Community and Global Health

Professors: Alison A. Geist and Karika Parker  
(Co-Directors)

The Community and Global Health (CGHL) interdisciplinary concentration enables students to broadly explore the determinants and consequences of individual and community health, critically examine relevant global, national, and local policies and programs, and learn theories and methodologies important to the study of public health. The concentration requires completion of an experiential component, so students gain and apply practical skills through community-based courses and projects, internships, study abroad, and/or research. Students explore the structures and systems that shape wellness, longevity, disease, and disability, and their disproportionate distribution across gender, race, class, sexual and gender identity, age, nationality, statelessness, incarceration or documentation status, and place of residence. Emphasizing our collective and individual responsibility to advance health equity, the concentration prepares students, as engaged members of their communities, to recognize the spectrum of contemporary global health issues and to exercise intellectual and practical skills in response. It also prepares students interested in careers in public health or human, dental, or veterinary medicine and the allied health professions for graduate and professional school.

The CGHL Concentration

Required core:

- CGHL 120 Epidemiology and Global Health
- CGHL 210 Contemporary Issues in Public Health: An Introduction

- Four additional electives, at least one chosen from each of the following three categories below.

Please note that while we make every attempt to compile a list that is comprehensive and accurate, not every course is offered every year, and new courses may be added from time to time without enough notice to be included here. Students should check with the Registrar, individual departments, and their advisor as they plan to complete the concentration.

Natural sciences and quantitative reasoning

ANSO 212 Quantitative Analysis

BIOL 322 General and Medical Microbiology

BIOL 360 Immunology and Human Health

MATH 105 Quantitative Reasoning & Statistical Analysis

MATH 260 or 261 Applied Statistics or Biostatistics (preferred)

MATH 360 Applied Statistics II

PED 210 Nutrition

SEMN 207 Global Health and Social Justice

Social and cultural determinants of health

ANSO 210 Medicine and Society
ANSO 225 Sex and Sexualities
ANSO 232 Nature and Society: Introduction to Political Ecology*
ANSO 245 Qualitative Methods
ANSO 252 Political Ecology of Waste
ANSO/SEMN 255 You Are What You Eat (check with your Advisor to see if this "counts")
ANSO 310 Social Research for Social Change
ANSO 325 States, Bodies, and Epidemics
ANSO 350 Political History of Western Environmental Thought*
HIST 231 The Black Death
PHIL 305 Biomedical Ethics
PSYC 211 Adolescent Development
PSYC 220 Health Psychology
PSYC 270 Feminist Psychology of Women
PSYC 424 Drugs, Addiction, and Behavior
PSYC 411 Psychology and the Law (when it has a service-learning component)
PSYC 465 Advanced Psychology of Sexuality
SEMN-408 Slow Farming
SPAN 205 Cultures of Health and Disease in Hispanic Communities

* These courses are more broadly about environmental health, and about nature as an historical, intellectual and social construct. Students wishing to make them more relevant to community and global health may speak with the professor to craft paper topics that explore these issues within the course's theoretical frameworks.

Public policy
ECON 225 Economics of Development and Growth
ECON 235 Environmental and Resource Economics
ECON 265 Issues in Urban Economics
ECON 290 Health Economics
POLS/WGS 265 Feminist Political Theories (cannot count towards both social/cultural determinants & public policy elective)
POLS 270 The European Union: Institutions, Actors, Aliens, and Outcomes
POLS 310 Women, States, and NGO's
POLS 330 Politics of the Holocaust

POLS 380 Drugs, Democracy, and Human Rights

POLS/SEMN 406 Male Violence Against Women

Courses at Kalamazoo College study abroad sites may also serve as electives, with permission from a CGHL co-Director.

Experiential requirement

CGHL requires students to incorporate at least one immersive public health experience into their concentration. When CGHL 210 is offered as a service-learning seminar, it fulfills this requirement. Otherwise, students must seek community-based learning experiences, approved in advance by the director/s that will count towards this requirement. Examples that may be approved include health-related service-learning courses, ICRPs abroad, SIPS, internships and community-based research with an explicit public health focus, employment within a public health field: and/or certain Center for Civic Engagement (CCE) programs at K. Clinical experiences – e.g. working in a doctor's office or hospital – may or may not count, depending on context. The CCE has built many health-related community partnerships in Kalamazoo, and offers a limited number of paid, six-week summer Community Building Internships with local organizations, many of them in health fields.

To fulfill this requirement, students are required to write a 3 – 5 page reflection/essay that combines their experience and a scholarly literature review to explicitly demonstrate connections to and learning about community and global health, in particular the social determinants of health.

Community and Global Health courses

CGHL 120 Epidemiology
This course provides students with the fundamental concepts, skills and perspectives of epidemiology and epidemiological thought and introduces some of the major issues and challenges in global and community health today. Students will learn and apply epidemiological methods.

CGHL 210 Contemporary Issues in Public Health
This discussion-based introductory survey explores contemporary issues, theories, and methods in public health. We use the social determinants of health framework to examine critically how race, gender, age, environment, class, and access to culturally appropriate health services have historically and dynamically shaped the health of communities and persons, as well as their influence on the "the modern plagues." Student work emphasizes and will further develop skills in collaboration, critical thinking and reasoning, cultural humility, the application of theory to practice, and written and oral communication in diverse media.

CGHL 593 Senior Individualized Project
A small number of students may do SIPs in the concentration each year, but are encouraged to work with faculty advisors in their major.

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