Global Health Studies Courses (GHS)

GHS Courses

This is a list of courses with the subject code GHS. For more information, see Global Health Studies (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences) in the Catalog.

GHS:1029 First-Year Seminar 1 s.h.
Introduction to intellectual life of the University; opportunity to work closely with a faculty member or senior administrator; active participation to ease transition to college-level learning.

GHS:1181 Ancient Medicine 3 s.h.
Thematic examination of theories and practices of Greco-Roman physicians, which in turn became the medical tradition of medieval Islamic world and European medicine until mid-19th century; historical medical terms, theories, and practices. GE: Historical Perspectives. Same as CLSA:1181.

GHS:1200 Disabilities and Inclusion in Writing and Film Around the World 3 s.h.

GHS:1290 Native American Foods and Foodways 3 s.h.
Native Americans as original farmers of 46 percent of the world's table vegetables; examination of food as a cultural artifact (e.g., chocolate, tobacco); food as a primary way in which human beings express their identities; environmental, material, and linguistic differences that shape unique food cultures among Native peoples across the Western Hemisphere; close analysis of Indigenous foods, rituals, and gender roles associated with them; how colonization transformed Native American, European, and African American cultures. GE: Diversity and Inclusion. Same as AMST:1290, HIST:1290, NAIS:1290.

GHS:2000 Introduction to Global Health Studies 3 s.h.
Global health as a study of the dynamic relationship between human health and social, biological, and environmental factors that drive the spread of disease; core areas of global health research that may include health inequalities, maternal and child health, infectious diseases, nutrition, environmental health, and health interventions. GE: International and Global Issues. Same as ANTH:2103.

GHS:2080 The Cultural Politics of HIV-AIDS 3 s.h.
Complex historical shifts in cultural perceptions about HIV-AIDS in the U.S. and transnationally; controversies around HIV-AIDS and their links with questions of gender and sexuality; how HIV-AIDS subsequently became the basis of a transnational industry comprising nongovernmental organizations, donors, and activists across the global north and south, starting from 1980s in the U.S. when HIV-AIDS first emerged into public sphere as a gay disease; link between HIV-AIDS and ideologies of development or progress, neocolonialism, and emergence of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and questioning (LGBTIQ) movements in many parts of world. Recommendations: background in gender studies, and completion of rhetoric or at least one social sciences course. Same as GWSS:2080.

GHS:2090 Medical Spanish in Contemporary Society 4 s.h.
Vocabulary related to medical field; grammatical concepts; health-related cultural competence; discussion of health issues concerning Hispanic communities in the U.S. and abroad. Taught in Spanish. Requirements: SPAN:1502 or SPAN:1503. Same as SPAN:2090.

GHS:2110 Seven Billion and Counting: Introduction to Population Dynamics 3 s.h.
How dramatic changes to the size of population has changed fundamental characteristics of populations and processes, such as food and water scarcity, climate change and biodiversity, rise of megacities, health and disease, migration, social networks, economics, environment, and household structure. GE: Social Sciences. Same as GEOG:2110.

GHS:2160 Culture, Health, and Wellness: Southeast Asia in Focus 3 s.h.
Exploration of complex cross-cultural interactions between health, wellness, and culture; insights drawn from the culturally diverse region of Southeast Asia including Indonesia, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Burma, and Philippines, among others. Same as ANTH:2160.

GHS:2164 Culture and Healing: An Introduction to Medical Anthropology 3 s.h.
Health professions are increasingly focused on how to best provide health care to culturally diverse populations; introduction to key cultural and social influences on sickness and healing; worldwide examples. Same as ANTH:2164.

GHS:2181 The Anthropology of Aging 3 s.h.
Comparative anthropological perspective on aging; ethnographies from diverse contexts used to examine intersections of kinship, religion, health, and medicine in later life. Same as ANTH:2181, ASP:2181.

