

HUMAN RIGHTS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTITIONERS

HPM 301.655-01

2d Quarter, 1999/2000

The Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health

Professor James G. Hodge, Jr.

SYLLABUS

This seminar examines the interrelationships between modern concepts of public health and international human rights, focusing on the AIDS pandemic and other global health threats as models of demonstration. The first relationship to be examined is the impact of health policies, programs, and practices on human rights. The second relationship is the health impacts resulting from violations of human rights. The third relationship is the inextricable linkage between health and human rights. The seminar will use the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights, and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as the dominate instruments of analysis. We will carefully consider the meaning of the right to health and the material differences between negative and positive rights in international law. We will also explore the tensions between human rights as entitlements which are universal or culturally-relative.

I. Course Requirements

- A. **Time and Place.** The course will meet on Monday afternoons from 1:30-3:20 p.m. in Room W2017, Main Hygiene Building.
- B. **Readings.** The required text is **LAWRENCE O. GOSTIN AND ZITA LAZZARINI, HUMAN RIGHTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE AIDS PANDEMIC**. A package of handout materials to be distributed to students at the beginning of the term is also required. Students are responsible for reading all assignments and familiarizing themselves with the appropriate international instruments before each class.
- C. **Team Presentations and Papers.** Students will be assigned to multi-disciplinary teams comprised of individuals with varied backgrounds to make a presentation in class on a relevant subject in health and human rights. This presentation should also be the subject of a scholarly paper prepared by the team members for the course. Papers should not exceed fifteen (15) pages. **Note** - teams handing out class materials to facilitate discussion on their topics should do so the week prior to delivering their presentation.
- D. **Grading.** An individual's grade for the course will be assigned based on individual and team performance. Each individual's grade will be based on the following: individual class participation outside team presentation (25%), team's presentation (25%), and the team's scholarly paper (50%). Individual

class participation will be assessed on a qualitative rather than quantitative basis.

II. Structure of the Course

- A. **Lectures and Discussions.** Most class sessions will be based on a lecture and class discussion of the issues raised by the lecture and the readings. Class discussions showing rigorous thought and an informed understanding of the subject matter will be an integral part of the learning process.
- B. **Cases.** Several sessions will include discussion of specific case studies. The students will be asked to apply the Public Health/Human Rights Impact Assessment to the specific cases.

III. Assigned Readings/Topics

The following assignments from the text are required in addition to any readings contained in the handout materials or distributed in advance during the course of the semester:

WEEK OF:	#	CLASS TOPIC AND ASSIGNED TEXT PAGES:
November 8	1	Introduction to the Course and the History and Context of Human Rights , text pp. vii-viii, xiii-xvii, 193-198, 1-32 <u>ASSIGNMENT OF TEAM MEMBERS</u>
November 15	2	Core Principles of Human Rights and the International Bill of Human Rights , text pp. 32-55 & Week 2 handout materials
November 22	3	Evaluating the Impact of Public Health Policies and Programs on Human Rights: The Public Health/Human Rights Impact Assessment , text pp. 57-67 & Week 3 handout materials <u>SELECTION OF PAPER TOPIC</u>
November 29	4	The Realization of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights: The Right to Health , Week 4 handout materials <u>SELECTION OF TEAM PRESENTATION TIMES</u>
December 6	5	AIDS Policies and Practices: Integrating Public Health and Human Rights , text pp. 127-135; <i>Case Study 2: Breast Feeding and Vertical Transmission of HIV</i> , text pp. 148-157 and Week 5 handout materials

WEEK OF:	#	CLASS TOPIC AND ASSIGNED TEXT PAGES:
December 13	6	TEAM PRESENTATIONS: 1. TEAM _____ (1:30-2:20 p.m.) 2. TEAM _____ (2:30-3:20 p.m.)
December 20	7	<i>No formal class due to Professor's pre-scheduled absence</i>
January 3	8	TEAM PRESENTATIONS [continued]: 3. TEAM _____ (1:30-2:20 p.m.) 4. TEAM _____ (2:30-3:20 p.m.)
January 10		TEAM PRESENTATIONS [continued]: 5. TEAM _____ (1:30-2:20 p.m.) 6. TEAM _____ (2:30-3:20 p.m.) <u>FINAL TEAM PAPERS DUE</u>

IV. Administrative Details

- A. **Instructor Availability.** I will be available after each class to answer any questions and by appointment. My telephone number is (202) 543-2992; 662-9680 (fax). You can also reach me via e-mail: *hodgej@erols.com*.
- B. **Final Thoughts.** I have long been fascinated by the subject matter of this course and its various topics at the interface of international human rights and public health. I hope you will share my enthusiasm for the intellectually challenging ideas presented in the readings and the class work. I look forward to getting to know you and to many thoughtful discussions. If I can ever be of assistance, please let me know.

V. Team Assignments

Team A:

The Media and the Health of Immigrants

Samar Muzaffar *
samuzaff@jhsph.edu
Gavin Grant
gagrants@jhsph.edu
Colleen Lampron ?

Team B:

Immigrant Health in the United States

Margarita B. Jovel
mjovel@jhsph.edu
Meredith Hodach *
mhodach@hotmail.com
Mohamed K. Taher
matoaher@jhsph.edu

Team C:

Protecting Individual Identity and the Right to Mental Health

Heather Papowtiz
heatpp98@hotmail.com
Bruce Tillman *
btillman@jhsph.edu
Ann Ancia
amomia@jhsph.edu

Team D:

Gender Asylum in the United States

Gemma Vestal ? *
Saima Khan
aquraishi@erols.com
Julie Chitty
juchitty@jhsph.edu

Team E:

Partner Notification in the United States and the Right to Privacy

Ryan Seggel *
rbs1@jhu.edu
Katie Fitzgerald
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Leslie Ritter
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Charles C. Huang
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* Team administrative representative