**Curriculum for Short Course in Global Health at Williams College – January 2010**

**Global Health, Why We Should Care**

**Course Description:**

From the Declaration of Alma-Ata to the Millennium Development Goals, there have been 30 years of good will but limited accomplishment in bringing health to all. Health is an essential human right, but much of the world’s poor still do not have access to the most basic public health services. This deficiency is best illustrated in Africa where there is the double burden of poverty and communicable disease. The failure to provide equitable health and the emergence of new infectious diseases with pandemic potential also threaten world security. “Global Health: Why We Should Care” will explore what is meant by global health, how health is measured, and what are the major diseases that particularly affect the poor. It will take a biomedical approach focusing on communicable diseases, e.g., human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, malaria and tuberculosis, but will also look at maternal and child health, the provision of humanitarian aid, and careers in global health. After defining the problems, we will explore strategies in the control of disease and achieving global health.

A variety of formats will be used to study global health issues including the current medical literature, popular writings, and film documentaries. We will look at the science of global health and the story of those most affected by health inequalities. Students are expected to read assigned material outside of class so that they will be prepared to discuss the topics. Short presentations on a focused area will also be expected.

**Evaluation:** Evaluation will be based on contributions to class discussions, informal presentations, and a 10-page paper that can analyze a global health issue, be a document defining a public health intervention, or a short story describing the impact of a disease or condition on a person, family, or community.

**Contact Hours:** 24

1. **Theme: Overview of Global Health**
   **Topics:**
   - Overview of Global Health
   - Indicators of health
   - Discussion of student goals for the course
   **Reading:**
   **Resources:**

2. **Theme: Health determinants; Smallpox: a success story in disease control**
   **Topics:**
   - Social determinants of health
   - Smallpox eradication, a model of disease control
   **Readings:**
   **Resources:**
3. Theme: Maternal health
   Topics:
   - Maternal health: a continuum
   - Maternal mortality
   Readings:
   - Walt V, Death in birth. Time. 15 September 2008:40–44.

4. Theme: Child and neonatal health
   Topics:
   - Child health: a continuum
   - Child mortality
   - Childhood nutrition and indicators of health
   - An exercise in the integrated management of childhood illness
   Readings:
   Video:
   Resources:

5. Theme: Vaccine-preventable disease
   Topics:
   - Vaccines and the control of communicable disease
   - Examples of global vaccine programs: measles, polio
   - Ethical considerations in vaccination programs; issues of personal liberties vs. public good.
   Readings:
   - Dugger CW, McNeil DG. Rumor, fear and fatigue hinder final push to end polio. NY Times. 20 March 2006.
   Video:
   Resources:

6. Theme: HIV/AIDS
   Topics:
   - Overview, epidemiology, clinical features, treatment and prevention
   - Stories of persons with HIV
   Readings:
   - Selected chapters from:
   Resources:
7. **Theme: Tuberculosis**  
**Topics:**  
- Epidemiology, major clinical syndromes, treatment and prevention  
- Control programs in low income settings  
**Readings:**  

**Video:**  

**Resources:**  

8. **Theme: Malaria**  
**Topics:**  
- Overview of epidemiology, diagnosis, and treatment  
- Current principles of malaria control; comparison with malaria eradication efforts in the 1950s and 1960s  
**Readings:**  
**Resources:**  

9. **Theme: Emerging infections and pandemic threats**  
**Topics:**  
- Emerging infectious diseases and International Health Regulations (2005)  
- Pandemic threats: Comparison of SARS and pandemic influenza (H1N1)  
**Readings:**  
**Resources:**  

10. **Theme: Humanitarian aid**  
**Topics:**  
- Principles of humanitarian aid  
- The Haitian earthquake  
**Readings:**  

Resources:

11. Theme: Global health leaders and careers
   Topics:
   - Discussion of Strength in What Remains
   - Exploration of career pathways in global health using examples of current global health leaders and workers from multiple disciplines
   Readings:
   - Selections from:
     - Bono. This generation’s moon shot. Time, November 7, 2005, p. 98.
     - Boseley S. Drug giant GlaxoSmithKline pledges cheap medicine for world’s poor. Available at: guardian.co.uk. February 13, 2009.

Resources:

12. Theme: Global Health: conclusions and presentations
   Topics:
   - Student presentations
   - Discussion and conclusions
   Readings:
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