GHS:2182 Africa: Health and Society 3 s.h.
Cultural, political, and economic diversity of African societies from precolonial period to present day; relationship between lived experiences of African people and understanding of their societies from afar; why Africa, more than any other region, is associated with warfare, hunger, and disease; idea of "Africa" in the world today; shared misunderstanding of life on continent contrasted with everyday lives of people who are not so different from ourselves. Same as ANTH:2182.

GHS:2260 Hard Cases in Healthcare at the Beginning of Life 3 s.h.
Exploration of ethical impact that advances in biotechnology—including genetic, reproductive, and neonatal technology—are having in the medical arena and on humanity; consideration of the powerful influence that religion and spirituality have on most people's thinking about life and death. Same as RELS:2260.

GHS:2265 Hard Cases in Healthcare at the End of Life 3 s.h.
Preparation for future healthcare providers to make difficult ethical decisions regarding the end of life; interactive course. Same as ASP:2265, RELS:2265.

GHS:2320 Origins of Human Infectious Disease 3 s.h.
Origin and evolution of important infectious diseases in human history; biological evolution of infectious agents and biocultural responses to emerging infectious diseases; primary focus on viruses and bacteria; selected world problems from an anthropological perspective; current dilemmas and those faced by diverse human groups in recent times and distant past. Same as ANTH:2320.
GHS:2415 Bioethics 3 s.h.
Recent developments in biotechnology and medicine; designer babies and cloning, genetic screening for disease, distributive justice in health care, animal experimentation, physician-assisted suicide, and euthanasia. Same as PHIL:2415.

GHS:2650 Global Reproduction 3 s.h.
History of birth control and work of activists and organizations that emerged to promote it; troubling connections that spawned between reproductive rights and population control movements. Same as GWSS:2650.

GHS:2674 Food, Body, and Belief: A Global Perspective 3 s.h.
Exploration of local, national, and global forces that shape food consumption, body image, and spiritual practices. Taught in English. Same as GWSS:2674, RELS:2674.

GHS:2770 Black and White Community Politics 3 s.h.
Students study the movement for environmental justice within the broader context of U.S. land use and development to understand environmental racism's prevalence and how it can be addressed; topics include pollution, health, food access, transportation and agricultural practice to land loss, public space, and infrastructure; exploration of perspectives on the environment and environmentalism. Same as AFAM:2770, SOC:2770.

GHS:3010 Identifying and Developing a Global Health Project 3 s.h.
Review of major components of global health related research process; preparation for a local or international project which addresses a global health issue in a systematic way. Same as IGPI:3011.

GHS:3011 Global Research: Strategies and Skills 1 s.h.
Skill development in international research; academic projects; work with research librarian; activity-based introduction to article, statistical, and governmental databases; research and popular materials; information discovery process (tools and search strategies); enhancement of critical thinking skills. Same as IS:3011, ULIB:3011.

GHS:3012 Community-Based Global Health Research 3 s.h.
Introduction to community-based participatory research methods; ethical engagement with a local/global organization addressing the social determinants of health.

GHS:3015 Transnational Sexualities 3 s.h.
How ideas about normative and nonnormative sexuality, gender/sexual identities, and related social movements travel across geographical, political, and cultural boundaries; potentials and limits of using conceptual frameworks (i.e., sexuality, gender, LGBT, queer) across the west and global south; how sexuality always intersects with race, class, nationhood, and transnational systems of power; power structures that shape gender/sexuality through a transnational approach; connection of inequalities within the United States with those across the world. Same as GWSS:3015.

GHS:3021 Mental Health in the Ancient World 3 s.h.
Exploration of approaches to mental health in ancient Mediterranean world including Mesopotamia, the Levant, Greece, and Rome; examination of nosology, etiology, therapy, and ethics of mental health from ancient medical, philosophical, religious, and literary perspectives; mental health in cultural contexts. Same as CLSA:3020.

GHS:3030 Global Health Today 1 s.h.
Attendance at diverse on-campus, local, and regional global health events. Same as CPH:3240.

