PUBP 758-001
Spring Semester 2018
Global Threats and Medical Policies
Room 308
Founders Hall
Wednesdays from 16:30 to 19:10
Arlington Campus, Schar School of Policy and Government [SPGIA]
George Mason University

Instructor: Arnauld E. Nicogossian, M.D., Center for the Study of International Medical Policies and Practices, SSPG, George Mason University.
(Email: anicogos@gmu.edu Website: Policy-csimpp.gmu.edu)
Purpose of PUPB 757/758

Please note that

1. All materials including PowerPoint presentations will be posted on the Blackboard [https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu/.../login?action.], and
2. Portable technology [laptops, tablets and cellphones] are welcome in class, as long they are used for classroom and academic purposes: students might be asked to assist the faculty with on-line research to facilitate discussions and enhance knowledge.

Purpose of PUBP 757/758

PUBP758 and its companion PUBP 757 are components of the SPGIA Certificate, Concentration, and Masters of Science in Health and Medical Policy Programs. PUBP 757/758 provides an overview of the international medical and health policy challenges in a globalizing world. The content is updated annually to:

1. Provide insights into medical policies, processes, and interdependencies.
2. Explore principles applicable to the planning, management, and priority setting for international health programs/projects, and
3. Understand policies and practices that could violate ethics, human rights and/or foster health disparities and social inequalities.

Background
Medical and public health sectors are playing more preeminent role in global affairs [medical diplomacy]. Timely implemented health and medical policies driven by accurate understanding of their global implications is essential for population’s health, and
security. Global economic, social, political and environmental considerations drive such policies. US budgetary uncertainties can affect the progress in combatting many diseases, and will be explored during this semester.

**Current global concerns**

Increasing disparities in a globalizing world are challenging the existing public health systems and practices. Health disparities, or divides, among and within nations affect relationships, trade and even peace keeping and humanitarian activities. Social justice is becoming an agenda and a political focus. The longest and continued US, and partner countries, in the Middle East and Afghanistan conflicts are reshaping the demands and response to health challenges steaming from destroyed infrastructure, loss of health care resources, and the flood of refugees escaping area of simmering conflicts. In 2017, a series of atmospheric disasters have devastated US, each disaster costing more than one billion US dollars. This is an additional strain on the US economy with a current debt over $20 trillion, and a health care cost over $3.2 trillion, and rising. Most countries, experience difficulties controlling the rising costs of health care. Governments tend to focus on the supply side of health care economics [health coverage], scarce resource allocations and priority setting; while struggling with the demand, quality, affordability, accessibility and outcomes. Health care is one of the US largest industries, about 17.8 percent of the gross domestic product [GDP], and by 2023 projected to become the second largest employer after retail. Biomedicine is becoming more politicized, used as a tool of foreign diplomacy and requires evidence based knowledge to demonstrate its value during difficult economic times.

So far, US has been a major contributor [30%] of the global medical assistance. The proposed 2018 POTUS budget reduces or eliminates many of major global health security programs, which raise a serious concern about reversing recent gains in communicable and non-communicable diseases. Understanding and preventing chronic diseases, addressing infections, implicated in cancers genesis, preparing for health threats and environmental challenges, is an essential ingredient of the policy formulation of the 21st Century. The shape of medical and health care landscape is changing by globalization, such as medical migrations, health/medical tourism, information technology, outsourcing research and even health care.

**PUPB 757/758 Expectations**

1) **General**

   At the conclusion of the semester student should be able to:

   1. Present a concise discussion paper on a topic in the area of global medical and health policy.
   2. Identify major global medical and health challenges.
   3. Identify and evaluate for the strength of evidence relevant peer reviewed literature, and
   4. Apply the four tenets, listed below, to the process for policy:
      development and advocacy:
      a. scientific evidence,
b. political trends and
c. ethical and legislative considerations

These important “tenets” are emphasized throughout the semester; underpin class discussions and final semester research papers [please refer to the end of the syllabus for the guideline on the semester paper].

