

Draft
January 16, 2009
PUBP 758 Global Threats and Medical Policy
Syllabus
Spring 2009
Room 253
Arlington Campus

Note: This course and its companion, PUBP 757 are part of the School of Public Policy Certificate and Concentration Programs in “Global Medical Policy”.

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Introduction

The *Global Medical and Health Policy* certificate includes the Public Policy in Global Health and Medical Practice (PUBP757) and Global Threats and Medical Policy (PUBP758). Each course comprises a series of related topics, updated yearly, exploring challenges in medical policy and practices in the era of globalization and includes topics dealing with disasters and terrorism. Though each part can be taken separately for 3 credit hours each, it is recommended that both be taken sequentially to acquire a full perspective in medical and public health policy formulation, assessment, planning and implementation in an international setting.

Purpose

1. To provide an understanding in global medical policies, processes and practice by interacting with a faculty of influential international and national policy-makers from organizations such as: the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization, American College of Preventive Medicine, American Telemedicine Association, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Defense (USUHS), GMU, NASA, and others.
2. To address global medical/public health policies, needs, practices, and interdependencies in the 21st Century.
3. To discuss planning for and managing public health organizations in the aftermath of 9/11/2001 bio-terrorist attacks with anthrax laced letters, emerging and reemerging infectious diseases, including SARS and avian influenza.
4. To develop skills in designing evaluation processes, to assess costs and performance of medical and public health activities, and in formulating policies to protect against the “public health fear factor” as it relates to vaccinations (smallpox) or international quarantines (SARS, HIV/AIDS and Avian flu).
5. To discuss formulation of policies and analyze practices that could violate human rights, undermine ethics, and/or create disparities in health services.
6. To complement the Core Graduate Curriculum of the GMU/School of Public Policy. The course is primarily designed for students enrolled in the Master of Public Policy

(MPP), International Commerce Policy (ICP) and GMU Biodefense program, and the MPP Certificate in Global Health and Medical Policy. Additionally, it can accommodate professional CME (provided by another institution).

Background

The 20th Century witnessed profound cultural, economic, political and societal changes, which continue to evolve. The world medical and public health practices are being revolutionized by the information technology, computational sciences and advances in molecular biology. The interdependencies created by globalization and international commerce continue to shape the health care concepts and policies at an accelerated pace. The G-8 politics and interests continue to impact the global health landscape. The events of September 11, 2001, the anthrax mail attacks, the SARS epidemic, threats of a potential avian flu pandemic and other news worthy health events brought into focus the vulnerabilities of the global public health vitality, readiness and response.

The new paradigm is the sudden widespread awareness and concerns of the nature and extent of the threats and the realization that the war against terrorism will be protracted and universal. In this setting, medical and public health sectors will play a more preeminent role than ever, and policies necessary to protect the health of people world wide need to be enacted and enforced. In order to ensure the international medical security timely and implementable health and medical policies have to be enacted with the understanding of their global implications. Consideration of global economic, social, political and environmental implications of such public health policies needs to be developed through proper academic research and training. Socioeconomic disparities in a globalizing world are challenging the existing public health systems and practices. Health disparities among and within nations affect relationships, trade and even peace keeping and humanitarian activities.

Recent gains achieved by new and reemerging infections, the emergence of microbial resistance to antibiotics, fueled by continued regional conflicts and failures of the public health system, warrants such reexamination, even in the absence of the well defined terrorist threats.

Specific Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this-course, the student will understand the:

1. Important public health policy issues associated with biological, chemical and nuclear threats and countermeasures. The student will be made aware of the economic, political and societal dimensions of bioterrorism.
2. Social, economic and political burden of bioterrorism and infectious diseases on a global scale
4. Significance of:
 - a) Ethical concerns for medical/public health policies in different cultures and countries
 - b) Complex humanitarian and disaster relief practices
 - c) Safety and security policy and practices for specific critical infrastructures

- d) Impact of the transportation and communications systems (and associated policies and practices) on health – a new dimension of public health: technology as a vector and a target for diseases, including terrorism
- e) Growing importance of environmental impact on public health
- f) Vaccination Programs : research and development, policies and practices
- g) Health and medical care needs and disparities in select populations/communities

Pass/Fail Criteria

The students are required to:

1. Attend lectures and participate in the discussions held during the sessions (30% of the final grade)
2. Select a research topic and prepare a discussion paper to be completed by the end of the semester (70% of the final grade). The research paper topic can be selected from one of the class subject areas. The topic will be selected by the student and approved by the class instructor. The student is responsible for the research materials and the content of the paper. ***Presentation of the material, the depth and scope of the literature search and citations, the relevance of the discussion and conclusions, including impacts and outcomes (social, economic, international, etc.) and potentials for policy development, will determine the grade of the paper. The paper together with the class discussions rating will result in the final semester grade.***
3. *It is imperative that all the university rules and regulations for citing and presenting the work from the published literature are adhered to during the preparation of the semester paper. Do not include sensitive or other materials from any source which are not in the public domain or have not been officially cleared for public dissemination. Please get familiar with the internet plagiarism issues at <http://firstclass.wellesley.edu/%7Esparks/cs100/rp1.html>*
4. The classes will be in the form of lectures, topical seminars, group discussions, case studies, or practicum.

