GCH104 (3 Credits)-Fall 2011
Health and Disease: On the Brink of Disaster
Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30-10:45am
Swan Hall, Room 309

Professor: Brian J. Quilliam, Ph.D.
Office Location: White Hall, Room G-13
Office Hours: By Appointment
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Fax: (401) 874-2035
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Course Description:

Many countries in the developed world have undergone a shift from acute infectious to chronic diseases as the leading causes of morbidity and mortality. This transformation is often fostered by economic change, political infrastructure and other events. Most Industrialized nations have undergone this shift, however many developing countries have not. This proposed course will introduce students to relevant theories of population health with application of these theories to modern global case studies.

Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with basic knowledge of worldwide patterns of health and disease and how they are influenced by environmental, economic and political factors. The specific student objectives in this course are:

1. You will gain an understanding of the basic patterns of birth, death and disease within the US and Internationally.

2. You will be able to discriminate external forces that can impact patterns of health and disease including, environmental, economic and political factors.

3. You will assess recent international catastrophic events and be able to evaluate and measure their possible impact on health and disease.
Required Books:

1. Mountains beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer
   Author: Tracy Kidder; Publish Date: 2004; ISBN-13: 9780812973013

2. Dispatches from the Edge: A Memoir of War, Disasters and Survival
   Author: Anderson Cooper; Publish Date: 2007; ISBN-13: 9780061136689

Additional Readings:

As the focus of this course will be on understanding of global changes in health and disease, several articles from the lay press and the primary literature will be provided to the class either in class or electronically through the SAKAI course page.

Grading:

Students will be evaluated through class participation/attendance, a brief written summary of a current issue, two problem sets, a brief position paper and a final group project. The final grade will be determined with each of these components contributing as follows:

Class Participation/Attendance = 10%
Brief Written Summary/Critique of a Current Relevant Issue = 5%
Position Paper = 15%
   First Draft-5%
   Revised Draft-10%
Quizzes = 15% (Two total, 7.5% each)
Problem Sets = 30% (two total, 15% each)
Final Group Project = 25%
   Individual Contribution=10%
   Overall Group Evaluation=15%

Final letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A = 93-100      A- = 90-92      B+ = 87-89      B = 84-86      B- = 80-83      C+ = 77-79
C = 74-76      C- = 70-73      D+ = 67-69      D = 60-66      F = < 60
Grading Policies:

Class Attendance/Conduct:

Class attendance is mandatory and will contribute 10% towards the student’s final semester grade. If a student needs to miss a scheduled class lecture, he/she should notify the professor in advance (if possible) with a valid excuse. At the discretion of the professor, the student will be allowed to make-up any missed material from this class. If a student has 3 or more unexcused absences, the student will receive 0 credits for this portion of the grade. If a student has 6 or more unexcused absences, the student will receive a failing grade for the course. Please note additional information below regarding course reading assignments.

Brief written summary/critique of a current relevant issue—“Ripped from the Headlines”

Students will be asked to identify one article in the lay press relevant to the course content and write a written one-page summary of the article highlighting the aspects relevant to the course content. This brief written summary will contribute 5% towards the student’s final grade. The selected article will also serve as the basis for the student’s Informative Speech in COM 100.

Position Paper

Students will be asked to prepare a three page position paper discussing an assigned course topic, writing a paper in support of one side of a relevant argument. More specific instructions will be distributed in-class. A complete first draft of the paper will be worth 5% of the final grade. A final revised version of the paper will contribute an additional 10% toward the student’s final grade.

Quizzes

Two short in-class quizzes will be given during the semester focusing on the two books we will be reading, Mountains Beyond Mountains, and Dispatches from the Edge. Students are expected to come to class having read the book and being prepared to answer questions based on these readings. Each of the two quizzes will be worth 7.5% of the final grade. Make-up quizzes will only be given in the event of an illness or an emergency.

Problem Sets

Two problem sets will be assigned during the semester. Each of the problems sets will constitute 15% of the final grade. Problem sets are to be turned in at the beginning of the lecture on the due date. Late assignments will be penalized by deducting 25% of the grade received for each day past the deadline. This policy applies to all problem sets, unless a valid excuse is given IN ADVANCE and approved by the professor. This policy is necessary in order to insure fairness in grading.

