

***Draft September 16, 2009***  
**Fall Semester 2009**  
***PUPB 757-001***  
**Public Policy in Global Health and Medical Practice**  
Class room 330  
Tuesdays from 1630 to 1900  
Arlington Campus, School of Public Policy  
George Mason University

*This course and its companion, PUPB 758 are part of the School of Public Policy Certificate and Concentration Program in “Global Medical Policy”. The two courses also complement GMU programs in biodefense and international health offered by PIA and CHHS*

**Instructor:** Arnauld E. Nicogossian, M.D., *Center for the Study of International Medical Policies and Practices*, School of Public Policy, George Mason University.

**Overview and Purpose**

This course is designed for students interested in global health and medical policy formulation and implementation. 757 is specifically tailored to meet the requirements of elective offerings to the by the Masters of Public Policy (MPP), International Commerce Policy (ICP) and Public Policy doctoral program. It can accommodate professional CME or CNE (provided through another institution).

The global medical and health policy course consist of two parts, **Public Policy in Global Health and Medical Practice** (PUBP757) and **Global Threats and Health Policy** (PUBP758). Each part consist of a series of inter related global medical policy topics exploring the impacts of globalization on populations health. Today medical policies and

practice are part of the international agreements and influence economic growth and human security globally.

Though the two courses can be taken separately for 3 credit hours each, it is recommended that prospective students consider attending both in order to acquire a full perspective on global problems intersecting with the medical and health policies and practices.

**Course Objectives**

1. Provide insights into medical policies and processes and interdependencies with the socioeconomic developments.
2. Explore principles applicable to the planning, management of, and priority setting for international health programs/projects.
3. Develop skills in designing evaluation processes, assessing cost and performance of medical and health programs.
4. Understand policies and practices

which could violate human rights, promote health disparities and inequalities in medical resource allocation.

### **Global Challenges**

Profound cultural, economic, political and societal changes are challenging the world of health and medical practice. The rapid progress of the transportation systems, information technology, computational sciences and molecular biology are transforming the world we live in. These scientific and technological advances make medical and public health challenges difficult to contain locally or within national borders. The interdependencies created by “globalization” and international commerce have been shaping the medical systems function, care principles and policies at an accelerated pace. The economically stable nation’s interests and influence continues to impact the world health landscape. Decisions targeting the environment, nutrition, habitat and health care security affect community’s wealth, health and behavior

The events of September 11, 2001, the anthrax mail attacks, the SARS epidemic, the threat of the avian pandemic, the emergence of microbial resistance to antibiotics and antivirals, protection of intellectual property, international commerce and product safety continue to burden the medical and public health systems. Despite all the scientific and technological breakthroughs, the fields of medicine, public health and preventive care are facing major challenges if not overt crisis.

In order to ensure the health and medical security nationally and internationally,

policies should be adopted after assessments of their global implications. Poor health literacy worldwide continues to foil humanitarian, capacity building and public health efforts. Furthermore recent gains achieved by new and reemerging infections, fueled by continued regional conflicts and failures of the public health systems globally, warrants a reexamination of policies and practices, even in the absence of major bioterrorism threats...

### **PUPB 757 Specific Learning Objectives**

At the conclusion of the semester the student will become familiar with:

1. Historical perspectives of the role of preventive medicine, medical interventions and public health in the control of debilitating and infectious diseases.
2. Ethical arguments for resource allocation to programs such as enhancing longevity without improving the quality of life can result in the paradox of “*Living longer and draining health care resources as an acceptable substitute for aging healthy*”
3. Concepts of public policies and laws, and their relevance to medical and public health practices in different cultures in the context of “globalization and asymmetrical warfare”
5. Principles of epidemiology and processes for translating knowledge into practice in public health, and priority setting for scarce resource allocation
6. Major medical and health disparities faced by different population groups
7. Significance of:

- a) Ethical impacts of medical/public health policies in different cultures and countries
- b) Implications of natural and human-made disasters on medical/public health policy formulation
- c) Growing importance of ecological changes on public health and medical care and policy.

### **Pass/Fail Criteria**

*The students are required to:*

1. *Participate in the class discussions (30% of the final grade, including the end of semester special topic discussions)*
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 GMU/ SPP plagiarism policies.***

Classes will be conducted in the form of lectures, topical seminars, group discussions, case studies and/or practicum.

**Semester Questions to be discussed during the classes on December 4/8, 2009 are provided below. You are required to attend the last class and participate in the discussions!!!**

Each student will select a question (from the set presented below) and will provide a verbal presentation (not to exceed 5 minutes) on the topic. An additional 5 minutes will be allocated for discussion by the class. Several students can select the same question and share the discussion.

1. *What are the outcome measures of Healthy People 2010?*
2. *How successful is the current implementation of the Healthy People 2010 program?*
3. *What major priorities should be considered in the context of International Health for the 21th Century: Policies, Practices, and Laws?*
4. *What is the role of the NGOs in shaping the International Health?*
5. *Global health indicator used in policy formulations: What is being evaluated versus what should be evaluated?*
6. *Is it right to save lives with vaccines and let people die from starvation, wars and ethnic cleansing?*
7. *Discuss Global Interdependencies in Health Policy and their implication to improving populations health*
8. *Should health be used as a tool of international policy?*