Semester Questions to be discussed at the last class on December 4, 2006. You must attend the last class and participate in the discussions!!!

Each student will select a question from the list below and will be prepared to provide a verbal presentation (not to exceed 5 to 8 minutes) on the chosen topic. An additional 5 minutes will be allocated for class discussions. Any one question can be selected and the discussion can be shared by several students

1. *Health care is the right of all individuals*
2. *Public health is viewed as health care by most people in the market economy countries*
3. *Cultures and societal values are reflected in the practice of public health*
4. *Public Health policy should be legislated by all governments and citizen should provide original input into its formulation*
5. *Global health policy should be a major agenda item in international/global collaboration and commerce*
6. *Humanitarian aid and disaster relief is guaranteed by all developed nations (market economy)*

7. *UN is actively enforcing global public health policies*
8. *Globally public health policy should be the sole domain and responsibility of health professionals, who understand the issues at hand*
9. *Governments should always rely on the professional advice when addressing health policies*
10. *Only developed countries should be engaged in global health policy formulation since they can afford to implement it*
11. *Terrorism is the reflection of socio-economic status, education, religious and/or political beliefs, wealth and health of individuals and nations*
12. *Preparedness against bio-terrorism should be the #1 national and global priority*
13. *Public Health should be the highest priority globally*
14. *Pandemic threats are the business of everybody. Research into the prevention of pandemics should be the sole domain of the richest countries. Results should be shared with the world disregarding the intellectual property rights.*
15. *Preventing and containing chronic and infectious diseases is the responsibility of WHO*
16. *Nations should be taxed to create a global health fund managed by WHO*

Reading Assignments

*Required reading will be assigned primarily from the following textbooks (identified at the end of each session as **Ref.** with supporting **Chapters** or **Sections**)*

- * (1) M.H. Merson, R. E. Black, and A. J. Mills: International Public Health. (Aspen Pub. 2006)
- * (2) Kelly Lee, Kent Buse and Suzanne Fustukian: Health Policy in a Globalising World Cambridge 2002
- * (3) Levy S. Barry and Victor V. Sidel: Terrorism and Public Health Oxford Press 2003

Suggested useful textbooks

- (4) Coreil, Bryant, Henderson: Social & Behavioral Foundations of Public Health. Sage 2003
- (5) Bernard J. Turnock: Public Health: What it is and how it works. Jones and Bartlett 2004
- (6) William Bynum: The History of Medicine. Oxford press 2008
- (7) Levy S. Barry and Victor V. Sidel: War and Public Health. 2008

(* **Primary textbooks**)

The following Journals are suggested as additional references for class readings and in the preparation of the final papers:

1. Journal of Travel Medicine
2. Journal of Preventive Medicine
3. Journal of Biosecurity and Bioterrorism
4. American Journal of Public Health

Additional materials and assignments will be provided during the classes for student references.

Course Outline

Each class session will be a combination of lecture and class discussion. Most sessions will feature a guest lecture given by an experienced practitioner in the field.

(1-27) Introduction to the Course and Review of Historically Important Medical and Public Health Events, health measures, shaping medical and public health policy (A. Nicogossian) (Reading: Ref 1, Chapters 1 & 2; Ref 3, Part 1; Ref 5 Chapter 1; Ref. 6: Chapters 4 and 6)

(2-3) Natural and human made disasters and impact on health/medical policy formulation (A. Nicogossian)

(Reading: Jeanne Daly, Judith Lumley (2005): The public health implications of natural and man-made disasters. Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health 29 (5), 403–404; Ref 5, Chapter 8)

(2-10) Humanitarian Assistance, Policies and Practices (A. Nicogossian) (Reading: Ref 1, Chapter 10; Ref 2, Chapter 13)

(2-17) Culture, Behavior, Ethics and Public Health Policy in a Globalizing World (A. Nicogossian) (Reading: Ref 4, Part 2 & 3; Ref 5, Chapter 2, 3 and 4)

(2-24) Facilities and Critical Infrastructure Protection, Policies and Practice: Safety and Security in Health Care, Workplace and Educational Institutions-a new dimension of Public Health. Greg Brison, Head Facilities Security INOVA Health Care System)

(Reading: www.fema.gov/fima/antiterrorism/links.shtm: **Jane's handbooks on Schools and facilities security**)

