

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH SUBJECTS IN 2008

co-ordinated by

Nossal Institute for Global Health

and

Australian International Health Institute

(Source: School of Population Health Postgraduate Handbook 2008)

DISABILITY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (505-902)

Subject Number: 505-902

Level: 500

Credit Points: 12.5

Teaching Centre or Unit: Australian International Health Institute

Subject Coordinator: Ms Heather Dawson 8344 9114

Mode: Block

Contact Hours/Time Commitment: A minimum of 24 hours class contact taught in a block over 5 days, In addition, students are expected to spend an additional 2-3 hours of study for each hour of contact.

Semester: 2

Subject Dates: 22-26 September (9am-5pm)

Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at
<http://www.sph.unimelb.edu.au/postgrad/courseshandbook/>

Prerequisites: None

Description: This subject introduces students to the major issues surrounding disability in resource poor settings. Topics include: current definitions of disability; constructs of disability, disease and wellness within different cultural perspectives; major approaches to disability service provision; skills important for working with the major impairment groups; appropriate technology; issues related to equity, access, advocacy and prevention; design of disability programs; capacity building for disability programs; constraints and solutions for sustainability of disability programs; project management issues related to disability programs; and including disability in development practice.

On completion of this subject, students should be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of different constructs of disability, disease and wellness within different cultures;
- critique major approaches to disability service provision in resource poor settings, including Community Based Rehabilitation and Inclusive Education;
- design a basic disability program, demonstrating an understanding of issues of sustainability; and
- effectively communicate issues related to equity, access, advocacy and prevention.

Assessment: One take home examination (40%) on the last day of the subject and one 3,000-word written assignment (60%).

Prescribed Texts: A set of readings will be available prior to commencement of the subject.

Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

GLOBAL HEALTH IMPACTS OF DRUG USE (505-961)

Subject Number: 505-961

Level: 500

Credit Points: 12.5

Teaching Centre or Unit: The Burnet Institute/Australian International Health Institute

Subject Coordinator: Mr Gary Reid 9282 2219

Mode: Block

Contact Hours/Time Commitment: A minimum of 24 contact hours, taught in block mode over 5 days. Students will be expected to undertake additional study (i.e. outside the stated contact hours) of at least two hours for each hour of contact in this subject

Semester: 2

Subject Dates: 29 September – 3 October (9am-5pm)

Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at <http://www.sph.unimelb.edu.au/postgrad/courseshandbook/>

Prerequisites: None

Description: The subject will cover the following topics: definitions and categories of drugs; historical perspective on drugs and drug use; sources, characteristics, routes of administration and effects of key licit and illicit drugs; drugs as a development challenge; patterns of drug use in Asia, Australia and worldwide; health outcomes associated with the use of key licit and illicit drugs; drug use and other social problems; drug use and the global burden of disease; responses to drug use in Asia, Australia and worldwide. There will be practical reinforcement of teaching through site visits.

On completion of this subject, students will:

- be able to outline the sources, characteristics, routes of administration and effects of key drugs;
- have acquired an understanding of the processes of illicit drug manufacture and trafficking;
- have learnt about patterns of drug use in Australia, across the Asia-Pacific region, and worldwide;
- be able to describe the relative influences of major drug types on morbidity and mortality, including HIV/AIDS;
- understand the specific health outcomes associated with the use of the most important licit and illicit drugs, including understanding implications for the development of community-based responses;
- be able to explain how use of licit and illicit drugs is linked to poverty, criminality and other social problems; and
- be able to critique the policies and practical responses to drug use implemented in different countries at different stages of history.

Assessment: Individual and group participation (5%); 20-minute multiple-choice exam mid-course (10%); one-hour exam on the last day (25%); 3000-word essay (60%)

Prescribed Texts: A folder of readings will be available prior to the subject commencing.

Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

(new) GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH & PRACTICE (509-001)

Subject Number: 509-001

Level: 500

Credit Points: 12.5

Teaching Centre or Unit: Nossal Institute for Global Health

Subject Coordinator: Ms Kathryn Bowen, 8344 2180

Mode: Block

Contact Hours/Time Commitment: 30 hours of contact time during the five-day block. For each contact hour an additional three to four hours is expected in reading and self-directed learning.

Semester: Summer semester

Subject Dates: 25 – 29 February (9am-5pm)

Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at <http://www.sph.unimelb.edu.au/postgrad/courseshandbook/>

Prerequisites: 505-101 Statistics & 505-102 Epidemiology

Description: This subject provides a comprehensive overview of applied research methods in global health, with a focus on developing country settings. Using a case study of a current project in North-East India, students will cover topics including: understanding research within the constraints of developing countries; identification of research questions; qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods approaches to research that are appropriate in developing country settings; ethical considerations when undertaking research activities in developing country settings;

application and dissemination of research findings; and the development of research protocols and project proposals.

On completion of this subject, and acknowledging the constraints of operating in developing countries, students should be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the principles of research, with a focus on operational research in developing countries including qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods;
- develop a skill set of key methods and approaches required for applied research in developing countries, including (e.g.) training needs assessments, rapid needs assessments, tender submissions to funding bodies and general reporting requirements for donors;
- recognise the limitations as well as appropriate applications of research within a developing country setting;
- select appropriate methods for responding to research questions and designing projects given the constraints of developing country contexts;
- understand and incorporate general ethical considerations and also those that are particular to developing countries with regard to study/project design and processes;
- understand the importance of the application and dissemination of research findings, particularly within a developing country context; and
- develop a research protocol for a specified study or a project proposal for submission to a funding body within a developing country context.

Assessment: Group work and presentation (25%) and development of a research protocol 4000 words (75%)

Prescribed Texts: A set of readings will be available prior to the commencement of the subject.

Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

HARM REDUCTION – CONTROLLING HIV IN DRUG USERS (505-960)

Subject Number: 505-960

Level: 500

Credit Points: 12.5

Teaching Centre or Unit: The Burnet Institute/Australian International Health Institute

Subject Coordinator: Mr Gary Reid 9282 2219

Mode: Block

Contact Hours/Time Commitment: A minimum of 24 contact hours, taught in block mode over 5 days. Students will be expected to undertake additional study (i.e. outside the stated contact hours) of at least two hours for each hour of contact in this subject.

Semester: 2

Subject Dates: 24 – 28 November (9am-5pm)

Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at <http://www.sph.unimelb.edu.au/postgrad/courseshandbook/>

Prerequisites: None

Description: The course will cover the following topics: overview of illicit drugs and their effects; approaches to illicit drug problems: supply, demand and harm reduction; harm reduction overview; needle and syringe programs; peer education; drug substitution therapy; outreach; advocacy for effective harm reduction; rapid assessment and response; an emphasis on Australia, Asian and developing country context. There will be site visits to demonstrate harm reduction in action.

On completion of this subject, students will be able to:

- explain the interactions between illicit drug use and blood-borne viruses;
- outline the epidemiology of HIV, hepatitis C and hepatitis B with particular reference to injecting drug use;
- describe the major elements of harm reduction practice employed in Australia, in our region, and worldwide;
- understand the social and policy contexts of harm reduction practice employed in Australia and Asia;
- carry out a rapid situation assessment of drug use and HIV risk;
- design a package of harm reduction measures tailored to a particular regional epidemic; and

- critique the various responses to HIV and other BBVs among drug users concurrently in operation.

Assessment: Individual and group participation (5%); mid-course, 20-min multiple-choice exam (10%); one-hour exam on the last day (25%); a 3000-word essay (60%)

Prescribed Texts: A folder of readings will be available prior to the subject commencing.

Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

(new) HIV/AIDS: AN EVOLVING GLOBAL RESPONSE (509-002)

Subject Number: 509-002

Level: 500

Credit Points: 12.5

Teaching Centre or Unit: Nossal Institute for Global Health

Subject Coordinator: Dr Timothy Moore 8344 1996

Mode: Classroom

Contact Hours/Time Commitment: 2 hours per week for 12 weeks. Students are expected to commit a further 6-8 hours/week of personal reading/study

Semester: 1

Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at <http://www.sph.unimelb.edu.au/postgrad/courseshandbook/>

Prerequisites: None

Description: The HIV/AIDS pandemic stands as one of the most devastating in recorded history, with the majority of its burden falling on developing nations and vulnerable people. The nature of the virus and its routes of human transmission present unique challenges to public health practitioners aiming to prevent its spread and to support care and treatment for those living with the virus. This subject will provide students with basic tools to face those challenges internationally by exploring the current state of the global pandemic in the new era of expanding treatment options. Participating students will benefit from the experience of an array of noted speakers on HIV/AIDS who will discuss: the history, epidemiology, science and impact of the disease; prevention theory and practice; transmission and vulnerability; policy and human rights; the global network of protagonists fighting HIV; and treatment and care with a focus on resource-poor settings. "Voices from the field" will provide an insight into the real-life application of HIV/AIDS knowledge.

On completion of this subject, students will be able to:

- critically analyse the complex and multisectoral arguments relating to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care;
- critically reflect on current issues relating to HIV/AIDS globally, drawing from classroom presentations, recommended readings and other informational sources;
- demonstrate the capacity to apply theory and knowledge of HIV/AIDS to a realistic, community-based scenario; and
- generate and articulate academic works appropriate to master level students.

Assessment: One essay, 3000 words (60%) due in the last week of the semester; short briefing paper, 500 words (10%) due mid April; and group work on a community-based HIV/AIDS project, written project overview and class presentation (30%) due in class time in mid May (week 9-10).

Prescribed Texts: A set of readings will be available prior to the commencement of the subject.

Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

INTERNATIONAL ADOLESCENT HEALTH (505-901)

Subject Number: 505-901

Level: 500

Credit Points: 12.5

Teaching Centre or Unit: Australian International Health Institute.

Subject Coordinator: Dr Alison Morgan 8344 9138

Mode: Block

Contact Hours/Time Commitment: Thirty hours of contact time during the five-day block. Students are expected to commit a further 60 hours in reading and self directed learning.

Semester: S

Subject Dates: 4 –8 February (9am-5pm)

Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at <http://www.sph.unimelb.edu.au/postgrad/courseshandbook/>

Prerequisites: None

Description: This subject provides a comprehensive picture of emerging health issues for adolescents, focusing on young people from developing countries. Topics include: key stages of adolescent health and youth development; socio-cultural determinants in adolescent health; important topic areas in adolescent health including HIV/AIDS, alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, mental health, nutrition and sexual and reproductive health.

On completion of this subject, students should be able to:

- critique a number of frameworks used to address adolescent health needs;
- incorporate the lifecycle approach into public health programming for young people;
- develop strategies for effective engagement of young people and their communities to improve adolescent health and well-being; and
- describe the technical issues relevant to health promotion and advocacy for adolescent health.

Assessment: One take-home examination (40%) on the last day of the subject and one 3000-word essay (60%).

Prescribed Texts: A set of readings will be available prior to the subject commencing.

Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

INTERNATIONAL CHILD HEALTH (505-900)

Subject Number: 505-900

Level: 500

Credit Points: 12.5

Teaching Centre or Unit: Australian International Health Institute

Subject Coordinators: Dr Alison Morgan 8344 9138

Mode: Block

Contact Hours/Time Commitment: Approximately 35 contact hours as a block over 6 days. Students will be expected to undertake additional study (i.e. outside the stated contact hours) of at least two hours for each hour of contact in this subject.

Semester: 2

Subject Dates: 12 – 14 & 17 – 19 November (9am – 5 pm)

Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at <http://www.sph.unimelb.edu.au/postgrad/courseshandbook/>

Prerequisites: None

Description: This subject provides an overview and practical guidelines to address international child health issues, including acute respiratory illness, diarrhoea diseases, peri natal conditions, nutritional deficiencies, and communicable diseases. These issues will be presented from the perspective of public health practice in a range of countries. The subject will highlight the lifecycle approach and association with other stages of development, particularly the health of the mother and the role of family and community based practices.

