George Mason University  
Graduate Course Approval/Inventory Form  

Please complete this form and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses. Forward it as an email attachment to the Secretary of the Graduate Council. A printed copy of the form with signatures should be brought to the Graduate Council Meeting. Complete the Coordinator Form on page 2, if changes in this course will affect other units.

Please indicate:  

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Local Unit:  School of Public Policy  
Graduate Council Approval Date:

Course Abbreviation:  PUBP  
Course Number:  758  

Full Course Title:  Global Threats and Medical Policies  

Abbreviated Course Title (24 characters max.):  Glob Threat/Medical Pol  

Credit hours: 3  
Program of Record:

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Activity Code (please indicate):  
Lecture (LEC)  
Lab (LAB)  
Recitation (RCT)  
Studio (STU)  
Internship (INT)  
Independent Study (IND)  
Seminar (SEM)

Catalog Credit Format  3: 3:0  
Course Level:  GF(500-600)  
GA(700+)  

Maximum Enrollment: 25  
For NEW courses, first term to be offered: 05B

Prerequisites or corequisites:

Catalog Description (35 words or less)  
Please use catalog format and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses.:  
Explores medical and health governance, biosecurity and biosafety, health and natural and human-made disasters, humanitarian and emergency assistance, vaccine development, behavior and health, critical infrastructures, bioethics and resource allocations in global context.

For MODIFIED or DELETED courses as appropriate:

Last term offered:  
Previous Course Abbreviation:  
Previous number:

Description of modification:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES:

Submitted by:  ________________________________  email:  __mvanscha___

Department/Program:  ________________________________  Date:  __________________

College Committee:  ________________________________  Date:  __________________

Graduate Council Representative:  ________________________________  Date:  __________________
**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
**Course Coordination Form**  

### Approval from other units:

Please list those units outside of your own who may be affected by this new, modified, or deleted course. Each of these units must approve this change prior to its being submitted to the Graduate Council for approval.

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Graduate Council approval: ____________________________ Date: __________

Graduate Council representative: ______________________ Date: __________

Provost Office representative: _________________________ Date: __________
PUBP 758 Global Threats and Medical Policies

Syllabus

Note: This course and its companion, PUBP757, complement the Biodefense Graduate Program offered by the College of Arts and Sciences and is a coordinated training activity between the two units. It will be cross referenced, as appropriate, by the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, GMU.

Instructor: Arnauld E. Nicogossian, MD, Office of International Medical Policy, School of Public Policy

The Global Medical and Public Health Policy sequence consists of two parts, Public Policy in Global Health and Medical Practice (PUBP757) and Global Threats and Medical Policy (PUBP758). Each part comprises a series of related topics exploring current policy and practices in the era of globalization and war on terrorism. Though each part can be taken separately for 3 credit hours each, it is recommended that both parts be taken to acquire a full perspective in global terrorism and its effect on medical and public health policy formulation, assessment, planning and implementation.

Purpose

1. To provide graduate level education in global medical policies and processes with a faculty of influential international and national policy-makers from the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (NIH, OASPE, and HRSA), U.S. Department of Defense (USUHS), GMU, NASA, and others.
2. To address global medical/public health policies, needs, practices, and interdependencies in the 21st Century.
3. To discuss developing, planning and managing public health organizations in the aftermath of 9/11, bio-terrorist attacks with letters carrying anthrax, emerging and reemerging infectious diseases, including SARS, West Nile Encephalitis and Monkey Pox.
4. To develop skills in designing evaluation processes, to assess costs and performance of medical and public health activities, and in formulating associated policies dealing with the “public health fear factor” as it relates to vaccination (smallpox) or international quarantines (SARS).
5. To discuss formulation of policies and analyze practices that could violate human rights, undermine ethics, and/or create disparities in health services.
6. To complement the Core Graduate Curriculum of the GMU/School of Public Policy. The course is primarily designed for students enrolled in the Master of Public Policy (MPP), International Commerce Policy (ICP) and Doctorate programs, and the MPP Certificate in Global Health and Medical Policy. Additionally, it can accommodate professional CME (provided by another institution).

