Anthropology of Global Health
ANTH 265 - FC01
Tuesdays 7:30-8:45 PM and online
0126 Francis Scott Key Hall

Instructor:
Gwynne Jenkins, PhD, MPH

Office Hours: Tuesdays by appointment
Preferred contact: Email through ELMS or call/text 410-978-0184
Location: Classroom or 0113 Woods Hall

Course Overview
This course provides an overview of the growing field of global health. Global health not only refers to health care systems, medical practices, and ideas about health and illness in cross-cultural contexts, but also includes issues of health development, global health inequity, and human rights issues. The course will focus on the history of global health, the critique of major international health organizations and their development paradigms, and the political economy of social inequalities and health. It will focus on key political, economic, and cultural factors associated with the nature and magnitude of global health issues, paying particular attention to how poverty and inequalities within and between societies has accelerated the spread of infectious diseases and challenges the expansion of adequate primary health care. The course will also introduce students to how anthropologists have critically contributed to the debates surrounding the globalization of health. The underlying purpose of the course is to develop students’ awareness of the political, socioeconomic, ecological, and cultural complexity of global health issues and the consequent need for anthropological involvement in the field of global health.

Course Learning Objectives
This course will combine lectures with structured class discussion and asks students to engage several key areas of inquiry. By the end of the semester, using examples encountered throughout this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand and employ a range of concepts, terms, principles and definitions used in global health
2. Utilize these with reference to major global health issues in specific contexts
3. Demonstrate familiarity with and relevance of anthropological approaches to global health
4. Critically evaluate epidemiological and medical approaches in global health from an anthropological perspective
5. Demonstrate practical skills of critical thinking and self-expression to address issues of social difference and health disparities on a global scale
Preparing for class
Readings, movies and other preparations are due on the day they are listed in this document. They should be read or watched prior to in-class or on-line discussion. This syllabus is the anticipated roadmap for our academic semester, but will be modified as the semester progresses and as we build our class culture. When modified, a revised version of the syllabus will be circulated by the professor and posted on ELMS.

This class requires that you read and review materials assigned from: (1) one textbook (see below); (2) a documentary films available to stream on your computer or other device; and (3) articles available in PDF on our ELMS page or library electronic reserves.

Required text book and documentary series are:


Grading Structure
Grades in this course are based on the following:
- Class participation 10%
- Online discussion 20%
- Exams 35% x 2 = 70%

In-class participation (10%) and on-line discussions (20%)
In-class and on-line discussions are a requirement for this course and an integral part of the work of learning. Students are expected to participate in on-line discussion according to the instructions provided and exercising good common sense. Students are also expected to attend classes regularly, since consistent attendance offers the most effective opportunity open to all students to gain command of the concepts and materials of their courses of study. Your grade is based on your contributions to discussions based on the readings, videos, and intellectual curiosity.

Exams (35% x 2 = 70%)
Two exams will use a variety of formats to help you demonstrate your mastery of course concepts and cases. The first will be a midterm during a regularly scheduled class and the second will be a final, during our assigned final exam time.

General Course Related Policies
The University’s course related policies may all be found here:
http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html

Classroom Electronics Policy
“Stay focused. (No devices in class, unless the assignment requires it.)” The use of
laptops, tablets, cellphones, is not allowed in the classroom. Anyone not following this
policy may be asked to leave. (See article by Clay Shirky, below).

Schedule of Topics and Preparation

Introduction

1. **August 29/Tues:** Introduction to the course and overview of anthropology.
   Goal: building course culture, creating a baseline of knowledge about
   anthropology and the biosocial approach to global health.

   mber=2150&navItemNumber=740

   *Reimagining Global Health* (pp. 1-10).

   Shirky, Clay. *Why I just asked my students to put their laptops away.*
   https://medium.com/@cshirky/why-i-just-asked-my-students-to-put-their-
   laptops-away-7f5f7c50f368

Theoretical Frameworks

2. **August 31/Thurs:** Social Inequality and the Biosocial Framework in the U.S.
   Goal: Understand how our experience of power in the social world shapes health
   and disease.

   *Unnatural Causes: In sickness and in wealth.* California Newsreel. Available to
   stream from Hornbake Library (must use VPN from off-site):

   NOTE: You may also wish to download and print the transcript from the
   documentary, available at:

   In *Reimagining Global Health* (read pp.17-20 “Biosocial Analysis and the
   Sociology of Knowledge” and pp.30-31 “Social suffering and structural
   violence”).

3. **September 5/Tues:** The Biosocial Framework & Global Health. Goal: Discuss
   key terms and ensure deep understanding of the biosocial approach.