GHS:3034 Doing Harm by Doing Good: The Ethics of Studying, Volunteering, and Working in Global Communities 1 s.h.
Exploration of complex ethical issues involved in engaging in experiential learning (e.g., study abroad, volunteering, internships, research) in global communities; topics may include patient rights versus the promise of "hands-on" experience for untrained undergraduates; pitfalls of voluntourism and substituting "free" foreign labor for paid local employees; commercial aspects of study abroad— incentives and recruiting on campus by external contractors; how to select a reputable internship provider; online resources which help students become global ambassadors for patient safety; basic tools for thinking critically about outcomes.

GHS:3035 Engaging in Global Health 1 s.h.
How to become a participant in promoting health throughout the world; student peers and global health professionals share their experiences in global health; how professionals and volunteers work in a broad variety of settings; working with government-based programs, international organizations (e.g., UNICEF, World Vision), health care agencies, faith-based organizations, industry, and academic institutions; various ways to become engaged and be involved in global health.

GHS:3036 Ethics, Politics, and Global Health 3 s.h.
Ethics of health care policies, delivery systems, and interventions examined globally and locally.

GHS:3037 Technology to Improve Global Health 3 s.h.
Examination of existing, new, and future technologies used to revolutionize global health promotion through a variety of unique and often low-cost tools (e.g., mobile phones, drones, artificial intelligence).

GHS:3045 Spanish Health Narratives 3 s.h.
Narratives are the central communicative act through which humans make sense of wellness and illness, life and death, always within contexts of language and culture; students focus on reading and analyzing narratives about health and health care, and opportunities to create their own narratives; particular emphasis on health care disparities and issues they present for Spanish-language communities in the United States and abroad as context for individual narratives. Taught in Spanish. Requirements: one course numbered SPAN:2000 or above. Same as SPAN:3045.

GHS:3050 Global Aging 3 s.h.
Demographic factors that contribute to the worldwide phenomena of population aging in context of WHO Active Aging and the United Nation's Principles for Older Persons frameworks. Same as ASP:3135, SSW:3135.

GHS:3060 Studies in Complementary and Alternative Medicine 3 s.h.
Rotating topics related to complementary and alternative medicine.
GHS:3070 Hungry Planet: Global Geographies of Food 3 s.h.
Societal and environmental implications of past, current, and future global food supply examined from a geographical perspective; focus on questions of who eats what, where, and why; transformative history of agriculture, modern agribusiness and alternative food supplies, geopolitical implications of food production, food scarcity and rising food costs, urban versus rural agriculture, the obesity epidemic versus malnutrition, and the future of food. Same as GEOG:3070.

GHS:3105 Contraception Across Time and Cultures 3 s.h.
Methods and history of contraception; issues of unwanted pregnancy and birth control in fiction, film, and media around the world. Taught in English. Same as CLSA:3105, GRMN:3105, GWSS:3105, WLLC:3105.

GHS:3110 Colonialism and Indigenous Health Equity 3 s.h.
Health problems and services for Indigenous populations worldwide, from perspective of Fourth World postcolonial politics. Prerequisites: ANTH:1101 or ANTH:2165 or GHS:2000 or HIST:1049. Same as ANTH:3110, NAIS:3110.

GHS:3111 Geography of Health 3 s.h.
Provision of health care in selected countries, with particular reference to the Third World; focus on problems of geographical, economic, cultural accessibility to health services; disease ecology, prospective payment systems, privatization, medical pluralism. Same as GEOG:3110.

GHS:3113 Religion and Healing 3 s.h.

GHS:3120 Global Maternal and Child Health 3 s.h.
Interdisciplinary approach to health of women and children locally and around the world.

GHS:3150 Media and Health 3 s.h.
Potential and limits of mass media's ability to educate the public about health; research and theory on the influence of information and entertainment media; theories, models, assumptions of mass communication in relation to public health issues. Same as CBH:3150, JMC:3150.

