

**CHS 434A
Maternal and Child Health
in Developing Areas**

Course ID#: 840-668-200
Day and Time: Mondays 1:00-3:50 pm
Room: 41-268 CHS
Credit: 4 units

Instructors: Osman Galal, MD, PhD
Office Hours: By appt.
Phone: (310) 206-9639

Intent

The vulnerability of young children and women of childbearing age to unfavorable biological, physical, cultural, socioeconomic, and political factors is well recognized. Adverse conditions are particularly evident in developing countries, where women and children comprise about two-thirds of the total population, but also evident to a considerable extent in disadvantaged communities in all nations.

The intent of the course is to cover the main health problems of mothers and children in the context of the family in developing areas and to examine the biological, environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic determinants of health status. These will be discussed from the point of view of age-specific health problems, identification of risk factors, and setting priorities in dealing with these problems. Successful and unsuccessful approaches, policies, and programs will be considered. The extensive and practical experience of Department faculty and students themselves provides for a realistic and in-depth consideration of the problems presented.

This course serves primarily as a background for students who intend to work globally, and particularly in developing areas of the world, but is also relevant to health problems of populations in disadvantaged areas of industrialized countries.

Course Mechanics

The course meets once per week for three hours each session. The lecture will comprise about half of the session, and student presentations and class discussion the other half.

Student Class Presentations

Brief student presentations will comprise the second hour and half of each class. The student will present a topic relevant to the lecture being presented. The talk is to be based either on the student's own experience or on existing literature. The student must check in advance with the instructor as to what they will present. The student is NOT meant to present a lecture on the overall topic of the lecture. Student topics are suggested for each session, but alternatives may be chosen if approved by the instructor.

Course Description

The course is designed for MPH, doctoral, MD, MSN, graduate, nursing, or medical students. Students with health professional and related backgrounds, and generalist students with health work experience and/or bioscience backgrounds, will be permitted to enroll. The course is offered yearly and is recommended for students interested in Global, Family, or Maternal and Child Health who are preparing for or have worked in developing countries. Students enrolled in the MPH program in Community Health Sciences and the joint African Studies, Latin American Studies, Middle Eastern Studies Program, as well as other Area Study Centers, are encouraged to take this course. Those students with plans or interest in working in developing countries or disadvantaged areas of industrialized countries will be given preference for enrollment.

Limited funds will be available for 8-12 week relevant field placements in developing countries; applications are due at the end of the quarter (an announcement will be forthcoming).

Prerequisites

One or more of the following courses:

CHS 200, Global Health Problems

CHS 231, Maternal and Child Nutrition

Epi M418, Rapid Epidemiologic Surveys in Developing Countries

or: Health experience in developing countries or with an international agency

Course Requirements

1. A brief classroom presentation (15-20 minutes) relevant to the scheduled course lecture (not a talk on the scheduled lecture), based on personal experience or reviewing literature.
2. "Two-thirds term" written examination will be given on **February 27, 2012**. This is a short-answer examination covering course content to date.
3. a. A **Short statement** requesting assistance for an identified problem in Maternal or Child Health, based on actual experience or through readings of case studies (see section on Problem Description and Term Paper). **Due March 5, 2012**.

b. A **Term Paper of no more than 8 pages, double space, plus references**. The paper should take the form of a "consultant's report" to an organization of your choice on a topic relevant to the course. It should include an analysis of the problem and a proposal to address the problem identified in the student's short statement. This paper statement is due on **March 12, 2012**.
4. Students will give a 15-20 minute presentation of their term paper to the class during the last two sessions of the course on **March 5 and 12, 2012**.

Grading

The final course grade is based approximately on the following:

Two-thirds term exam	30%
Classroom participation and short presentation	20%
Presentation and written term paper	50%

Readings

Reader: A course reader of relevant reprints, organized by session, will be available for purchase at Course Reader Material, 1081 Westwood Boulevard (entrance on Broxton), (310) 443-3303.

Recommended texts on reserve in the Biomedical Library:

Jacobsen KH. *Introduction to Global Health*. Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett, 2008. Available for sale in the Health Sciences Bookstore. (Excellent for those with no experience in developing countries.)

Semba RD, Bloem MW. *Nutrition and Health in Developing Countries*. Totowa, NJ: J.A. Majors, 2008. (Excellent reference for both health and nutrition.)

Merson MH, Black RE, Mills AJ. *International Public Health: Diseases, Programs, Systems, and Policies*, 2nd edition. Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett, 2006.