9. *Should medical assistance and humanitarian help be used to promote religious, political or ethnic bias or beliefs?*
10. *Should health promotions and associated expenditures be used among populations which will not change their pattern of behavior or practices?*
11. *What are the four major public health practices which were common to most cultures and used since antiquity?*
12. *Discuss the major epidemics/pandemics which continue to shape public health practices.*
13. *What are the major tenets of public health administration and why?*
14. *Describe the principles of global surveillance: identify the strength and weaknesses of the current practices.*
15. *What is the relationship of health literacy and socio-cultural disparities?*
16. *What are the four major challenges for the global public health?*
17. *What are the bioethical principles for resource allocation in the practice of global health and medical care?*
18. *What is the role of vaccines in promoting health and wellbeing of populations?*
19. *Why violence is a pressing public health concern worldwide?*

### **Reading Assignments**

**Readings will be assigned primarily from the following textbooks:**

*Primary Textbooks*

1. M.H. Merson, R. E. Black, and A. J. Mills: International Public Health. (Aspen Pub. 2006)
- Levy S. Barry and Victor V. Sidel: War and Public Health. Oxford 2008

*Additional reference textbooks*

3. W. Bynum: The History of Medicine, Oxford 2008
4. Richard Hofrichter Editor: Health and Social Justice, Politics, Ideology and Inequity in the Distribution of Disease.

Jossey-Bass Publisher, John Wiley Imprint 2003

***Reading assignments will be made from:***

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

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

### **Course Outline**

Each class session will consist of a combination of lectures and class discussions. Several guest lecturers and GMU faculty will assist with the teaching during this semester. (Reading refers to the textbooks or Journals described in the previous section).

**(9-1)** A short history of International Public Health and Medical Policy (Reading 1, Chapter 2, Reading 3: Chapters 3, 4 and 5) (Arnauld Nicogossian)

**(9-8)** Introduction to International Medical and Health Policy Formulation and Practice (Reading 1 Chapt. 1) (Arnauld Nicogossian)

**(9-15)** Global governance implication to health and medical policy: “a tool of foreign policy?” –Study of Iraq’s Health Care system (Reading 1 Chapt. 14 & 15, Reading 4, Part 3) (Arnauld Nicogossian& Shakir Jawad)

**(9-22)** U.S.A. Public Health and Medical, Policy Development and Administration

(Reading 1, Chapt.12; Reading 4, Part 2)  
(Thomas Zimmerman)

**(9-29)** Design of public health and medical systems for population needs: Women health issues and policies (Reading 1, Chapter 3) (Saralyn Mark, NASA and Society for Women's Health)

**(10-6)** Understanding Global Terrorism and Bio-terrorism Threat to the Public Health Preparedness and continuity of operations (Reading 2 Part 1) (Arnauld Nicogossian)

**(10-13) No Class**

**(10-20)** International Public Health- Policy Development and Disease Surveillance (Reading 1, Chapters 11-13) (Rick Niska, MD, CDC)

**(10-27)** Case Study in public health policies formulation and application in an international setting: -travel, transportation, commerce and disease containment  
(Reading 1, Chapt. 4; Entrez Pubmed: Transmission of infectious diseases during commercial air travel. Lancet. 2005 Mar 12; 365(9463):989-96. ; WHO: International Travel and Health 2007)  
(Allan Morrison, M.D., INOVA)

**(11-3)** Psychosocial Impacts of bio-terrorism: (Reading 1, Chapter. 8, [Norwood AE, Holloway HC, Ursano R.J.](#) Psychological effects of biological warfare. Mil Med. 2001 Dec; 166 (12 Suppl): 27-8. Review)  
(Arnauld Nicogossian)

**(11-10)** Disaster Preparedness and Response: Policy and Practices (Reading 2 Part 2 and 3) (Dan Hanfling, M.D.; INOVA)

**(11-17)** Emerging Technologies, E-Health and Distance Learning in Epidemiological Monitoring: Policy and Legal Considerations (A. Nicogossian, Telemedicine in the US Space Program, Acta Astronautica 2001)  
(Jonathan Linkous, American Telemedicine Association)

**(11-24)** Expanding U.S. and Global Public Health Infrastructures to Meet the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenges – Policy and Political Considerations (Reading 1, Chapters 6 &14; Reading 4, Part 2) (Arnauld Nicogossian)

**(12-1)** Disparities, a case study: Violence as an emerging problem in public health (Reading 1, Chapter 7) (Arnauld Nicogossian)

**(12-8)** Course Summary and Class discussions guided by the semester questions

**(12-13) Final semesters papers dues**

**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 (e.g. 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. 1300- 1500 every Thursday  
Room 100, Finley Building  
Fairfax Campus**
- 2. 15:00 – 16:00 every Tuesday  
Faculty Room (second floor of  
the Original Building) Arlington  
Campus**  
**Please notify Dr. Nicogossian  
during classes, or by phone 703 728  
7277, or email [anicogos@gmu.edu](mailto:anicogos@gmu.edu)  
at least 1 day in advance.**

### **Students with special needs**

If you are a student with special needs or a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see the instructor as soon as possible and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the DRC

### **Final Research Papers, General Guidance**

***A research paper is required for this course.***

The paper length including references should be 15 to 30 pages (double spaces). The following format is suggested for the paper outline:

- i. Abstract ½ page (salient summary of the paper)
- ii. Table of Contents (major elements of the paper)
- iii. Purpose: 1 paragraph (Framing the research question)
- iv. Introduction and Background: 2 to 6 pages

- (Why the selected topic is important and documented literature reviews)
- v. Methodology: 3 to 6 pages  
(the source of the materials cited, selection process for the literature cited, date when last accessed a web site, statistics if any)
  - vi. Results: 3 to 6 pages  
(Findings and new information on the subject)
  - vii. Discussion: 3 to 6 pages  
(What it all means!)
  - viii. Conclusions: 2 to 4 pages  
(What is the lesson learned?)
  - ix. 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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