

# **Principles in International Health August- October 2016**

**Course Description and Syllabus**

2016

Geneva, Switzerland

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### Course dates



29 August- 10 October 2016  
Geneva, Switzerland

### Course Organiser



**Dr. Sunoor Verma MD MS**

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@sunoor

[www.sunoor.net](http://www.sunoor.net)

### Course description:

Globalization has increased the ability of people and diseases to travel more widely and rapidly so that a health problem or an outbreak of a new disease, even in a remote country, can rapidly become a global problem. Many examples of this exist, such as the spread of HIV, influenza, drug resistant malaria and tuberculosis. In addition, principles of human rights and international solidarity imply that the health of people in low- and middle income countries is also of concern to populations and professionals of rich countries.

Global Health is a complex area with a broad range of factors affecting whether countries (and areas within countries) have better or worse health outcomes, or higher or lower life expectancies. An easily prevented or treated condition in one country can be a life threatening condition in another. Differences in health conditions (both between and within countries) are affected by many non-health factors, including level of economic development, differences in climate, lifestyle and communications.

This course provides an overview of global health issues mainly from a global perspective, with a focus on selected major topics such as malaria, tuberculosis, health systems, HIV/AIDS, NCDs and maternal and child health. Students will gain an understanding of the main issues in global health based on lectures, readings, documentaries and presentations by experts working in the field.

Background reading for each session will be assigned (relevant journal articles, fact sheets and other documents), to enable students to come to each session with some background on what will be discussed and with points that they would like to explore.



### Course Objectives:

- Understand the major components of global health
- Understand the major factors affecting global health
- Understand considerations in planning and implementing health interventions in different socio-economic settings
- Understand the complexity of the global health context and interaction between major global health actors/organizations
- To assist students in using critical thinking to analyze international health issues
- To introduce students to health policy analytic frameworks and tools
- To expose students to the work of various international health and humanitarian organizations



### Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Describe the complexity of global health
2. Describe certain key concepts in global health
3. Describe the major diseases impacting the health of individuals throughout the world.
4. Describe the actors involved in global health



### Format:

This course relies on a variety of supports:

- Weekly readings.
- **Media monitoring done independently by students on current global events.**
- **Social media monitoring done independently by students based on topics identified in the class and on current affairs.**
- In class lectures and discussions.
- Viewing of global health documentaries.
- In class interactive discussions. Discussions will be based on weekly reading and materials presented during class.
- Guest experts will lead some discussion from the arena of international development and humanitarian relief.
- Site visits to international organizations.

All of the above are a mandatory part of the course, which consists of at least 40 contact hours with the instructor. Course meeting times vary based on scheduling of site visits and guest lectures.



### Teaching material:

Most of the teaching material will be made available on Blackboard prior to each session in specific folders.

Reading assignments for a particular class sessions should be completed before class as we will discuss the reading in class and/or the session content will take off from where the text ends. We will usually limit the number of compulsory readings to one or two articles per session. Additional references/websites links/audio-visual material will be provided allowing those willing to deepen their understanding of the issues to do so. These references will also be useful to students to build their arguments for the group discussions and the written assignment. **Evidence of having read the weekly assignment before the class discussion will count toward the participation grade.**



### Class discussions:

This course is meant to foster debates and interactions. Students will be asked to work in groups, to synthesize and comment the content of the assigned materials. Individual contributions will also be encouraged and assessed. Students should bring insightful comments and questions that prompt on-topic discussion. Varying opinions bring richness to discussion. This said, we expect students, to state any disagreement or objections to another class member's idea in a respectful and courteous manner. The class will also provide a forum to share information amongst students on the work they are doing in their internships and a place to reflect on the course material as it relates to the internships. Students are encouraged to ask questions and raise discussion points about their internship work within the larger context of global public health.



### Site visits:

Site visits to a few international health organizations will offer the opportunity to

- Examine how different organizations operate, prioritize their activities, and carry out their work.
- Appreciate an operational context within which to consider the controversies that we study in class.
- Appreciate the interdisciplinary nature of development work



### Absences and punctuality:

Planned absences should be notified to the instructor in advance and should have previously been discussed with Dr. Carla Rachman. Please note that punctual attendance is a given!



### **Class attire :**

Business casual.

You are expected to dress the way you do for your internship.

### **Course requirements**

Requirements, on which evaluation of the student is based, are as follows:



1. Class participation 25%
2. Assignment 1: Written submission 25%
3. Assignment 2: Written submission 25%
4. Current Affairs and General Knowledge tests: Written and delivered in class 25%

### **Assignments and Grading**



In the first class on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2016 each student will be assigned a topic to research.

