Perspectives on Global Health

IPBH 3000 (3 Credits / 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Switzerland: Global Health and Development Policy

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus represents a recent semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester. Please do not assume these are the exact lectures and readings for any subsequent semester.

Course Description
The course explores the main components and current issues of public health in an international context, drawing on knowledge and point of view from multiple disciplines including epidemiology, pharmacology, social, and medical sciences.

Beginning with a review of the main concepts of public health, among them epidemiology, cost-effectiveness, and relationships of public health and development, the course further explores various health systems in an attempt to explain the unequal distribution of health and disease in the world.

The course also analyzes the rationale for improving global health and the relevant modes of intervention by exploring a number of current and emergent topics, including health in migrant populations, mental health, epidemic management, access to medicine, the role and actions of the World Health Organization, and health security.

Incorporated into the course are classroom lectures, case studies, field visits to NGOs and international organizations, and synthesis group discussions. The overall objective is to provide students with a comprehensive and analytical understanding of the field of public health in a global context.

Expected Learning Outcomes
At the end of the course, the students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the roles and agendas of major players in global health, including the World Health Organization;
- Analyze the relationship between global and local health issues, problems, and solutions;
• Show understanding of how determinants of health impact the burden of disease in various settings;
• Critically evaluate public health programs and make recommendations for refinement;
• Produce working papers in selected fields of global health.

Language of Instruction
This course is taught in English, but students will be exposed to vocabulary related to course content as well as the nuances of global health and development through in-country expert lectures and field visits in a wide range of venues and regional locales.

Course Schedule
*Please be aware that topics and excursions may vary to take advantage any emerging events, to accommodate changes in our lecturers’ availability, and to respect any changes that would affect student safety. Students will be notified if this occurs.

Class time will include lectures, case studies, briefings at international organizations and NGOs, and class discussions. Participation is expected in the form of questions and discussions pertaining to the course content and reflections/comparisons with reading material. Course evaluation includes quizzes, a final exam, and participation in group discussions.

Course modules
Module 1: Main and Current Concepts in Public Health, Health Economics, and Health Systems
• Introductory Course: From Public Health to International Health and Global Health
• Introduction to Health Economics
• Health Systems

Required Reading:

Module 2: Epidemiology and International Health Regulation
• Principles of epidemiology
• Mass vaccination
• International Health Regulation

Required Reading:


**Module 3: Health Security**

• Food Safety
• Drug Safety
• Water Safety

**Required Reading:**


**Module 4: Humanitarian Health and Emergency Health Situations**

• Mental Health in Victims of Wars
• Health Interventions in Conflict Zones
• Migrant Health

**Required Reading:**


**Evaluations and Grading Criteria**

**Description of Assignments:**

Course evaluation includes quizzes, a final exam, and participation in group discussions.

• **Quizzes:** Students will have between 3 and 4 random quizzes. Each quiz consists of ten multiple-choice and true or false questions based on assigned reading material.

• **Final Exam:** Students answer one of three essay questions. The essay should answer the question in a comprehensive way, including an introduction, a discussion, and a conclusion.

• **Participation:** includes class participation and response to the “question of the week” which is posted on the course Moodle platform. Students usually have to respond to
two to three questions per semester. Class participation includes discussion of assigned readings and engagement with the group and guest lecturers.

More detailed instructions about each evaluation component are provided in due time during the course.

**Assessment:**
- Quizzes: 30%
- Final Exam: 60%
- Participation: 10%

**Grading Scale**
- 94-100% A Excellent
- 90-93% A-
- 87-89% B+
- 84-86% B Above Average
- 80-83% B-
- 77-79% C+
- 74-76% C Average
- 70-73% C-
- 67-69% D+
- 64-66% D Below Average
- below 64 F Fail

**Expectations and Policies**
- **Show up prepared.** Be on time; have your readings completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.
- **Have assignments completed on schedule, printed, and done accordingly to the specified requirements.** This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.
- **Ask questions in class. Engage the lecturer.** These are often very busy professionals who are doing us an honor by coming to speak.
- **Comply with academic integrity policies as specified in the SIT Study Abroad Student Handbook:** [http://www.sit.edu/SSA_Other_documents/Student_Handbook.pdf](http://www.sit.edu/SSA_Other_documents/Student_Handbook.pdf)
- **Respect differences of opinion** (classmates’, lecturers, local constituents engaged with on the visits). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.

**Please note:** the syllabus, course content, lecturers, and readings may modified by the Academic Director in order to better suit the needs of the course and its participants. Should any change of class topics or lecturers be necessary, students will be promptly notified.

**Academic Policies:** SIT prides itself on providing students with an experientially based program; we hold ourselves, and our students, to the highest of academic standards. Students are asked to refer to the SIT Study Abroad Handbook for policies on
academic integrity, ethics, academic warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and the academic appeals process.

**Disability Services:** Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services at disabilityservices@sit.edu for information and support in facilitating an accessible educational experience. Additional information regarding SIT Disability Services, including a link to the online request form, can be found on the Disability Services website at [http://studyabroad.sit.edu/disabilityservices](http://studyabroad.sit.edu/disabilityservices).