Global AIDS Policy (PH-P8725)

Spring Semester 2011

Professor:
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Course Description:

This course offers a broad overview of the social, cultural, political and economic factors shaping the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, and of the policy responses that the epidemic has generated in different settings. Specific topics include the changing shape (and the changing perception of the shape) of the epidemic in different parts of the world; the factors that structure or influence HIV vulnerability cross-culturally; and the ways in which different sectors, both governmental and non-governmental, have sought to respond to AIDS in a range of different country settings. In addition, special emphasis is given to the international and intergovernmental response to the epidemic, focusing on the extent to which HIV/AIDS can be understood as a kind of test-case in international health which illuminates both the possibilities and the limitations of the international system in responding to perceived health emergencies.

Learning Objectives:

• Analyze the social, political, cultural, and economic factors shaping the global HIV/AIDS epidemic.
• Describe key theoretical concepts in social science and public health literature on global HIV/AIDS policy, including: social constructionism, political economy, gender, sexuality, risk, vulnerability, medicalization, and harm reduction.
• Apply theoretical frameworks to analyze the impacts of globalization and global transformations on HIV and AIDS.
• Apply historical perspectives and analysis to global policy debates in relation to HIV/AIDS.
Discuss the ways in which the historical development of global HIV/AIDS policy has been shaped by public debates framed by law, religion, science, and human rights.

- Conceptualize the role and interests of the state, intergovernmental agencies, and social movements in shaping the evolving history of the global HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- Discuss cross-cultural approaches to responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- Critically assess the possibilities and limitations of HIV/AIDS interventions in global public health.

Teaching and Learning Approach:
Readings and on-line resources will be specified for each week of classes. The instructor will provide core lectures during the program. Additional time will be spent discussing material in a seminar format, as well as working collectively on a joint project focusing on the timeline of key events in the history of global AIDS policy. There will be a major emphasis on active class participation, which will be enabled through question periods, reflective activities and discussion.

Course Requirements:
Students are expected to attend and actively participate in lecture and seminar discussions along with carefully doing the readings and engagement with other learning resources.

Student performance will be assessed on the following:

- 10% Class participation
- 10% Timeline (specific focus for each student’s timeline will be agreed on with the instructor)
- 20% Midterm Exam
- 30% Annotated bibliography (specific focus agreed on with the instructor)
- 30% Final Exam

For the focus of their timeline and their annotated bibliography, in consultation with the instructor, each student will chose a subject from a list of key countries, institutions, agencies, programs or transnational movements that have been at the forefront of the global policy response to HIV and AIDS. The instructor will assist them in identifying necessary background materials in order to be able to develop a timeline of the historical response that their chosen subject has made in response to the epidemic and to construct an annotated bibliography of publications and other materials (films, web-based materials, etc.) that effectively document the relevant activities and contributions that the chosen subject has made.

Required reading:
Books are available on-line at any major bookseller.


Additional required readings for specific sessions are noted in the course schedule.

**Course Outline:**

**Week 1 (1/21/11) Introduction**

**Required readings:**


**Films:**

“Frontline: The Age of AIDS (Part One)” (2006) (approx. 120 min.)

“And the Band Played On” (1993, 140 minutes)

**Part I: “Inventing AIDS” in the 1980s**

**Week 2 (1/28/11) An Epidemic of Signification and the Responses of Affected Communities**

**Required readings:**


Recommended readings:


Films:

“Story of AIDS activism in the US” (04:15 min) (http://www.faceofaids.org/show/video/6)
“Frontline: The Age of AIDS (Part Two)” (2006) (approx. 120 min.)

Week 3 (2/4/11) Inventing AIDS Exceptionalism

Required readings:


Recommended readings:


Films:

“Interview with Dr Jonathan Mann” (WHO, 1988, 07:43 min)
(http://www.faceofaids.org/show/video/5)

“The Legacy of Dr. Jonathan Mann, 1947-1998” (09:58 min)
(http://www.faceofaids.org/show/video/72)
Part II: Restructuring the Response and Administering the Epidemic in the 1990s

Week 4 (211/11)  From Mobilizing the State to Administering the Epidemic

Required readings:


Barton Gellman, “An Unequal Calculus of Life and Death: As Millions

Recommended readings:


Film:

“Pandemic: Facing AIDS” (2002, 113 minutes)

Week 5 (2/18/11) The Political Economy of HIV, Struggles for Treatment Access, and the Importance of the Structural

Required readings:


Recommended readings:


Films:

“Brazil: Winning Against AIDS” (2001, 27 minutes)

“Pills, Profits, Protest: Chronicle of the Global AIDS Movement” (2003, 60 minutes)

**Part III: Scale-Up and Backlash in the 2000s**

**Week 6 (2/25/11)**  *Scaling Up the Global Response and the AIDS Backlash*

**Required readings:**


Committee for the Evaluation of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), PEPFAR Implementation: Progress and Promise,


Recommended readings:


Daniel Wikler, Ethical Challenges In Long-Term Funding For HIV/AIDS. Health Affairs, November/December 2009; 28(6):1666-1676.


**Film:**
“A Closer Walk” (2002-2003, 85 minutes)

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**Week 7 (3/4/11)  Fifty Years of AIDS**

**Required readings:**

UNAIDS, *Outlook 2010.*

(\http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/07/13/announcing-national-hivaids-strategy)


**Recommended readings:**
