



INTERNATIONAL HONORS PROGRAM

comparative study around the world

566 Columbus Avenue, Boston, MA 02118 phone: 617-375-8101 fax: 617-236-0162 info@ihp.edu www.ihp.edu

Health and Community Program 1 **Public Health: From Biology to Policy** **IBPH- 3505 (4 credits)** **Spring 2009**

Faculty: Farah Mawani (lead)

Country Coordinators: Earl Nolte (Switzerland), Leo Saldhana (India), Bhargavi Rao (India), Zhang Chengping (China), Chris Colvin (South Africa)

Course Description

This course uses a multi-level determinants of health framework and lifecourse approach to examine and understand patterns and inequalities in health and illness between and within populations. The course takes a particular focus on comparison between and within India, China, South Africa and Europe/North America.

Determinants of Health may be conceptualized as operating on different levels – macro, community, family and individual. Individuals are nested within their families, which are nested within multiple communities, which are nested in a broader societal context. Some factors may operate at societal and/or community levels and filter down to influence family and individual experiences or vice versa. There is a dynamic interplay of factors operating at multiple levels. Inequalities in health and well-being (e.g., infectious disease, chronic illness, functional status, and mental health) between and within populations are the product of the dynamic interaction between determinants of health at each of these levels.

A life course approach adds to this multi-level framework by incorporating time and timing in associations between exposures and outcomes at the individual and population levels. It offers a way to conceptualize how underlying socio-environmental determinants of health, experienced at different life course stages, and accumulated over the course of time, can differentially influence the development of chronic diseases.

The course is comprised of a rich combination of sessions made up of core lectures and discussions along with country- and site-specific guest lectures, field visits and case studies. The lectures are intended to present key concepts, themes and frameworks to ground the many learning experiences in a structure that enables and supports synthesis, critical reflection and discussion.

Cross-cutting Themes: Family Health Throughout the Life Cycle, Health and the Environment, HIV/AIDS and TB are three themes that will be the focus of course content and comparisons across countries.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Use frameworks to understand and describe the determinants of physical and mental morbidity and mortality (health outcomes including infectious disease, chronic illness, functional status, and mental health)
2. Use frameworks to understand and describe the prevention of physical and mental morbidity and mortality (health outcomes including infectious disease, chronic illness, functional status, and mental health)

3. Describe and compare health indicators between and within countries
4. Describe and compare health systems between and within countries and the extent to which they address determinants of health

Course Requirements

a. Participation

Your learning in the course will be greatly influenced by the level of your participation in lecture/discussion sessions designed to encourage your critical reflection throughout the overall Health and Community program. This will be facilitated by an evolving determinants of health framework that you will contribute to based on your experiences throughout the program (including guest lectures, field visits, homestays, etc.), and refer to in discussions and assignments. The readings have been carefully selected to provide you with tools and information to participate fully in discussions. You will be expected to do the required readings prior to each class and to be prepared to incorporate them into class discussions. The required and suggested readings are also intended to act as resources for your course assignments.

b. Problem-based sessions

Each country will include one problem-based exercise focused on an issue of particular relevance. The exercises will include in-class brainstorming sessions, group work, and a component of peer evaluation.

c. Country papers

In each country, you will be responsible for a 5-7 page interdisciplinary paper to synthesize your readings, lectures, discussions, and experiences and deepen your thinking about a particular health-related issue within each country. This assignment will also be a chance for you to integrate your learning from many different sources and to gain from the comparative element of the program.

After the first session in Geneva, you will be required to choose a theme for all of your papers. The theme can be a broad category of health determinants (e.g. Social Environment), or a specific health topic (e.g. HIV, mental health). The topics within the broad theme can be different for each paper. You are expected to make use of our evolving determinants of health framework, readings, class discussions, homestays, field visits, and case studies as material for your papers.