2) **Class Specific**

Students are expected to:

1. Get familiar with the assigned reading materials. Class discussion [*as stated in the syllabus*] and presentations are based on these readings.

2. Participate in discussions of the reading assignments at the end of each class, and

3. Ensure that all class assignments [including final semester research papers] conform to the prescribed format, are succinct and written in a grammatically correct style [it is important to proof read the assignments before submission], and include:
   
   a. Relevant scientific and technical peer reviewed reference materials. supporting important issues discussed or included in the research papers,
   
   b. Ethical considerations of proposed policies, and
   
   c. Political and legislative considerations (see diagram below)
PUPB 758 Learning Objectives

1. Provide a comparative understanding of global medical policies, processes, practices, and trends,
2. Review major global medical/public health challenges, unfulfilled needs, and interdependencies, and
3. Address practices that could violate human rights, undermine ethics, and/or create disparities in health services and access.

Course Delivery

1. A series of interrelated global medical policy topics exploring the impacts of globalization on population’s health.
2. Presentations and discussions by expert faculty in specific areas of emphasis, highlighting current problem areas faced by the stakeholders and policy makers. These topics usually address major perceived health or medical security threats to global stability and communities’ well-being [the topics may vary annually].
3. Questions related to the assigned readings discussed at the end of each session.
4. Medical/health policy formulation case studies (total 2 case studies during and at the end of the semester to be provided in advance by the faculty.) and
5. A tabletop exercise in disaster management

Grading Criteria
The semester grade is based on the first discussion [case study] paper, semester discussion paper and the semester paper. Additional consideration includes student participation in class discussions based on the questions listed in the Syllabus. The following represents useful tips in preparation for the PUBP 758:

1. Prepare narratives the first discussion paper [case study]. The case study assignments will be posted on the Blackboard at least 1 week prior to the class discussions. The objectives and format for the narratives will be included with the assignments.
2. Participate in the class discussions and the first case study is 30% of the final grade, and
3. The semester research paper, [please inform the instructor of the topic], is 70% of the final grade. The research paper topic can be selected from one of the class subject areas. The student is responsible for the research materials and the content of the paper. The contents, the depth, and scope of the literature searches and citation relevance leading to policy conclusions, [describing social, economic and international impacts and outcomes], and limitations and bias.

Course Outline [topics dates might change based on faculty availability: a rare event]
Each session will consist of lectures and class discussions. Several guest lecturers will participate during this semester. Reading refers to the textbooks or Journals described in the previous section and indicated by the numbers [see section above] representing the text and chapters/sections. It is expected that students will read the assigned materials prior to the classes. Study material [assignments, due dates and scheduled discussions] are included in the syllabus and listed with individual lectures.
As a courtesy please try to attend the guest faculty lectures which are very informative, and will emphasize the practical aspects of the course.

Class Discussions, Presentations and Case Study
The students will present the political, legislative and ethical pros, and cons for implementing the recommended policy developed for each case study assigned.

1. Semester class discussion [s]: A forty-five minutes discussion session will be held during the semester. The class instructor will provide a current medical policy topic of public interest at least one week before the scheduled event. The students will research the evidence supporting or refuting the health and/or medical policy topic.  
   *All students are expected to participate in discussions and provide the instructor with one to two pages, single-spaced.*
2. End of Semester class discussion: The students will be provided with a discussion topic at least 2 weeks prior to the event. Each student is required to prepare a position paper (to be submitted to the instructor in an electronic format). Papers should not exceed six single spaced pages.

