

**SCHOOL OF POPULATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH (SPPH)**  
**SPPH 581J –Overview of Global Health**  
**Syllabus - Fall 2015**

**1. Course Description**

This overview course in global health provides a knowledge foundation upon which additional course offerings in global health can be built. Students will be exposed to instructors with global health experience in programming, service provision, research and training. The course introduces students to the major players and global health initiatives, health determinants in low-income countries, health metrics, community engagement and ethical considerations. Students will be expected to make a class presentation, critically assess weekly readings, actively engage in class discussions and write a 10-15 page paper addressing an important global health topic.

- Elective
- Pre/co-requisites: none
- Maximum enrolment: none

**2. Course operation**

*Class:* Wednesdays 2-5 pm; Room – SPPH B112  
September 9th – December 2<sup>nd</sup> (no class November 11th)

*Coordinator:* Michael Rekart, MD, DTM&H, FRCPC (604 312 6555)  
Email: [michael.rekart@ubc.ca](mailto:michael.rekart@ubc.ca), [michael.rekart@bccdc.ca](mailto:michael.rekart@bccdc.ca)

*Office Hours:* M. Rekart by appointment at SPPH, Room 147

*Teaching Assistant:* Prince Adu

**Learning goals:** Within the context of the least developed, low income countries or resource-constrained populations to have knowledge of global burden of disease estimates, the key indicators of disease burden estimates and how they are derived, determinants of global health, intervention strategies, public, private and international players, and their performance in the context of;

- Health systems
- Social determinants of health
- Human rights and social justice
- Governance
- Human resources for health

**Specific learning objectives:**

1. Knowledge of state of world's health and leading burdens of disease
2. Knowledge of key determinants of health and their interaction
3. Understanding of the roles played by communities, public and private sectors.

4. Understanding the respective contributions of discovery to development to delivery research and their applications
5. Knowledge of the major public health challenges in developing countries
6. Ability to search and critically appraise the global health peer reviewed and grey literature.

### **3. Course content:**

1. Introduction to Global Health & Global Burden of Disease: M Rekart
2. Health metrics: key indicators, definitions and applications: M Mayhew
3. Poverty: origins, prevalence, trends and impact: J Spiegel
4. Millennium Development Goals: M Rekart
5. Human resources for health: TBD
6. Global health diplomacy: P Gully
7. Globalization: T Firoz
8. Scaling Up and Sustainability: TBD
9. Ethical issues in global health: S Dharamsi
10. Health impacts of war and violence: Maureen Mayhew
11. Strengthening Health Systems: TBD

### **4. Student Work Load and Grading**

- a. Student presentation (20%) - Each student will be expected to prepare a 15-minute presentation covering a topic agreed to by the coordinator.
- b. Class attendance (20%) - Students are expected to attend all classes having reviewed the assigned readings and ready to participate in discussion and activities. Each of the 11 lectures is divided into 2 sessions; 1 mark is awarded for each session attended up to a maximum of 20 marks.
- c. Critical appraisal of class readings (30%) - For each class except the first class, students will be expected to have read 1-2 articles and to have submitted answers to specific questions about these readings. Readings will be distributed ahead of time.
- d. Written project (30%) - Each student will write a paper on a self-selected topic approved by course instructor. The paper is due on December 4, 2015 at 4 pm (Vancouver time) and will be 10-15 pages (1.5 line spacing) with  $\leq 15$  references. A grading rubric will be distributed.

### **IMPORTANT NOTE**

Students are expected to know the following: (1) what constitutes plagiarism, (2) that plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct and (3) that such misconduct is subject to penalty. Please review the Student Discipline section of the UBC Calendar (available on-line at [www.ubc.ca](http://www.ubc.ca)). Please also visit the UBC Plagiarism Resource Centre for Students (available on-line at [www.library.ubc.ca/home/plagiarism/](http://www.library.ubc.ca/home/plagiarism/)).