GHS:3151 The Anthropology of the Beginnings and Ends of Life 3 s.h.
Examination of diverse understandings of birth and death, drawing on anthropological analysis of personhood, kinship, ritual, and medicine; how social inequality and new technologies shape human experience at life's margins. Prerequisites: ANTH:1101 or ANTH:2100. Same as ANTH:3151, ASP:3151.

GHS:3152 Anthropology of Caregiving and Health 3 s.h.
Diverse understandings and practices of care around the world; focus on relationships between caregiving practices and health across the life course. Same as ANTH:3152, ASP:3152.

GHS:3162 History of Global Health 3 s.h.
Foremost problems of health and disease in colonial and postcolonial societies; topical approach. Same as HIST:3162.

GHS:3170 Visualizing Global Health Through Popular Fiction and Film 3 s.h.
Prominent global health issues visualized through the lens of popular film and fiction; use of books and film to explore how the public understands various global health topics (e.g., human trafficking, emerging infectious diseases, post-apocalyptic societies, population control).

GHS:3180 Climate Change and Health 3 s.h.
Addressing global health issues affected by climate change through an interdisciplinary lens, drawing from medicine, human psychology, law, history, business, religion, and environmental science; exploring health and disease risk patterns as they vary around the world; examining the major social, economic, political, and related factors contributing to our changing climate and health and security threats; introducing the basic public health and human rights concepts and policies necessary for reducing morbidity and mortality rates among at-risk populations; preparing students to work internationally or domestically to address threats of a changing climate.

GHS:3191 Sustainable Development: India and the Global Context 3 s.h.
Introduction to development in India; critical examination of current discourses on domestic sociological, economic, and ecological environmental effects of the current model of development.

GHS:3192 Environment and Health in Modern India 3 s.h.
Introduction to India's environmental and health traditions; major contemporary scenarios.

GHS:3199 Anthropology and Global Health Policy 3 s.h.
Global health has grown as an area of practice and study, with well-being and livelihoods of increasing numbers of people now deeply influenced by these ideas, practices, and policies; students engage with ways that global health programs have influenced experiences of health and illness by those who participate in these programs, critically analyzing how global health interacts with local dynamics of inequality, race, gender, and power. Same as ANTH:3199, IS:3198.

GHS:3230 Health Experience of Immigrants, Migrants, and Refugees 3 s.h.
Interdisciplinary exploration of the unique health concerns, challenges, and health care experiences of the diverse populations on the move around the world and new to this country; issues to be explored include four overlapping sections—broad overview (definitions, populations, and significant health challenges); health risks and needs of specific sub-populations; patterns of public and private resources and responses; and the local picture (Iowa and Midwest), programs, cases, and concerns.

GHS:3300 Envisioning Future Worlds: Sustainable Development and Its Alternatives 3 s.h.
Sociocultural, geopolitical, and environmental implications of sustainable development and its alternatives investigated from a geographic perspective; geopolitical history of sustainable development; measures of sustainability in development; major critiques of sustainable development; alternative visions of development from different geographical contexts including ecofeminism, Buen Vivir, food sovereignty, degrowth, commoning, and the People's Health Movement. Same as GEOG:3300.
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<td>The Politics of Progress: NGOs, Development, and Sexuality</td>
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<td>GHS:3560</td>
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<td>GHS:3600</td>
<td>Development in a Global Context I: Preparing for an Internship in Health, Gender, and Environment</td>
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<td>GHS:3850</td>
<td>Promoting Health Globally</td>
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<td>GHS:4000</td>
<td>Global Health Studies Service Learning: Local Health is Global Health</td>
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<td>Social Entrepreneurship and Global Health</td>
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<td>GHS:4003</td>
<td>Case Studies in Global Health Inequities</td>
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GHS:4100 Topics in Global Health  
1-3 s.h.
Special topics related to global health studies.

