

Global Health Foundations

(course + Summer Shcool)

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Global Health Foundations – Syllabus of the Course

2 ECTS - Online

Instructors

A team of teachers from every university in the consortium. Coordination: Prf. Dr. Francisco J. Esteban. University of Jaén (coordinating University).

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Overview

COVID-19 pandemic has revealed serious weaknesses in the healthcare system of most EU member states. In addition, this unprecedented global crisis has also highlighted the importance of public health interventions in basic and applied research, and the emergence of global health threats and challenges that have to be addressed. The pandemic has also brought to the fore the lack of adequate policies that support the advancement of scientific knowledge able to provide plans and tools to achieve adequate medical and socio-economic responses.

Global Health is a term including the complex interaction of biomedical, ecological, social and institutional determinants, between others. Thus, we will introduce the main topics in global health and the science behind the multiple interacting disciplines able to respond to the great new challenges and priorities in global health. These challenges include tackling antibiotic resistance, fighting against transmissible (COVID-19, AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, etc.) and non-transmissible (cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular and mental) diseases, coping with the impact of pollution and climate change on health, guaranteeing access to healthy food, and reducing global health inequities through solidarity, responsibility and coordination in health matters.

Finally, and considering that the resolution of complex global health problems requires interdisciplinary solutions, One Health will be introduced as the growing global strategy that recognizes the interconnected nature of human, animal and environmental issues to improve healthcare and sustainability challenges.

Learning outcomes

Taking into account the competencies of the global health curriculum, some of them have been selected for this short course with the aim that, at the end of the subject, students will be able to:

Competency I: Global Health Organizations

Understand the meaning of global health, enumerate the major health problems and threats facing the world today and understand how data on global health measures affect policy change and development, and know the different methods and tools for global health research.

Competency II: Global Burden of Disease

Become familiar with measures of burden of disease. Describe the epidemiology of various infectious and non-infectious (chronic and mental) diseases, and learn about the impact and prevention of antimicrobial resistance, nutrition problems and the importance of environmental issues and the impact they have on global health.

Competency III: Cross-Cultural Medicine

Understand and appreciate the role that culture plays in the practice of medicine and global health

Competency IV: Vulnerable Populations

Describe the social and economic context of maternal and child health, understand the basic needs for human survival including water, food, sanitation and safety, and know how poverty, conflict and terrorism affects global health.

Competency V: Primary Care Medicine

Identify strategies and goals of health systems to prevent illness, including education, screening, vaccination, and prophylaxis, and be familiar with current efforts and limitations to increase global access to essential medications.

Competency VI: Global Health Ethics

Describe the meaning of the “right to health”, the ethical and human rights issues arising from international trade and the pharmaceutical industry, and understand current topics and controversies in human research (e.g., genetic research and genetic information).

Competency VII: One Health

Understand the meaning of one health. Identify one health challenges, strategies and goals. Know the different methods and tools for one health research.

Contents

Chapter I: Introducing global health

What is global health? Health problems and threats facing the world today. Health inequity. Transmissible and non-transmissible diseases. The impact of pollution and climate change on health. Basic concepts in global health management. From global to one health.

Chapter II: Basic methods in global health analysis

An introduction to biostatistics. Epidemiology: concepts, data and models. General survey techniques and qualitative research. On-line resources for global health research.

Chapter III: Global burden of diseases

Epidemiology of global infectious, chronic and mental diseases. Antimicrobial resistance, nutrition and climate change in global health.

Chapter IV: Vulnerable populations

The basic needs for human survival: water, food, sanitation, and safety. Mother and child health and global strategies for prevention of mortality in these populations. Gender inequalities and sexual and reproductive health problems. Conflict, disaster, and terrorism in global health. Right to health. Controversies in human research.

Chapter V: Integrating global and one health.

What is one health? Common one health issues. One health approaches integrating human, animal, environmental areas of expertise. On-line resources for one health research.

Number of Students and Selection Process

Number of students: The number of students will be a multiple of the number of universities that take part in the course so that they allow for a conformation of multicultural small groups involving 1-3 students from each university (ideal number per university will be around 21).

Selection process: First come, first served

Instruction

Course will comprise 2 ECTS / 50hrs of student work with the following structure:

Activity in a large group

A 1-hr online conference

Activities in small groups

Each group (around 21 students) will be supervised online and graded by one member of the teaching team: 16-hr online section involving different asynchronous activities that include interaction among students (16 hrs), besides self-paced learning. The activities include critical reading and video viewing of scientific related contents. Chapters will end by a 3-hr online interactive seminar or workshop where assignments are discussed.

Individual activities

The course will involve 30 additional hours of student work (self-paced learning, reading literature, preparation of essays, etc.).

Assessment

A final written essay (1000-1500 words; relative weight 50 %), and student work and participation (relative weight 50 %).

References

- 10 global health issues to track in 2021: <https://www.who.int/news-room/spotlight/10-global-health-issues-to-track-in-2021>
- Current Issues in Global Health: <https://www.intechopen.com/books/7090>
- Foundations of Global Health: <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/foundations-of-global-health-9780190647940>
- Implementing a Practical Global Health Curriculum: The Benefits and Challenges of Patient-Based Learning in the Community: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2020.00283/full>
- Integrating a One Health approach in education to address global health and sustainability challenges: <https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1890/090159>
- One Health Basics: <https://www.cdc.gov/onehealth/basics/index.html>
- One Health Commission: <https://www.onehealthcommission.org/>
- Urgent health challenges for the next decade: <https://www.who.int/news-room/photo-story/photo-story-detail/urgent-health-challenges-for-the-next-decade>

Global Health Foundations – Summer School

1 ECTS – Onsite (Jaén, Spain)

Summer school will be developed during the summer (exact dates yet to be decided in coordination with the rest of NEOLAiA Summer Schools)

Duration

1 week – 25 hours of student work (5 hours per day)

Activities

Mornings: Talks, Seminars, Poster Discussions, etc. All activities will involve a strong student participation under supervision of faculty members.

Afternoons/Evenings: Social events, cultural visits, etc.

Participants

Number of participants: 4-5 students from each participant university (receiving the blended intensive program) + a number of students from the hosting University yet to decide.

Selection system

Students will be selected by the instruction team among the ones that show a greater involvement and better performance in the regular course and have requested participate in the summer school.

Blended Intensive Program in Global Health Foundations

3 ECTS

Blended intensive program includes both, the online course (2 ECTS) and the summer school (1 ECTS). Students participating in the Blended Intensive Program are expected to be between 25 and 35.