The percentage of course marks allocated will increase incrementally with each paper to enable you to learn from the feedback you receive for prior papers, and build on skills and content you are learning progressively through the program

Marking Scheme

Participation – 10%

Problem-based Presentations (30%) – 10% each

Country papers (60%)

1 – India – 15%

2 – China – 20%

3 – South Africa – 25%

Geneva

Week 1

Lecture/Discussion 1 (23/01/09)

- Introduction to course

- Determinants of Health Frameworks (Social Determinants of Health, Life Course Approach, Migration and Health)
- Burden of Disease
- Global Health Inequity

Guest lectures:

- Overview of WHO HIV/AIDS
- Migration and Health

--

Required Readings

World Health Organization. 2008. The global burden of disease: 2004 update

World Health Organization. 2008. Closing the gap in a generation: Health equity through action on the social determinants of health - Parts 1 & 2

Stella Yu. The Life-Course Approach to Health. *American Journal of Public Health*; May 2006; 96, 5; pg. 768

Suggested Readings

Rachel Jenkins. 1997. Reducing the burden of mental illness (Commentary). *The Lancet*. 349(9062): 1340.

India

Week 2 - Orientation to India Program

Field Visit:

- Parks, Recreation and Public Health

--

Readings

Yip W, and Mahal A. The Health Care Systems of China and India: Performance and Future Challenges. *Health Affairs*. 27(4): 921-932.

Sai Ma, Neeraj Sood. A Comparison of the Health Systems in China and India Center for Asia Pacific Policy - The RAND Corporation, 2008, *Ch. 1-3*
http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/2008/RAND_OP212.pdf

Week 3 - Macro- and Community- level Determinants

Lecture/Discussion 2 (02/02/09):

- Macro-level Determinants – Political, Physical, Economic, Social Environments
- Neighbourhood Determinants of Health

Guest Lectures:

- Dr. Subbarayan Prasanna - Brief Overview of History, Governance and City Planning and its Implications on Public Health in Bangalore (02/02/09)
- Dr. H. Sudarshan - Is Public Health a Priority for the Government? (03/02/09)

Field Visit 2:

- Walking through Neighbourhoods (02/02/09)

--

Required Readings:

Ana Diez Roux. 2002. Invited Commentary: Places, People, and Health. *American Journal of Epidemiology*. 155(6): 516-519

Ana Diez Roux. 2001. Investigating Neighborhood and Area Effects on Health. *American Journal of Public Health*. 91(11): 1783-1789.

Suggested Readings:

Pat O'Campo, Christina Salmon and Jessica Burke. 2009. Neighbourhoods and mental well-being: What are the pathways? *Health and Place*. 15: 56-68.

Lecture/Discussion 3 (06/02/09):

- Food and Water as multi-level determinants
- Nutrition Across the Lifespan, Nutrition Transition

Problem-based session : Food and water

Guest lectures:

- Indian Food, Culture, traditions and their role in community health - Dr Prema (Dietician)

Field Visit 3

- Visit to local traditional Markets- City Market, Russell Market, Jayanagar 4th Block Market and a shopping exercise

--

Required Readings:

Subramanian SV, Kawachi I and Davey Smith G. Income inequality and the double burden of under- and overnutrition in India. *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health* 61.9 (Sept 2007): p802(8).

Clasen T, Roberts I, Rabie T, Schmidt W, Cairncross S. Interventions to improve water quality for preventing diarrhoea. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2006, Issue 3. Art. No.: CD004794. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD004794.pub2.

Week 4: Case Study Preparation (focus on Research Methods classes)

Week 5: Case Studies and Preparation for Kerala

Lecture/Discussion 4 (20/02/09):

- Health Status in Kerala
- Determinants of Health Status in Kerala
- What makes Kerala different?

Required Readings:

Som S, Pal M, Bharati P. Role of individual and household level factors on stunting: a comparative study in three Indian states. *Ann Hum Biol*. 2007 Nov-Dec;34(6):632-46.

PMID: 18092207

Mini GK. Socioeconomic and Demographic Diversity in the Health Status of Elderly People in a Transitional Society, Kerala, India. *J Biosoc Sci.* 2008 Jul 23:1-11. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 18647442

Week 6: (Kerala)

Case Study Presentations

Guest Lecture:

- Health Care in Kerala- Issues and Challenges (Resource person from Kerala Institute of Local administration or Centre for Development Studies)

****VACATION****

China

Week 7

Lecture/Discussion 5: Health Profile of China (Indicators), Health Systems in China

Guest lecture:

- Introduction to Community Structure and Development of Community Medicine in China

Required Readings:

Yip W, and Mahal A. The Health Care Systems of China and India: Performance and Future Challenges. *Health Affairs.* 27(4): 921-932.