3. The following is the content outline to be followed:
   a. Objective [the question selected.]
   b. Background [A short introduction addressing the knowledge base and historical background and the strength of the peer reviewed citations]
   c. Methods [search words, search engines, inclusion criteria, rating approach]
   d. Results [Interpretation of the literature searches, which includes the number of references meeting the inclusion criteria, and their strength of evidence: the robustness will be defined by a qualifier such as: strong, good, fair, poor or not available1],
   e. Discussion will include:
      - The prevailing political climate (globally and in the region/country under consideration),
      - The ethical considerations associated with policy solutions offered,
      - The legislative background of the topic under consideration.
   f. A Conclusion describing the strength of the evidence and/or applicability to support a policy/standard of practice.
   g. A short description of the limitations and bias of the research paper applicability to support a policy/standard of practice [primarily describing the adequacy of the knowledge base], and
   h. Six most recent peer reviewed references on the subject matter [meeting the inclusion criteria, and minimize the use of non-peer reviewed references including websites].

Reading Assignments

Required reading are from the following textbooks (identified at the end of each session as Ref. followed by numbers for Chapters or Sections)

Textbooks
   a. Primary
      (1) M.H. Merson, R. E. Black, and A. J. Mills: Global Health: Diseases, Programs, Systems and Policies (Jones & Bartlett Learning 2011)

b. Reference

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1 The evidence rating scale will be provided with each assignment
Additional readings will be recommended from

1. World Medical and Health Policy Journal
2. Journal of Travel Medicine
3. Journal of Preventive Medicine
4. Journal of Biosecurity and Bioterrorism
5. American Journal of Public Health

Other materials and assignments will be provided during the classes for student references. Occasionally students are referred to the web site for reading materials.

Course outline

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As a courtesy, please try to attend the guest faculty lecture which are very informative, and will emphasize the practical learning aspect of the course.

Please note that
3. All materials including power point presentations will be posted on the Blackboard [https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu], and
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Lecture 1
(1-24) Introduction to the Course: Review of Global Trends in Medicine and Public Health Policies (A. Nicogossian) (Reading: Ref 1, Chapters 1 & 2; Ref 3 Chapter 1; Ref 4: Chapter 1)

Learning objective: Explore the development of major international medical and health policies.

Class Discussion

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Note: each lecture is followed by the faculty name, affiliation and their bio will be forwarded prior to the lecture: Reading reference: Ref 1 for example refers to the M.H. Merson textbook and so on Some of the faculty bios are displayed on policy-csimpp.gmu.edu, under faculty and staff section.
1. Identify the four most important achievements in public health and trace their historical origins
2. Discuss what you consider an evidence-based public health policy, and
3. What are the indicators of health and what do they measure?

Lecture 2


Learning objective: Understand the type and impact of disasters and associated policy and practices

Class Discussion

1. Compare the economic and human impacts from natural and human made disasters
2. Discuss strategies to reduce the impacts from disasters
3. What do you consider critical infrastructure?
4. Discuss the post disasters chronic health problems

Lecture 3 (Narrative for Case Study 1 to be provided)
(2-7) Humanitarian Assistance, Policies and Practices (A. Nicogossian) (Reading: Ref 1, Chapter 11; Ref 2, Chapter 13)

Learning objective: Review the prevailing practices and shortcomings in complex humanitarian assistance

Class Discussion

1. Review the difference between CHI and complex political crisis
2. Describe a humanitarian intervention in the aftermath of a complex emergency
3. Explain how the policy saves lives or alleviates suffering.

Lecture 4
(2-14) Comparative Occupational and Health Policies and Systems Practices (Arnauld Nicogossian) (Reading: Ref 1, Chapter 10; Ref. 2, Chapter 12; Reference 3: page 45February 14, 2018)

Learning objective: Address and compare worker’s health, safety and injury prevention practices

Class Discussion

1. Discuss the importance of occupational health.
2. Describe the economic ramifications of occupational health.
3. Present an example of offshore outsourcing because of the occupational health laws, and
4. Discuss the major concerns of US health care system compared to other countries: is the concern an important economic driver?

**Lecture 5 (Narrative for Discussion 1 due)**

**Learning objective:** Address the complexity of protecting critical infrastructure designed for rapid and mass access

**Class Discussion**

1. What are the potential legal and ethical issues of not developing emergency response and recovery plans for Health Care Facilities
2. Is commitment by the hospital administration and staff a prerequisite for a successful planning and participation
3. What role should the media play in disaster preparedness? Provide some examples of when the media has been beneficial and detrimental for disaster response and recovery.