Students are encouraged to work together in groups to complete the assigned problem sets. However, each student is expected to hand in his/her own copy of the problem set representing original work fostered by group collaboration.
**Group Project**

Each student will be asked to work in a small group (~5 students) to select, research, develop and present a brief public service announcement (PSA) focusing on a health related topic relevant to the course material. The group’s PSA should focus on a topic that represents the areas of interest within the group and can be refined with the help of the professor. The PSA will focus on a limited number of take home points on the topic you are covering and will serve as the basis for your more in depth group speech in COM 100. The final PSA’s can be developed using video, power-point or live presentation. The group’s final PSA will contribute 25% to each group member’s final grade (15% based on the overall groups final PSA, 10% on the individual group member’s efforts and contribution). Additional guidelines will be distributed in class.

**General Class Policies:**

**Reading Assignments**

Informative in-class discussion of the readings is integral to the achievement of the courses learning objectives, therefore students are expected to come to class prepared and having done all of the required readings. Ability to discuss assigned readings in-class will be considered when determining the student’s class attendance/participation portion of the final grade.

**Illness Due to Flu**

The H1N1 or Seasonal Flu may impact classes this semester. If any of us develop flu-like symptoms, please stay home until the fever has subsided for 24 hours. If you exhibit such symptoms, please do not come to class. Notify me at 874-2030 or bquilliam@uri.edu of your status. We will work together to ensure that course instruction and work is completed for the semester.

**Disability Accommodations**

Any student with a documented disability is welcome to contact the professor early in the semester so that we may work out reasonable accommodations to support your success in this course. Students should also contact Disability Services for Students, Office of Student Life, 330 Memorial Union, 874-2098.

**Cell Phones**

Cell phones should be turned off or set to manner mode to avoid class disruptions. Should a cell phone disruption occur, a warning will be given to the student. If a subsequent disruption occurs, the student will be asked to excuse him/herself from the class for the remainder of the class for that day. It will be the student’s responsibility to make-up any missed material from this class.
### Topics to be covered:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>9/8/11</td>
<td>Class Overview/Syllabus Review-Joint Class with COM100</td>
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<td>9/13/11</td>
<td>Disease Detectives: Introduction to Epidemiology</td>
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<td>9/15/11</td>
<td>Measuring Health and Disease: Person, Place and Time</td>
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<td>9/20/11</td>
<td>Sources of Health Information</td>
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<td>9/22/11 &amp; 9/27/11</td>
<td>The Epidemiologic Transition</td>
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<td>9/29/11</td>
<td>Health in the News: Student Brief Presentations</td>
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<td>10/4/11</td>
<td>Adult/Infant Mortality and Fertility</td>
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<td>10/6/11</td>
<td>Quiz 1: <em>Mountains Beyond Mountains</em> In-class discussion of book</td>
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<td>10/11/11</td>
<td>Political Infrastructure and Disease Example: Food Security</td>
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<td>Guest Lecturer: TBA</td>
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<td>10/13/11</td>
<td>Economics and Disease</td>
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<td>10/18/11</td>
<td>Patterns of Disease: Chronic Disease</td>
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<td>10/20/11</td>
<td>Challenges in Implementing Chronic Care in the 3rd World:</td>
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<td>An Example from Mali, Africa</td>
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<td>Guest Lecturer: Dr. Margaret Charpentier</td>
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<td>10/25/11</td>
<td>Patterns of Disease: Acute Infectious Disease and Vaccination</td>
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<td>10/27/11</td>
<td>Getting the Message Out: Introduction to Public Service Announcements (PSA)</td>
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<td>11/1/11</td>
<td>In-class Group Work; Attendance Required</td>
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<td>11/3/11</td>
<td>Quiz 2: <em>Dispatches from the Edge</em> In-class discussion of book</td>
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<td>11/8/11</td>
<td>A Growing Concern: Superbugs</td>
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<td>Guest Lecturer: Dr. Kerry LaPlante</td>
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<td>11/10/11 &amp; 11/15/11</td>
<td>Case Study I: Haiti</td>
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11/17/11&11/22/11: Case Study II: Hurricane Katrina
Guest Lecturer: Dr. Jeffrey Bratberg (11/22/11)

11/24/11: No Class-Thanksgiving Recess

11/29/11: In-class Group Work; Attendance Required

12/1/11: Final Thoughts

12/6/11 & 12/8/11: Presentation of Group Projects