History of Global Health

4. **September 7/Thurs: The birth of epidemiology.** Goal: Understand the genesis of epidemiology and the social construction of knowledge. Lay the groundwork for understanding the challenges of disease eradication.


*Malaria: The serial killer.* BBC documentary: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RYuiBvHlzic](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RYuiBvHlzic) … watch only the first 20 minutes for the many factors affecting our ability to develop interventions and targets for malaria.

5. **September 12/Tues: The legacy of the Colonial Era.** Goal: Understand the social construction of bodies in justification of colonialism, and how imperialism shaped health and disease for Europeans and colonized peoples. Case studies include “White Man’s burden” and the eradication campaigns.


6. **September 14/Thurs: The burden of parasitic diseases.** Goal: Understand the social cost, economics, and technical challenges to fighting parasitic diseases in the developing world.

*Survival: The hidden invaders.* Season 1, Episode 1.


7. **September 19/Tues: Global health in a post-colonial world.** Goal: Understand how post-colonial geopolitics and development concepts have shaped global health.

8. **September 21/Thurs: Biology and politics of treating malaria.** Goal: Explore the local, national, and international economy of treatments for disease.

*Survival: The Plant That Cures Malaria. Season 1, Episode 4*


### What Works in Delivering Health

9. **September 26/Tues: Delivery models.** Goal: Understand the principles of effective health care delivery.

Kim, J.Y. et al. (2013). Scaling up effective delivery models worldwide. In *Reimagining Global Health* (pp. 184-211).

**September 27 / Wednesday: Class rosters are final**

10. **September 28/Thurs: “Neglected tropical diseases” (NTDs).** Goal: Apply the principles of effective health care delivery to the problem of NTDs in Nigeria.

*Survival: Distant Places, Forgotten Lives.* Season 1, Ep 7


11. **October 3/Tues: Measuring Disease.** Goals: Understand the political value of numbers, and explore what “impossible” medical goals may be met in effective delivery systems.


12. **October 5/Thurs: Tuberculosis.** Goal: Understand the differences between TB, MDR TB, XDR TB, and challenges for controlling their spread.

*Survival: The deadly combination.* Season 1, Episode 3.

CDC Fact Sheet: [Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis](https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/care-treatment/mdr-tuberculosis.htm) (MDR TB)

CDC Fact Sheet: [Extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis](https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/care-treatment/xdr-tuberculosis.htm) (XDR TB)
13. October 10/Tues: Review for Midterm Exam

HIV/AIDS


*The Age of AIDS: Part I.* Access this ~ 2 hour Frontline special at:
NOTE: you may download & read the transcript here:

October 12/Thurs: Freshman Connection early warning grades are due

15. October 17/Tues: Midterm Exam


*The Age of AIDS: Part II.* Access this ~ 2 hour Frontline special at:
NOTE: you may download & read the transcript here:
[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/aids/etc/script2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/aids/etc/script2.html)

17. October 24/Tues: HIV/AIDS - The impact of global responses


Trials, Transplants, and Tribulations

18. October 26/Thurs: Tuskegee. Goal: Understand how racism in science shaped the Syphilis experiment, and transformed the ethical conduct of clinical trials in the U.S.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNa8CnC4sSU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNa8CnC4sSU)

19. October 31/Tues: Ethical Principles of the Belmont Report. Goal: Be able to identify the Belmont Principles and their application to medical research.

20. **November 2/Thurs: Organ trade and transplantation.** Goal: Consider the international economic and social push & pull of kidney transplantation.


**Reproduction and Global Health**

21. **November 7/Tues: Delivering mothers.** Goal: Understand the causes of infant and maternal mortality rates (IMR and MMR respectively), and the role of midwives in the debates over approaches to reducing both.


22. **November 9/Thurs: Delivering mothers (cont.).** Goal: Compare the approach to midwife certification in Costa Rica with Bangladesh.

*Survival: Fit for life.* Season 1, Episode 8.

23. **November 14/Tues: Infant mortality.** Goal: Understand how social narratives emerge from with structural violence to yield death without weeping.


24. **November 16/Thurs: Infant mortality (cont.).** Goal: Understand the many social and environmental structures that result in child deaths in Bangladesh.

*Survival: A healthy start.* Season 1, Episode 6.

25. **November 21/Tues: Population Control.** Goal: Understand how approaches to “development” intersect with reproductive freedoms.


26. November 23/Thurs: NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Holiday)


Survival: The Struggle To Breathe. Season 1, Episode 2.

29. December 5/Tues: Conclusions (cont.)


30. December 7/Thurs: Review for Final

Final Exam

31. FINAL: December 14/Thurs. location TBD (hopefully in our room)

Note that our time slot is 6:30-8:30

December 22/Friday: Final grades are due