GHS:4140 Feminist Activism and Global Health  
3 s.h.
How female gender intersects with culture, environment, and political economy to shape health and illness; reproductive health, violence, drug use, cancer; readings in anthropology, public health. Prerequisites: ANTH:1101 or GWSS:1001 or CPH:1400 or GHS:2000. Same as ANTH:4140, CBH:4140, GWSS:4140.

GHS:4150 Health and Environment: GIS Applications  
3 s.h.
Introduction to how geographic information systems (GIS) and spatial statistics are used in the study of patterns of health and disease in space and time. Same as GEOG:4150, IGPI:4150.

GHS:4205 Culture, Language, and Health  
3 s.h.
Exploration of health, wellness, and illness from a perspective of language and culture; languages we use to describe our mental and physical health that are situated within culture-specific ideas of human bodies, minds, disease, and wellness; understanding where beliefs about health and illness come from and exploring other systems of belief on their own terms prepares students to be better informed health care practitioners, more aware patients within health care systems, and more sensitive caregivers in health related settings; emphasis on observation, asking questions, and analyzing health care worlds. Taught in Spanish. Requirements: two courses in Spanish numbered 3000 or above. Same as SPAN:4205.

GHS:4260 Global Water and Health  
3 s.h.
Overview of global water and health; microbial and toxicant identification, water-related adverse health effects, risk assessment, approaches to reduce water-related disease, distal water-related influences (e.g., global warming), and historic cases. Same as OEH:4260.

GHS:4530 Global Road Safety  
3 s.h.
Road safety problem, data sources, research methods used in field, and how intervention and prevention programs are developed and evaluated; lecture, hands-on approaches. Same as CPH:4220, OEH:4530.

GHS:4770 Environmental Justice  
3 s.h.
Introduction to the field of environmental justice; understanding and addressing the processes that lead poor and marginalized communities to face a disproportionate degree of environmental risks and hazards. Same as AFAM:4770, GEOG:4770.

GHS:4990 Independent Project in Global Health  
arr.
Independent work completed under the supervision of global health studies faculty.

GHS:4991 Honors Thesis in Global Health Studies  
3 s.h.
Completion of honors thesis in consultation with a faculty mentor. Prerequisites: GHS:3010.

GHS:4992 Global Health Studies Honors Cohort  
0 s.h.
Students complete all requirements for honors in the global health studies major; supervision by global health studies honors advisor. Corequisites: GHS:4991.

GHS:4999 International Experience  
0 s.h.
Engagement in international experiences. Same as IS:4999.

GHS:5000 Graduate Seminar in Global Health  
2 s.h.
In-depth discussion and analysis of rotating topics pertinent to global health studies.

GHS:5300 Envisioning Future Worlds: Sustainable Development and Its Alternatives  
3 s.h.
Sociocultural, geopolitical, and environmental implications of sustainable development and its alternatives investigated from a geographic perspective; geopolitical history of sustainable development; measures of sustainability in development; major critiques of sustainable development; alternative visions of development from different geographical contexts including ecofeminism, Buen Vivir, food sovereignty, degrowth, commoning, and the People’s Health Movement. Same as GEOG:5300.

GHS:5455 Health Insurance and Managed Care  
3 s.h.
History and theory of insurance, comparative health systems, health systems and networks, HMOs, public health insurance, care for uninsured; emphasis on public policy. Prerequisites: HMP:5005. Corequisites: PHAR:6330 or HMP:5410. Same as HMP:5450.

GHS:6550 Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases  
3 s.h.
Underlying epidemiological concepts of infection disease, including causation and surveillance; prevention and control; case studies. Offered fall semesters. Prerequisites: EPID:4400. Same as EPID:6550.

GHS:7160 Global History of Race, Science, and Medicine  
3 s.h.
Examination of the history of social construction of race in scientific and medical thought; use of science and medicine to conceptualize race, as well as how race was used by scientists and physicians in their practice; primary focus is on the Atlantic World—Europe, Africa, and the Americas—and touches briefly on the construction of race in other parts of the world. Same as HIST:7160.