Community and Global Health

Professors: Geist and 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, learn theories and methodologies important to the study of public health, and gain and apply practical skills through community-based courses and projects, internships, study abroad, and/or research. Coursework and experiences in the concentration emphasize the importance of structures and systems that shape wellness, longevity, disease, and disability, and their disproportionate distribution across gender, race, class, sexual and gender identity, nationality, statelessness, incarceration or documentation status, and place of residence. With an emphasis on 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 245 Qualitative Methods
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/ENVS 350 Political History of Western Environmental Thought
PHIL 305 Biomedical Ethics
PSYC 211 Adolescent Development
PSYC 270 Feminist Psychology of Women
PSYC 295 Health Psychology
PSYC 424 Drugs, Addiction, and Behavior
PSYC 495 Advanced Psychology of Sexuality
PSYC 441 Psychology and the Law (when it has a service-learning component)
SPAN 205 Cultures of Health and Disease in Hispanic Communities
SEM 408 Slow Farming

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

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 may also be required to write a reflection or 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 & Global Health
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 health today.

CGHL 210 Contemporary Issues in Public Health
This discussion based introductory survey explores contemporary issues, theories, and methods in public health. The course covers both domestic and global health, and will illuminate the determinants and consequences of contemporary "epidemics" by examining how race, gender, age, environment, ability, class, and nationality/migration status shape individual suffering and our modern plagues.

CGHL 593 Senior Individualized Project

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