On completion, students should be able to:

- describe the most important global causes of childhood mortality and morbidity;
- understand the broader social determinants of health;
- describe the global frameworks, institutions, and current programs, including WHO, UNICEF, development banks and global funds;
- understand the current strategies for prevention and management of important causes of childhood illness, including their evidence base;
- identify new approaches to the promotion of child development and child human rights;
- understand effective child public health program development; and

- identify priorities for research in international child health.

Assessment: A group work presentation during the teaching period (20%), one take-home exam on the last day of the subject (30%), and one essay of 3,000 words (50%).

Prescribed Texts: Students will be given a set of readings prior to the commencement of the subject.

Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (JAMKHED, INDIA) (505-963)

Subject Number: 505-963

Credit Points: 12.5

Teaching Centre or Unit: Australian International Health Institute

Subject Coordinator: Dr Alison Morgan 8344 9138

Mode: Block

Contact Hours/Time Commitment: This subject is delivered in partnership with the Comprehensive Rural Health Project (CRHP), Jamkhed, India. It is a 3-week residential course in India that includes lectures, small group activities and field trips (approximately 80+ contact hours). Students will be expected to spend at least 30 hours in non-contact study for this subject.

Semester: Summer or Semester 2

Subject Dates: 6 – 26 January 2008 and again in November / December (exact dates to be announced).

Timetable and Venue Information: Jamkhed, Maharashtra, India

Prerequisites/Exclusions: None, although students who have already completed 505-957 Primary Health Care in Developing World should not enrol in this subject.

Description: This subject will provide students with the opportunity to learn about primary health care within the context of a primary health program in a low income setting in India. Students will learn about the principles of health policy development and program management of communities in developing countries. An overview of the history, principles and practice of primary health care in developing countries, as well as the key elements and practical applications of project design, implementation and evaluation will be provided. Students will have opportunities to observe a world-renowned primary health care program including field visits with village health workers, learning with men's and women's groups and observation of village health worker training.

Assessment:

- Participation forms 20% of the overall mark, and students, in groups, will be required to develop and present a project proposal to address a particular health setting;
- Written 1000-word reflection completed while at Jamkhed, that addresses an aspect of CRHP's program (20%);
- Individual assessment task, either an essay or small project proposal, of 3000-words (60%).

Prescribed Texts: A book of readings and a CD of resources will be provided.

Special Note: This is a quota subject with limited places available. Students must contact the Subject Coordinator (Dr Alison Morgan) directly for approval to enrol. Students are responsible for the cost of airfares, visas and insurance and to pay Australian International Health Institute (AIHI), prior to travel, the additional costs of field trips, accommodation and food at Jamkhed (contact AIHI for details: jycl@unimelb.edu.au or tel 8344 0914).

Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

(new) PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERSHIP (509-003)

Subject Number: 509-003

Level: 500

Credit Points: 12.5

Teaching Centre or Unit: Nossal Institute for Global Health

Subject Coordinator: Professor Rob Moodie 8344 1993

Mode: Block

Contact Hours/Time Commitment: 30 hours of contact time during the five-day block. For each contact hour an additional three to four hours is expected in reading and self-directed learning.

Semester: Mid semester

Subject Dates: 30 June – 4 July (9 am – 5 pm)

Timetable and Venue Information: See timetable at <http://www.sph.unimelb.edu.au/postgrad/courseshandbook/>

Prerequisites: None

Description: This subject introduces students to the real world of public health. It provides an understanding of the world in which health/ill health is created; an understanding of how power works, how decisions are made and how resources are allocated; an understanding of the organisation you work in and lastly an understanding of yourself as a leader.