Background

The 20th Century witnessed profound cultural, economic, political and societal changes, which are still evolving. The World Medical and Public Health practices are being revolutionized by the information technology and molecular biology. The interdependencies created by globalization and international commerce have been shaping the health care concepts and policies at an accelerated pace. The G-8 politics and interests continue to impact the World Health landscape. The events of September 11, 2001, the anthrax mail attacks, the SARS epidemic and many other news worthy health events brought into international and national focus the notion of potential for bio-terrorism events and vulnerabilities of the medical and public health systems. Terror and terrorist acts are as old as human history, and many civilizations have used or experienced it throughout their existence.
The new paradigm is the sudden widespread awareness of the nature and extent of the threats and the realization that the war against terrorism will be protracted and universal. In this setting, medical and public health sectors will play a more preeminent role than ever, and policies necessary to protect the health of people world wide need to be enacted and enforced. In order to ensure the medical security of the democracies, health and medical policies have to be developed and implemented with the understanding of their global implications. Consideration of global economic, social, political and environmental implications of such public health policies needs to be developed through proper academic research and training. Recent gains achieved by new and reemerging infections, fueled by continued regional conflicts and failures of the public health system, warrants such reexamination, even in the absence of the terrorist threats.

Specific Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of the two-course sequence, the student will understand the:
1. Important public health policy issues associated with biological, chemical and nuclear threat and preventive measures. The student will be made aware of the economic, political and societal dimensions of bioterrorism.
2. Social, economic and political burden of terrorism and diseases on a global scale
4. Significance of:
   a) Ethical impacts of medical/public health policies in different cultures and countries
   b) Humanitarian and disaster relief practices
   c) Safety and security policy and practices for specific critical infrastructures
   d) Impact of the transportation and communications systems (and associated policies and practices) on health – a new dimension of public health: technology as a vector and a target for diseases including terrorism relative benefits and trade-off cost/ policies of prevention versus medical care
   e) Growing importance of Environmental impact on Public Health and medical care
   f) Vaccination Programs: Research and Development, Policies and Practices

Pass/Fail Criteria

The students are required to:
1. Attend lectures and participate in the discussions held during the sessions (30%) 
2. Select a topic for research and prepare a discussion paper to be delivered at the end of the semester (70%) A research paper on a topic selected from one of the class subject areas is required at the end of the semester. The topic will be selected by the student and approved by the class instructor. The student is responsible for the research of the topic and the content of the paper. Presentation of the material, the depth and scope of the research and citations, the relevance of the discussion and conclusions, including impacts and outcomes (social, economic, international, etc.) and potentials for policy development, will determine the grade of the paper. The paper grade will be integrated with the class discussions to formulate the overall semester grade
3. Please note that all the university rules and regulations for citing and presenting the work from the published literature will apply to the preparation of the semester research paper. Also please do not include sensitive or other materials from any source which have not been officially cleared for public dissemination Please get familiar with the internet plagiarism issues at http://firstclass.wellesley.edu/%7Esparks/cs100/rp1.html
4. The classes will be in the form of lectures, topical seminars, group discussions, case studies, or practicum. An elective practicum can be arranged for some students to supplement the above criterion.
Required reading will be assigned primarily from the following textbooks:

*(2) Donald A. Henderson, Thomas Inglesby, Tara O'Toole* (Editors), *Bioterrorism: Guidelines for Medical and Public Health Management*. Johns Hopkins
(3) Sheldon Watts *Disease and Medicine in World History*, Routledge 2003

(* Primary textbooks)
Course Outline

Each class session will be a combination of lecture and class discussion. Most sessions will feature a guest lecture given by an experienced practitioner in the field.

1. Introduction to the Course and Review of Historically Important Medical and Public Health Events, shaping medical and health policy and organizations

2. History of Terrorism, focus on bio-terrorism and policy evolution

3. Humanitarian Assistance, Policies and Practices

4. Special Issues in Bioterrorism: Emerging and reemerging Zoonotic Diseases and Agro-Terrorism

5. Preventing infections and bioterrorism threats: Vaccine development, administration, international agreements: Public Health Policy, Politics and Commerce

6. Implication of knowledge gained from prior Chemical, Radiological and Biological events to Terrorism Response and Emergency Preparedness


8. Culture, Behavior and Health: Anthropology and Bioterrorism


11. Understanding terrorism, and Bioterrorism, in the context of Public Health ‘ Psychological and stress concerns


14. International Ethics and Bioethics, their interpretation, practice and the post September 11, 2001 impacts: summary, conclusions and class discussions on earlier assigned reading materials and special topics
Final Research Papers

Both Part 1 and 2 require a final research paper. The paper length including references should be 15 to 30 pages (double spaces) and will conform to the following format:

i. Abstract ½ page
ii. Purpose: 1 paragraph
iii. Introduction and Background: 2 to 6 pages
iv. Methodology: 3 to 6 pages
v. Results: 3 to 6 pages
vi. Discussion: 3 to 6 pages
vii. Conclusions: 2 to 4 pages
viii. Supporting Bibliography


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