructors. Students taking the course for a grade will be given preference in case the course is over-subscribed.

Schedule:
This is an intensive one-week course, equivalent to a half-term course (module). Students are expected to have completed the reading before coming to class. The course will run in two sessions per day, Morning (9am-12noon) and Afternoon (1pm-4pm), with a one-hour lunch break and short coffee/tea breaks in the middle of each session. Students will often be required to complete coursework in the evenings, oftentimes in groups; therefore, students are encouraged to plan accordingly during this one-week session.
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<th>Wednesday, January 12, 2010</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Morning:</strong></td>
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<td>Case 2: Intellectual Property &amp; Access to Medicines</td>
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<td>Presentations &amp; Discussion</td>
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<td><strong>Afternoon:</strong></td>
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<td>Theme 3: Financing, priority-setting, spending</td>
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<td>Guest lecture + Q&amp;A (1.5h)</td>
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<td>Team time / Term Paper office hours</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Morning:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Theme 4: Knowledge Management: Monitoring &amp; Evaluation, Learning and Accountability</td>
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<tr>
<td>JF lecture + Q&amp;A (1.5h)</td>
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<td>Team time / Term Paper office hours</td>
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<td>Case 4: Health Systems Performance Assessment, League Tables, and M&amp;E</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Morning:</strong></td>
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<td>Case 4: Health Systems Performance Assessment, League Tables, and M&amp;E</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentations &amp; Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Afternoon:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Role of WHO in the Global Health System</td>
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<td>JF &amp; SM</td>
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<td>Synthesis, Conclusions and Closing</td>
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Texts and Reading Materials (subject to change until 15 December 2010)

Note: It may be difficult for students to complete all readings during the intensive one-week course. Therefore, students are encouraged to begin or even complete the readings during the winter break, and to review them as needed during the course.

MONDAY:

Introduction to Global Health and the Global Health System:


Introduction to Globalization, “Good Governance,” and Global Governance:


Recommended:


Theme 1: Disease Outbreaks and Legal & Regulatory Instruments


Recommended:

**Case 1: International Health Regulations and H1N1 Pandemic Flu**


13. Other case materials from guest speaker (TBD)

**TUESDAY:**

**Theme 2: The impact of non-health ‘rules’ on global health: trade, intellectual property, migration**


**Case 2: Intellectual Property Rules & Access to Medicines**


**WEDNESDAY:**

**Theme 3: Financing, priority-setting, spending**


**Case 3: HIV/AIDS Treatment, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria & UNITAID**


28. Other case materials from guest speaker (TBD)
THURSDAY:

Theme 4: Knowledge Management: Monitoring & Evaluation, Learning and Accountability


Case 4: Health Systems Performance Assessment, League Tables, and M&E


FRIDAY:

Synthesis, Conclusions and Closing


**Additional Information**

**Pre-requisites:** There are no pre-requisites.

**Course enrollment:** Total enrollment will be capped at 60 students, with initial preference going equally to HSPH and HKS students.

**Course Evaluations**
Completion of the evaluation is a requirement for each course. Your grade will not be available until you submit the evaluation. In addition, registration for future terms will be blocked until you have completed evaluations for courses in prior terms.