It covers the changing social, economic, commercial, cultural and political determinants that influence health and ill health. It examines the political, bureaucratic, business, media and community power and processes at international, national, and local levels.

In examining your/an organisation it looks at power structures; people of influence, the characteristics of good leaders and the fundamentals of leading and managing a team. Finally, it looks at the elements that are important for successful living, an integral part of successful leadership.

Senior political, bureaucratic, business and public health leaders will be invited to present on this subject.

On completion of this subject, students should be able to:

- describe the emerging determinants of ill health;
- analyse the health implications of power and influence;
- develop a strategy to put a public health issue onto the political/community agenda;
- define the key characteristics of successful leaders and map pathways they can follow to become successful leaders in public health; and
- reflect and develop a greater understanding of their own selves and mechanisms they can use to lead successful lives, not only be successful leaders.

Assessment: Journal reflection exercise - 1000 words (25%), written task (e.g. development of an advocacy strategy, international health policy analysis) - 3000 words (75%).

Prescribed Texts: A set of readings will be available prior to the commencement of the subject.

Comments: This subject is a Group 1 elective in the Master of Public Health.

RESEARCH PROJECT IN HARM REDUCTION (505-962)

Subject Number: 505-962

Level: 500

Credit Points: 25

Teaching Centre or Unit: The Burnet Institute / Australian International Health Institute

Subject Coordinator: Mr Gary Reid 9282 2219

Mode: Supervised Project

Contact Hours/Time Commitment: Regular meetings with supervisor. Total time commitment is expected to average 8 - 10 hours per week.

Semester: 1 and 2

Timetable and Venue Information: N/A

Prerequisites:

505-961 Global Health Impacts of Drug Use

505-960 Harm Reduction – HIV in Drug Users

Description: Students will carry out a defined research project – a critical review, an analysis of an existing data set, or collection and analysis of data to answer a hypothesis on a harm reduction topic approved by a supervisor and judged to be capable of generating a publication in an Australian or international journal. Supervisors will be health professionals working in harm reduction or related fields. Opportunities may exist for research projects to be undertaken in international settings, particularly in Asia.

Assessment: Initial 15-minute verbal presentation (10%); final 15-minute verbal presentation (20%); written submission of 6,000-8,000-words (70%). Students must pass the written research report assessment, and must receive a combined score for the research report and the presentations of at least 50% in order to pass the subject.

Prescribed Texts: n/a

Comments: This subject is a Master of Public Health Research Project.

RESEARCH PROJECT IN INTERNATIONAL HEALTH (505-903)

Subject Number: 505-903

Level: 500

Credit Points: 25

Teaching Centre or Unit: Australian International Health Institute

Subject Coordinators: Ms Heather Dawson, 8344 9114 and Dr Alison Morgan, 8344 9138

Mode: Supervised Project

Contact Hours/Time Commitment: Regular meetings with supervisor. International Health research report tutorials (2 hours per month). Total time commitment is expected to average 8 - 10 hours per week.

Semester: 1&2 or 2&1

Timetable and Venue Information: N/A

Prerequisites: None. This is normally the last subject undertaken in the Master of Public Health.

Description: Students will develop and address a research question in an area of International Public Health which can be answered by a critical review of the published and unpublished literature, by the analysis of an existing data set or the development of a research protocol. Supervisors will be health professionals in active practice in international public health.

Assessment: Initial 15-minute verbal presentation (10%); final 15-minute presentation (20%); written report, of between 5,000–10,000 words (70%). Students must pass the written report assessment and must receive a combined score for the research report and the presentations of at least 50% in order to pass the subject.

Prescribed Texts: n/a

Comments: This subject is a Master of Public Health Research Project.

Note: All the above subjects can be taken as single subjects for academic credit through the University of Melbourne Community Access Program (CAP). For details about CAP, visit the website: <http://www.unimelb.edu.au/community/access/> .

Except for “HIV/AIDS: an evolving global response” and the two Research Project subjects, all subjects offered in block mode can be taken as **short courses**.

For further information, contact:

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