(3-3) International Occupational and Environmental Health Policies Formulation and Application: Safety Principles and Practice (Wing T. Chan)

(Reading: Ref 1, Chapter 9; Ref. 2, Chapter 12)

(March 9-15) *Spring Break*

(3-17) Implication of knowledge gained from prior Chemical, Radiological and Biological events to Terrorism Response and Emergency Preparedness (Dan Hanfling, Director Emergency Preparedness, INOVA Health Care System)

(Reading: Ref 3, Part 3)

(3-24) Preventing infections and bioterrorism threats: Vaccine development, administration, international agreements: Public Health Policy, Politics and Commerce (Allan Morrison, Hospital Epidemiologist, and INOVA Health Care System)

(Reading: Ref 1, Chapter 4; Ref.3, Part 3, Chapter 15)

(3-31) Special Topic: The intersection of Public Health and U.S. Foreign Policy (Mark Austin, USAID) (Ref 1: Chapters 10, www.usaid.gov and www.cdc.gov health topics)

(4-7) Case Studies: Federal disaster response and lessons learned: from 9/11 to Katrina (Richard Williams, NASA) (Reading: Ref 1, Chapter 12, Ref.3, Part 1)

(4-14) Special Topic: Aging and Population Needs: Comparison of International Research Practices and Policies (Andrew Monjan, Chief Neurobiology of Aging Branch NIA/NIH) (Reading: Ref. 1, Chapter 6; Ref 2, Chapter 11; Ref 4, Chapter 14)

(4-21) Export Control of Medical Technology in the Post 911 Era (Beth McCormick Acting Director DITSA)

(4-28) Special Issues in Bioterrorism: emerging and reemerging Zoonotic Diseases and Agro-Terrorism (A. Nicogossian) (Reading: Ref 3, Chapter 16; www.fas.org/irp/crs/RL32521.pdf www.fas.org/sgp/crs/terror/RL32521.pdf)

(5-5) **Class discussions on assigned Reading Materials.**

(5-8) **Due date for receipt of final papers (no extensions)**

Note: May 5 is used as a makeup for the class cancellation on January 20, 2009

SPP Policy on Plagiarism

The profession of scholarship and the intellectual life of a university as well as the field of public policy inquiry depend fundamentally on a foundation of trust. Thus any act of plagiarism strikes at the heart of the meaning of the university and the purpose of the School of Public Policy. It constitutes a serious breach of professional ethics and it is unacceptable.

Plagiarism is the use of another's words or ideas presented as one's own. It includes, among other things, the use of specific words, ideas, or frameworks that are the product of another's work. Honesty and thoroughness in citing sources is essential to professional accountability and personal responsibility. Appropriate citation is necessary so that arguments, evidence, and claims can be critically examined.

Plagiarism is wrong because of the injustice it does to the person whose ideas are stolen. But it is also wrong because it constitutes lying to one's professional colleagues. From a prudential perspective, it is shortsighted and self-defeating, and it can ruin a professional career.

The faculty of the School of Public Policy takes plagiarism seriously and has adopted a zero tolerance policy. Any plagiarized assignment will receive an automatic grade of "F." This may lead to failure for the course, resulting in dismissal from the University. This dismissal will be noted on the student's transcript. For foreign students who are on a university-sponsored visa (eg. F-1, J-1 or J-2), dismissal also results in the revocation of

their visa.

To help enforce the SPP policy on plagiarism, all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit student's work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. The SPP policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace it or substitute for it. (<http://www.gmu.edu/facstaff/handbook/aD.html>)

Student/Faculty Meeting Schedules

1. 09:00 -15:00 every Thursday Room 100, Finley Building Fairfax Campus
2. 15:00 – 16:00 every Tuesday prior to class Faculty Room (second floor of the Original Building) Arlington Campus
3. 19:00 – 19:45 Tuesdays after class by prior arrangements at Arlington Campus. Please make appointments during classes or email at least 3 days in advance to anicogos@gmu.edu

Final Research Papers

Both Part 1 and 2 require a final research paper. The paper length including references should be 15 to 30 pages (double spaces).

Suggested format:

- i. Title page (include student name)
- ii. Table of Contents
- iii. Abstract ½ page
- iv. Purpose: 1 paragraph
- v. Introduction and Background: 2 to 6 pages
- vi. Methodology: 3 to 6 pages
- vii. Results: 3 to 6 pages
- viii. Discussion: 3 to 6 pages
- ix. Conclusions: 2 to 4 pages (include policy recommendations)
- x. Supporting Bibliography

Suggestions for a Reference Manual: John R. Trimble, *Writing with Style: Conversations on the Art of Writing*, 2nd ed. (Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2000).

Contact

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