**Lecture 6 (Class Discussion 1)**
(2-28) Special Topic: Pharmaceuticals and Micro Resistance (A. Nicogossian)
(Reading: Ref 1- Chapter 14; Ref. # Chapter 9 and csimppcourse)

**Learning objective:** Discuss the process of drug development, distribution and hazards from inappropriate uses

**Class Discussion**

1. Discuss access problems to needed medications
2. Explore potential regulatory policies and practices to address counterfeit medications
3. Address legislations and practices to reduce medications misuse or abuse

**Lecture 7**
Tabletop exercise using a policy decision process.
(Reading PUPB 758 summaries).
Learning objective: Explore security and technology transfer policies pertaining medical technology commerce

Class Discussion
1. Discuss how global research or service corporations cope with the different export control regulations
2. Explain what you consider a good export control policy, which can protect critical medical technologies.

[Table top exercise one to 1 ½ hours]

(March 13-19) Spring Break - No Class

Lecture 7
(3-21) Preventing bioterrorism threats: Vaccine development, administration, international agreements: Public Health Policy, Politics and Commerce (Allan Morrison, Hospital Epidemiologist, and INOVA Health Care System) (Reading: Ref 1: Chapter 5)

Learning objective: Review the significance and impact of vaccination on community and populations health.

Class Discussion
1. Which infections are considered to be class A bioterrorism agents
2. Describe the issues surrounding the childhood immunization controversy
3. Can you present an example of a global eradication of an infection?

Lecture 8
(3-28) Special Topic: Public Health Governance in US: Federal and State level (Richard S. Williams, MD, Director, VA Tree Rivers Health District) (Reading: Ref 1, Chapter 11, Ref. 3, Chapter 4)

Learning objective: Understand the authorities and processes used by Federal and State agencies to develop and promulgate health related policies.

Class Discussions
1. Discuss federal policy development and resource allocation
2. Discuss health implementation at the state and local levels.

Lecture 9 [Semester Class Discussion published on Blackboard]

(4-4) Implication of knowledge gained from prior Chemical, Radiological and Biological events to Terrorism Response and Emergency Preparedness (Dan Hanfling, consultant emergency preparedness, response, and crisis management)
Learning objective: International implications of techno-disasters and terrorism

Class Discussion

1. Discuss the health and political impacts of large oil spills.
2. Discuss long term psychological and societal consequences from human made disasters, and
3. Cite an example of international or national legislation following human made disasters.

Lecture 10
(4-11) Special Issues in Bioterrorism: Emerging and Reemerging Zoonotic Diseases and Agro-Terrorism (A. Nicogossian) (Reading: Ref 2, Chapter 16; also, PUPB 758 summaries)
Learning objective: Explore the security and vulnerabilities of the agricultural industry

Class discussion

1. Discuss a policy (s) national and/or international addressing improved food security, safety, and enhancing public confidence.
2. Discuss a set of policies and actions, initiated by the USG, to protect (choose one):
   a) Livestock and crops safety and security.
   b) Labeling and services for food processing (hygiene and safety),
   c) Training of food industry workers,
   d) Consumer education, and
   e) Inspections and food quality testing, and surveillance.

Lecture 11 [Semester class discussion paper submitted to faculty]
(4-18) Special Topic: Aging and Population Needs: Comparison of International Research Practices and Policies [Arnauld Nicogossian] (Reading: Ref. 1, Chapter 7; Ref 3, Chapter 19)

Learning objective: The aging world implications to public health and care policies and practice

Class Discussion

1. What are the public health implications of global aging?
2. Discuss preventive programs which could help reduce the long-term cost of chronic diseases
Lecture 12
(4-25) Culture, Behavior, Ethics and Public Health Policy in a Globalizing World
(A. Nicogossian) (Reading: Ref 3, Chapter 6: Ref 4, Chapter 2, 3 and 4)

Learning objective: Discuss the societal implications of the medical and public health practices and policies.