Research and investigation guidelines will be provided.

Grading criteria for each assignment will be provided in class and also be made available on Blackboard.

Submission date will be agreed upon.

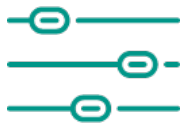
The assignments are interdependent and build on each other.



### **Grading:**

Grading system for all assignments is based on a standard A/F grading system.

A	93-100
A-	89-92
B+	85-88
B	81-84
B-	77-80
C+	73-76
C	69-72
C-	65-68
D	60-64
F	Below 60



### **Academic code of conduct**

Please make sure that you are familiar with the BU Academic Conduct Code which covers cheating, plagiarism and other related topics.

<http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/undergrad-resources/code/>

### **Instructor “Office Hours”:**



For questions that cannot be resolved by email, the course instructor is available to meet with students by appointment to discuss questions or concerns related to the course during the lunch hour of class, before class, some days after class, and sometimes on non-class days. Please send an email to set up an appointment: [sunoor@bu.edu](mailto:sunoor@bu.edu)



### **Class Participation:**

Class participation is a vital element of this course. All students are expected to raise questions and discuss issues based on the readings, the lectures, and comments from guest lecturers or the instructor. Relevant comments or questions based on past work or academic experiences are encouraged. Class participation also includes any group or individual presentations that are given throughout the course.

Class participation is graded on the quantity and quality of content.

The following minimum is expected of all students enrolled in this course:

- The participant demonstrates awareness of current global issues and their interdependence and impact.
- The participant has insightful comments and questions that prompt on-topic discussion.
- Varying opinions bring richness to discussions. If disagreeing with another class member’s ideas, the participant states his/her disagreement courteously.
- The participant states informed comments and opinions, which draw upon relevant readings, lectures, class discussions and/or other experiences. The student’s participation helps clarify or synthesize issues.
- The student’s participation demonstrates that s/he has read the assigned readings with a “critical eye”. Participation should demonstrate not only mastery of the content of the assigned materials but an ability to critically analyze.

Please note that the visiting lecturers are taking time from their busy work schedules to share their expertise, so sessions need to start on schedule. Students are expected to attend each session, but if there are circumstances that will result in an absence or tardy attendance please notify the instructor in advance. Excused absences will only be granted under special conditions and must be pre-arranged ahead of time with the instructor and approved by the Program Director. Any unexcused late arrival or absence will be taken into account when grading class participation.

## Teaching material:



Most of the teaching material will be made available on the Blackboard prior to each session in specific folders.

Reading assignments for a particular class session should be completed before class as we will discuss the reading in class and/or the session content will take off from where the text ends. We will usually limit the number of compulsory readings to one or two articles per session. Additional references/websites links/audio-visual material will be provided allowing those willing to deepen their understanding of the issues to do so. These references will also be useful to students to build their arguments for the group discussions and the written assignment. **Evidence of having read the weekly assignment before the class discussion will count toward the participation grade.**

## Class discussions:



This course is meant to foster debates and interactions. Students will be asked to work in groups, to synthesize and comment the content of the assigned materials. Individual contributions will also be encouraged and assessed. Students should bring insightful comments and questions that prompt on-topic discussion. Varying opinions bring richness to discussion.

This said, we expect students, to state any disagreement or objections to another class member's idea in a respectful and courteous manner.



## Grading:

Letter grade Quality GPA (grade point average)

A	Excellent	4
A-		3.7
B+		3.3
B	Very good	3.0
B-		2.7
C+		2.3
C	Satisfactory	2.0
C-		1.7
D+	Low pass	1.0
F	Fail	0

## A

This exceptional grade is assigned only to work that has **persistently outstanding** quality in both substance and presentation. The student must demonstrate a sustained capacity for independent thought and extensive study, producing rigorous and convincing analyses in



well-ordered prose. The student must consistently demonstrate a **firm grasp over current affairs.**

**A-**

Awarded to work that is clearly focused and analytical, and based on wide reading. The student must cover all the principal points of a question and systematically develop a persuasive overall thesis, allowing for one or two venial omissions or infelicities of expression.

**B+, B, B-**

This range of grades indicates that the student has shown some evidence of original thought and intellectual initiative. The student has cited sources beyond the class materials, and shown a degree of originality in perception and/or approach to the subject. The work will show thoughtful management of material, and a good grasp of the issues. The differences between a B+, a straight B and a B- may reflect poor presentation of the material, or mistakes in punctuation, spelling and syntax.

