IH 508: Health and Human Rights
Spring 2004

Course Instructors

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Course Materials

- Twenty-five Questions on Health and Human Rights from World Health Organization
  Available at http://www.who.int/hhr/information/25_questions_hhr.pdf
- Course readings available on blackboard at http://blackboard.sph.emory.edu

Course Meeting Times and Office Hours
Fridays 8:30-10:20 am
RSPH P45

Course Description
The goal of this course is to provide students with both content and skills in the field of health and human rights, which will encourage effective public health/human rights programming. This course is an introduction to issues related to health and human rights. Building upon the issues introduced in the “Health as Social Justice” course this course will more deeply examine the interrelated role of health and human rights. Through a uniquely public health approach, this course will examine a spectrum of issues related to health and human rights including three main
topics: health as a human right, the impact of human right abuses on health, and implications for public health practice. Case studies in each of these topics will be utilized throughout the course to support critical inquiry into the burgeoning field of health and human rights.

Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify relevant documents related to human rights and health;
- Describe the impact of human rights abuses on health;
- Cite case examples of the interrelatedness of public health and human rights;
- Identify the role of public health practitioners in the field of health and human rights;
- Recognize appropriate methods for program planning for victims of human rights abuses;
- Identify strategies for human rights advocacy within public health program planning.

Course Format.
The first hour of class will typically consist of lecture/presentation. The second hour of class will consist of discussion of the readings for each course session.

Student Evaluation

Course grades will be based on the following:

- Mid-term take home exam 30%
- Final paper 20%
- Final presentation 20%
- Peer evaluation 10%
- Class participation 20%

Mid-term take home exam: Students will be given a take home examination consisting of essay questions. Students will select one essay question and provide a detailed response between 10-12 pages in length. Essay responses should include citations of outside references. Essay responses should include reference to relevant human rights documents, cases, and situational analysis.

Final Paper: Students will be placed in a group and asked to select a content area, geographic area or specific population to examine in terms of health and human rights. Students will write a 20-25 page paper describing the history of the topic, the current situation as it relates to health and human rights, and recommendations or action plans in terms of public health and human rights programming. References to scholarly documents in the fields of health and human rights are required.

Final Presentation: Each group will make a brief presentation (20-25 minutes) on his/her final paper topic. Presentations will take place the last two weeks of class and students will be expected to develop a PowerPoint presentation for their presentation.
Peer Evaluation: Group members will conduct an evaluation of their fellow group members for the final project and final presentation. Peer evaluations should consist of a paragraph statement prepared by each group member rating the performance of peers in your group. You may state the letter grade that you would assign each group member given their participation in the development of the final paper and final presentation.

Class Participation: Attendance will be taken intermittently approximately five times during the semester.

Schedule and Readings:

January 16
Course Instructor: Dabney Evans, Timothy Holtz
Introduction
Overview of the United Nations System
Introduction to Human Rights
  What are Human Rights?
  Historical Development

Readings:

January 23
Course Instructor: Dabney Evans, Alan Hinman
Introduction to significant documents in the field of health and human rights

Readings:
Twenty-five Questions on Health and Human Rights from World Health Organization Available at http://www.who.int/hhr/information/25_questions_hhr.pdf
January 30
Course Instructor: Michael Rewald
CARE USA’s Rights Based Approaches to Health

Readings:
Lor A. “Health and Human Rights Impact Assessment” (unpublished)
Evans D. “Assessment of Human Rights” (unpublished)

February 6
Course Instructor: Tim Holtz
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
Treating victims of direct human rights abuses: clinical and practical applications.
   Torture: How is it defined? What is the scope of its practice and its prevalence among refugees and asylum seekers? What are the physical, psychological, and social consequences of torture? How can survivors be helped? What are coping strategies of survivors? What are protective factors?
   Resettlement and Asylum: What is the asylum process? What health issues arise in countries of asylum? How are human rights abuses documented?

Readings:
Newspaper articles, torture during wartime in US
February 13
Course Instructor: Alan Hinman and Aun Lor
Geneva Conventions
Human Rights, Conflict, and the Health Care Worker

Readings:
Hinman A, Willis B. “Human Rights Conflict and the Health Care Worker” (unpublished)

February 20
Course Instructor: Tim Holtz and Ruben Granich or Carlos del Rio
HIV and Human Rights

Readings:
February 27
Take home exam given
Course Instructor: Dabney Evans
CEDAW
Human Rights and Health Policy; Themes in Women’s Health

Readings:

March 5
Course Instructor: Basia Tomczyk
Refugee Convention
International Refugee Health: health and human rights issues
Case Studies in Refugee Health

Readings:

March 8-12 Spring Break
March 19
Mid-term take home exam due
Course Instructor: Dabney Evans
The intersection of Ethics and Human Rights

Readings:
Amnesty International. Ethical Codes and Declarations Relevant to the Health Professions, 1994. (skim)
APHA Code of Ethics available at [www.apha.org/codeofethics](http://www.apha.org/codeofethics) read the pieces on "Writing a Public Health Code of Ethics” and “Completed Public Health Code of Ethics.”

March 26
Course Instructor: Tim Holtz
ICESCR
Unrealized economic, social, and cultural rights: Overview of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. What are labor rights? What are the health and human rights consequences of development, “globalization,” and the international monetary institutions? What are the human rights aspects of poverty and hunger? What are the health consequences of militarism? What are the effects of transnational corporations on health and human rights?

Readings:
Amnesty International brochure, “Principles for Companies.”
April 2
Course Instructor: Tamara Serwer
Human Rights in the United States: The prison system

Readings:
Rights for All: Human Rights in the United States of America (Amnesty International)
“Hepatitis C and Incarcerated Populations“ Association of State and Territorial Health Officers, pp. i-28.
Quinn B. “Jailed with mental illness; punished by the system” The Times-Herald, July 8, 2001.
Adams versus DeKalb County, summary, pp. 1-4.

April 9
Course Instructor: Dabney Evans
The social responsibility of public health practitioners

Readings:
APHA Principles on Health and Human Rights available at http://www.apha.org/journal/editorials/May00/ed5may00.htm
Sidel V. “The social responsibilities of health professionals: lessons from their role in Nazi Germany” JAMA 1996;276(20):1679-1681.

April 16
Presentations

April 23
Presentations and Final Paper due
Wrap-up and course evaluations

Last Day of Classes April 26