Class Discussion

1. Discuss the best approach to resource allocation
2. Explain why health care services rationing is beneficial to the community and individual patients
3. Discuss important examples of cultural beliefs and practices in health care.

(5-2) Lecture 13 Semester Summary and Semester class discussion (mandatory participation)

(5-5) Semester papers due COB Might be modified based on the snow days closure. Please submit electronically

Semester Research Paper

The outline for the paper and explanations are provided separately. The suggested organization of the paper will help with critical thinking when evaluating and developing health/medical policies. It will help to describe the scientific/technical basis for the proposed policy. The paper length including references should not exceed 15 to 20 pages (double spaces).

1. Selection of a topic and relevance to the PUPB 758: The topics below are not all inclusive but should always relate to policy and are presented in priority order; policy is the underpinning factor; global means that you could choose any country. They are shown in priority order.
   a. Public/Medical Policy
   b. Health and/or Bioterrorism Policy
   c. International or Global Considerations Policy
   d. Disasters and/or humanitarian assistance Policy or Practices
   e. Economic and Societal Impacts Policy


SPP Policy on Plagiarism and the GMU Honor Code

It is imperative that all university rules and regulations for citing and presenting the work from the published literature are adhered to during the preparation of the class
assignments and especially the semester papers. Sensitive or other materials from sources not in the public domain or have not been officially cleared for public dissemination should not be used.

The profession of scholarship and the intellectual life of a university as well as the field of public policy inquiry depend fundamentally on a foundation of trust. Thus, any act of plagiarism strikes at the heart of the meaning of the university and the purpose of the School of Public Policy. It constitutes a serious breach of professional ethics and it is unacceptable.

Plagiarism is the use of another’s words or ideas presented as one’s own. It includes, among other things, the use of specific words, ideas, or frameworks that are the product of another’s work. Honesty and thoroughness in citing sources is essential to professional accountability and personal responsibility. Appropriate citation is necessary so that arguments, evidence, and claims are critically examined.

Plagiarism is wrong because of the injustice it does to the person whose ideas are stolen, but it is also wrong because it constitutes lying to one’s professional colleagues. From a prudential perspective, it is shortsighted and self-defeating, and it can ruin a professional career.

The faculty of the School of Public Policy takes plagiarism seriously and has a zero-tolerance policy. Any plagiarized assignment will receive an automatic grade of “F.” This may lead to failure for the course, resulting in dismissal from the University. This dismissal will be noted on the student’s transcript. For foreign students who are on a university-sponsored visa (e.g. F-1, J-1 or J-2), dismissal also results in the revocation of their visa.

To help enforce the SPP policy on plagiarism, all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the school subscribes. Faculty may, at any time, submit student’s work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. The SPP policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace it or substitute for it. (http://www.gmu.edu/facstaff/handbook/aD.html)

Students with special needs

If you are a student with special needs or a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see the instructor as soon as possible and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the DRC.

Student/Faculty Meeting Schedules

1. 15:00 every Wednesday prior to class in room 549, Arlington Campus [except on the days where outside faculty will be teaching. Hours will be 1500 until 1700]

2. Other times can be arranged by mutual agreement (Please make appointments during classes or email at least 3 days in advance to anicogos@gmu.edu or yhu5@gmu.edu)
Contact

Arnauld Nicogossian, MD, FACPM, FACP
Distinguished Research Professor,
Director, Center for the Study of International
Medical Policies and Practices,
Schar School of Policy and Government
George Mason University
Founders Hall, Room 549
3351 Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22201, U.S.A.
Off. (703) 993 8217
Cell (703) 728 7277
Fax (703) 993 2284
Email: anicogos@gmu.edu
http://policy-csimpp.gmu.edu
Senior Editor
World Medical and Health Policy Journal
www.psocommons.org/wmhp