**C+, C, C-**

Work in this grade range is satisfactory, but uninspiring. If the work is simply a recitation of class materials or discussions, and shows no sign of genuine intellectual engagement with the issues, it cannot deserve a higher grade. Should an essay fail to provide a clear answer to the question as set, or argue a position coherently, the grade will fall within this range. Quality of presentation can lift such work into the upper levels of this grade range. Work of this quality which is poorly presented, and riddled with errors in grammar, spelling and punctuation, will fall into the lower end of the range. To earn a passing grade, the work must demonstrate that the student is familiar with the primary course material, be written well enough to be readily understood, be relevant to the assignment, and, of course, be the student's own work except where properly cited.

**D-F**

Work that is fatally flawed in one or more ways, such as: so poorly written as to defy understanding; so insubstantial or irrelevant that it fails to address the subject; is guilty of plagiarism.



## Course Schedule

### Week 1

<b>Date:</b>	FRIDAY 09/02/16
<b>Time:</b>	2pm - 5pm      PIH      PM 16
<b>Topic:</b>	Course Introduction, Expectations, and House rules. Dr. Sunoor Verma

### Week 2

<b>Date:</b>	MONDAY, 09/05/1602.03.2016
<b>Time:</b>	2pm - 5pm      PIH      PM 15
<b>Topic:</b>	Tropical Medicine, Public Health, International Health, and Global Health: Framing of topics. Dr. Sunoor Verma

<b>Date:</b>	TUESDAY 09/06/2016
<b>Time:</b>	2pm - 5pm      PIH      PM 16
<b>Topic:</b>	Framing issues. Policy. Advocacy. Dr. Sunoor Verma

<b>Date:</b>	FRIDAY 09/09/2016
<b>Time:</b>	9am - 11am      PIH      PM 15
<b>Topic:</b>	Actors in International Health- visible & the invisible. Individual, Organisational, Institutional etc. Dr. Sunoor Verma

### Week 3

<b>Date:</b>	MONDAY 09/12/2016
<b>Time:</b>	2pm - 5pm      PIH      PM 15
<b>Topic:</b>	Understanding "Context" in International Health. Dr. Sunoor Verma

<b>Date:</b>	WEDNESDAY 09/14/2016
<b>Time:</b>	2pm - 5pm      PIH      M 4220
<b>Topic:</b>	Understanding "Process" in International Health. Dr. Sunoor Verma

<b>Date:</b>	FRIDAY 09/16/2016
<b>Time:</b>	9am - 11am      PIH      PM 15

<b>Topic:</b>	Power & power play in International Health Dr. Sunoor Verma
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**Week 4**

<b>Date:</b>	MONDAY 09/19/2016
<b>Time:</b>	2pm - 5pm      PIH      PM 16
<b>Topic:</b>	Political systems and International health Dr. Sunoor Verma

<b>Date:</b>	FRIDAY 09/23/2016
<b>Time:</b>	9am - 12pm      PIH      Salle vollandes
<b>Topic:</b>	Private-public partnerships. Dr. Sunoor Verma  The case of improving access to insulin around the world. Dr. David Beran (TBC)

**Week 5**

<b>Date:</b>	MONDAY 09/26/2016
<b>Time:</b>	2pm - 6pm      PIH      PM 11
<b>Topic:</b>	Governance structures and mechanisms in international health. Dr. Sunoor Verma Coordinating Health actors in international humanitarian emergencies. IFRC Speaker (TBC)

<b>Date:</b>	TUESDAY 09/27/2016
<b>Time:</b>	2pm - 5pm      PIH      PM 15
<b>Topic:</b>	Financing of international health. Mapping the donor landscape. Dr. Sunoor Verma

<b>Date:</b>	WEDNESDAY 09/28/2016
<b>Time:</b>	2pm - 5pm      PIH      PM 15
<b>Topic:</b>	Field visit- ICRC Museum Geneva

<b>Date:</b>	FRIDAY 09/30/2016
<b>Time:</b>	9am - 12pm      PIH      Salle Vollandes
<b>Topic:</b>	The role of the Pharmaceutical industry in international health IFPMA speaker (TBC)

**Week 6**

<b>Date:</b>	MONDAY 10/03/2016		
<b>Time:</b>	2pm - 6pm	PIH	PM 11
<b>Topic:</b>	Academia and International Health. Dr. Sunoor Verma		