Sai Ma, Neeraj Sood. A Comparison of the Health Systems in China and India
Center for Asia Pacific Policy - The RAND Corporation, 2008, Ch. 1-3
http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/2008/RAND_OP212.pdf

Week 8

Lecture/Discussion 6: Emerging Infectious Disease

Problem-based session: Using DOH framework to examine TB

Guest lecture: Community Disease Prevention

Field Visit: Provincial CDC and a large hospital

Required Readings:

Jia ZW, Jia XW, Liu YX, Dye C, Chen F, Chen CS, Zhang WY, Li XW, Cao WC, Liu HL. Spatial analysis of tuberculosis cases in migrants and permanent residents, Beijing, 2000-2006. *Emerg Infect Dis.* 2008 Sep;14(9):1413-9. PMID: 18760008 [PubMed - in process]

Khan K, Wang J, Hu W, Bierman A, Li Y, Gardam M. Tuberculosis infection in the United States: national trends over three decades. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med.* 2008 Feb 15;177(4):455-60. Epub 2007 Nov 20. PMID: 18029790 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Week 9

Lecture/Discussion 7: Aging, Nutrition Transition

Guest lecture: Adequate nutrition and food safety

Required Readings:

Chatterji S, Kowal P, Mathers C, Naidoo N, Verdes E, Smith JPP and Suzman R. The Health Of Aging Populations In China And India. *Health Affairs*, 27, no. 4 (2008): 1052-1063

Popkin BM. 2008. Will China's Nutrition Transition Overwhelm Its Health Care System And Slow Economic Growth? *Health Affairs*, 27(4) : 1064-1076

Week 10

Lecture/Discussion 8: Physical Environment and Health – Air Pollution, Climate Change

Guest lecture: Community environmental health and safety

Required Readings:

Laurent O, Bard D, Filleul L and Segala C. Effect of socioeconomic status on the relationship between atmospheric pollution and mortality. *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health* 61.8 (August 2007): p665(11).

Shahab S. 2008. Strengthening the base: innovation and convergence in climate change and public health. *Global Forum Update on Research for Health.* Vol 5. pp. 36-40.

Friel S, Marmot M, McMichael AJ, Kjellstrom T, Vagero D. 2008. Global health equity and climate stabilisation: a common agenda. *The Lancet.* 372: 1677-1683.

South Africa

Week 11

Lecture/Discussion 9: Health Profile of South Africa (Indicators), Social Exclusion

Required Readings:

Myer L, Stein DJ, Grimsrud A, Seedat S, and Williams DR. Social determinants of psychological distress in a nationally-representative sample of South African adults. *Social Science & Medicine* 66 (2008) 1828-1840

Week 12

Lecture/Discussion 10: Violence

Problem-based session (Using DOH framework to examine role of violence in HIV)

Guest Lecture:

Required Readings:

Alison Rutherford, Anthony B. Zwi, Natalie J. Grove and Alexander Butchart.

Violence: a glossary. *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health* 61.8 (August 2007): p676(5).

Alison Rutherford, Anthony B. Zwi, Natalie J. Grove and Alexander Butchart. Violence: a priority for public health?(part 2). *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health* 61.9 (Sept 2007): p764(7).

Andersson N. 2006. Prevention for those who have freedom of choice – or among the choice-disabled: confronting equity in the AIDS epidemic. *AIDS Research and Therapy* 2006, 3:23

Week 13

Lecture/Discussion 11: Stigma and Health and Social Service Utilization

Guest Lecture: Stigma and HIV/AIDS

Required Readings:

Keusch GT, Wilentz J, Kleinman A. 2006. Stigma and global health: developing a research agenda. *The Lancet*. 367(9509): 525-527.

Link BG, Phelan JC. 2006. Stigma and its public health implications. *The Lancet*. 367(9509): 528-529

Week 14

Lecture: Migration and Health

Required Readings:

Handley MA, Grieshop J. 2007. Globalized migration and transnational epidemiology. *International Journal of Epidemiology*. 36: 1205-1206.

Sontag D. 2008. Immigrants Deported, by US Hospitals. *New York Times*. August 3. pp. 12.

Week 15 – Retreat