CHS 434A
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In Developing Countries

Williams CD, Baumslag N, Jelliffe DB. *Mother and Child Health: Delivering the Services*, 3rd edition. Oxford University Press, 1994 (classic, out of print; xerox copies can be arranged for).

Check *The Lancet* online at <http://www.thelancet.com> for periodic highly relevant articles.

COURSE OUTLINE

<u>SESSION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
1	Jan. 9	Course Introduction	Galal
2	Jan. 16	NO CLASS—MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY	
3	Jan. 23	Child Health in the First Two Years of Life	Galal
4	Jan. 30	Family Planning Concepts	TBA
5	Feb 6	Acute Respiratory Infection/Tuberculosis	Von Ehrenstein
6	Feb 13	Mother and Child Morbidity and Mortality; Relevant Vital Statistics	Galal
7	Feb 20	Health Problems of Preschool and School Age Children	Galal
8	Feb. 27	PRESIDENT'S DAY- NO CLASS	
9	Mar 5	2/3 TERM EXAMINATION	
10	Mar 12	Students Presentation	
(11)	Mar 19	Final Paper Due	

Final Papers due by **March 19th**.

SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR BRIEF STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
 (Inform lecturer of your topic prior to presentation)

<u>SESSION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPICS</u>	<u>STUDENT(S)</u>
4	Jan. 30	a) Case studies in family planning program	_____
		b) Abortion; or traditional birth attendants	_____ _____ _____
5	Feb 6	a) Newly emerging respiratory infections (SARS, avian flu, etc.)	_____ _____
		b) Pros and cons of BCG immunization	_____ _____ _____
6	Feb. 13	a) Appropriate newborn care in developing countries;	_____ _____
		b) Resuscitation and training programs, etc.	_____ _____
		c) Experience with cereal-based ORS oral rehydration solutions	_____ _____
7	Feb. 20	a) Cultural factors in the treatment of childhood illness (harmful/beneficial, etc.)	_____ _____
		b) Vertical vs. horizontal MCH programs, pros and cons; or personal experience with growth monitoring or other child survival programs	_____ _____ _____

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PROBLEM DESCRIPTION AND TERM PAPER

Problem statement, 1000-1500 words, due by Feb. 27, 2012

Term paper due March 12, 2012.

I. **PROBLEM STATEMENT** (due by Feb. 27)

You are the District Health Officer, or the equivalent, in a less technically developed country. You have encountered a problem or set of problems in the area of Maternal and Child Health that you feel you cannot handle adequately, and you wish to request consultative help. The problem(s) may be based on your own experience or from a case study in the literature. If readings are used, please cite references. If your experience is in the USA, a suitable problem may be drawn from an underserved area or population.

Your assignment is to define the problem(s) and formulate a request for assistance from a consultant. Describe and define the problem, and include material that you consider to be important, and relevant information so that the consultant can get a clear preliminary grasp of the situation. The literature may also be used to supply background information for a given area or country.

The purpose of the assignment is:

1. To stimulate you to delve into your own experiences and the literature to identify a representative Maternal and Child Health problem of a developing country or disadvantaged area in the USA.
2. To consider how best to formulate a request for assistance which involves identifying relevant background information and key elements of the problem, so that it has meaning for a potential consultant who does not know the area firsthand.

II. **CONSULTANT'S REPORT OR RESEARCH PROPOSAL IN RESPONSE TO THE STATED PROBLEM (TERM PAPER, due by March 12)**

This will serve as the basis for your classroom presentation and term paper. (The term paper is the final examination.) You will be expected to develop a feasible, realistic solution or program for the stated problem. Consideration is to be given to political, economic, cultural, and other relevant factors or constraints and stress principles delineated in class. Your classroom presentation will be for 30 minutes. Group work, particularly if multi-disciplinary, is possible and will depend on the size of the class (maximum two per group).

Format of term paper:

- a. Description of the identified problem and aims of the consultancy or program proposal.
- b. Previous or existing approaches or programs to deal with similar problems (briefly summarize): specifically identify the gaps of knowledge or approaches that your consultancy or program proposal intends to fill (no more than three pages).
- c. Contemplated method of approach to problem: clearly describe overall recommendations of consultancy and how these are to be implemented (no more than five pages).

For program:

Overall goal

Specific aims: Target group(s)

Components of program

Who carries out program, specific types of activities

Resources

Brief evaluation

How to convince politicians to continue the program

- d. Summary: briefly summarize your paper (no more than 200 words).
- e. Literature cited (no page limitation).
- f. Total length: no more than 12 double-spaced pages.

Dr. Osman Galal--see posted office hours and sign up on office door, or phone (310) 206-9639 to leave a message.