

- Course Title:** *Culture and Health* Version 01/25/2023
- Course Number:** *UGPH0521J030*
- Course Location:** *School of Public Health, Piscataway, Classroom 2B (synchronous)*
- Course Date & Time:** *Tuesdays, 6pm-8pm*
- Course Instructor:** *Merlene Fredericks - James, MBBS, MPH, DrPH. Associate Professor, Urban Global Public Health, Rutgers School of Public Health. (See Canvas for contact information)*
- Office Hours:** *Tuesdays 5.00pm – 6.00pm at Piscataway and on Zoom: [Link for C&H Open Office Hour, Tuesdays 5-6pm](#) and by appointment.*
- Course Website:** canvas.rutgers.edu
- Required Course Text:** *Anthropology and Public Health: Bridging Differences in Culture and Society (2009). RA Hahn and MC Inhorn. <https://bit.ly/38zhAFx>*

Additional/Supplemental Readings/Resources: *See Reading List and Canvas course site*

Course Description: *This course examines theoretical, ethical, and applied elements of sociocultural research including major methods, challenges, and practices. It also combines a diversity of timely cases to convey the need for cultural awareness and competency in all contexts on global health.*

The course further seeks to explain the various concepts and perspectives on culture and health and situates culture as an integral component to be considered in attaining health goals. Participants will examine public health problems within a larger social and cultural context. The role of culture in research, development of and evaluation of public health initiatives, will also be explored.

To effectively create and implement public health policies and practices, public health professionals must account for the cultures of the people they serve, while recognizing cultural blind spots practitioners and the discipline possess. This course will examine examples of how public health officials have succeeded and failed to account for culture and its influence on how communities have engaged with, created, and responded to public health campaigns and actions.

Selected Concentration Competencies Addressed: *The competencies addressed in this elective course, Culture and Health for the MPH in Global Public Health include:*

- 1. Demonstrate an understanding of the economic, educational, political, sociocultural, environmental, ecological, and biological conditions that represent obstacles to attaining global health*
- 2. Analyze root causes of morbidity and mortality in major regions of the world and how they are affected by demographic, sociocultural, biological, occupational, and environmental factors*

3. *Apply fundamental principles of global standards for the protection of human subjects in diverse cultural settings*
4. *Apply the fundamental principles of global public health perspectives on global public health education, research, and practice*
5. *Exhibit skill sets required for global health practice including written and verbal communication skills, capacity for interprofessional teamwork, leadership, social awareness, and cultural competency to enhance capacity strengthening and service delivery with compassion and integrity.*

Please visit the Concentration webpages on the School of Public Health's website at sph.rutgers.edu for additional competencies addressed by this course for other degrees and concentrations.

Course Objectives: By the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- *Describe and explore varying definitions for culture in the context of health*
- *Differentiate the following:*
 - *Cultural impacts on health*
 - *Culture of health*
 - *Cultural competency/respect*
- *Assess and relate cultural experience to a health promoting belief or practice*
- *Describe the Social Determinants of Health conceptual framework and discuss the positioning of culture within that framework*
- *Utilize a cultural model to determine cultural factors to be considered in the development of a health program*
- *Recommend and detail the application of methods of research on culture for a health-related challenge*
- *Analyze ethical issues in past health research on different cultures and discuss measures to prevent recurrence in future health research*
- *Describe the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and explore the contribution of culture to health-related SDG Targets*
- *Discuss the work of global health agencies from a culture and health perspective.*
- *Reflect on how well-meaning health policies can negatively impact on the culture of local populations*
- *Examine the Influence of culture on global health policymaking*
- *Explore the impact of culture on a current global health crisis*

Course Requirements and Grading:

Group Assessments which occur during class (e.g. Assignment 2) will be submitted before the end of in-person classes. All other assessments (Discussions/Online Activities, Quizzes, Assignments and Online 30) will be due by 6pm on the Tuesday following classes (1 week after they are released). Assignments for Week 8 will be due in the week after Spring Recess and the final assignment will be due on the final teaching day of the semester. See exact submission dates in the Course Schedule and Canvas.

	Grade Value
<u>Discussions and online activities:</u> Your opinion matters. Students will make an initial comment online and then respond to posts from at least 2 peers.	16 pts
<u>Online Quiz:</u> Quizzes will be based on weekly readings or material related to content covered during the course	15 pts
<u>Assignment #1:</u> Demonstrating culture and health terminology. Students will be given a scenario and will prepare short written answers (1-page assignment).	5 pts.
<u>Assignment #2:</u> A case study on the Social Determinants of Health. This group assignment will be done during class.	5 pts.
<u>Assignment #3:</u> Recommend and detail the application of one method of formative research on culture, to a given health related scenario.	10 pts
<u>Assignment #4:</u> Explore the contribution of culture to one Health related Sustainable Development Goal, SDG 3 Target	10 pts
<u>Assignment #5:</u> Explore the impact of culture on a current global health crisis.	15 pts
<u>Class Participation:</u> Points will be awarded to students who are present throughout each class and contribute to weekly class discussions (includes in-class presentations).	12 pts
<u>Online 30 activities:</u> Generally due by 6pm on class day. See Course Schedule.	12 pts
Total:	100 pts

Grading Policy:

94 – 100	A
90 – <94	A-
87 – <90	B+
84 – <87	B
80 – <84	B-
77 – <80	C+
70 – <77	C
<70	F

Assignment Standards:

Lateness: Assignments turned in after the official collection period are considered late. Unless the instructor and student come to an arrangement at least one week before class, there is a 10% point penalty for written work turned in late. If you need to turn in something after the date due, please discuss it with the instructor BEFORE the due date to avoid point penalty.

Grammar/Spelling: If more than eight (8) gross punctuation, grammar or spelling errors occur in the written assignments, they will be returned with no grade. These can be resubmitted within five days with a 10% point penalty. There is a formal policy on plagiarism in the school catalog that will be the policy for the class.

Citations: Citation style for references in written assignments is American Psychological Association (APA). Please use this APA citation style for references.

Course Materials: Students are responsible and will be held accountable for all assignments and materials discussed during missed classes. Contact the instructor before or after a missed class to discuss any missed assignments. Slides and assignments are available on Canvas.

Margins and Page Limits Requirements: Refer to each assignment's instructions for margins and page limit requirements. A deduction of 10% will occur if an assignment is over the maximum page limit. Assignment instructions are available on Canvas.

Extra Credit: There will be a couple of ways to earn extra credit for this class. Extra credit opportunities will be posted on Canvas.

Course Schedule:

Week	Date 2022	Course Topic	Link to Competencies	Online 30 Activities	Assignments/ Assessments
1	Jan 17	Overview of course & review of Syllabus	Exhibit skill sets required for global health practice including written and verbal communication skills, capacity for interprofessional teamwork, leadership, social awareness and cultural competency to enhance capacity strengthening and service delivery with compassion and integrity	Review syllabus, reading material. <i>Complete by 6pm, Tuesday Jan 17</i>	Online Activity: (3 points) Due: 01/23/2023,10am
2	Jan 24	Culture and health: Cultural impacts on health.	Demonstrate an understanding of the economic, educational, political, sociocultural, environmental, ecological and biological conditions that represent obstacles to attaining global health	Prepare talking points pre-class (1 point) Due by 6pm, Tuesday Jan 24	Online Quiz: (5 points) Due: 01/31/2023,6 pm
3	Jan 31	Culture and health: Cultural competency/ respect. Culture of health.	Exhibit skill sets required for global health practice including written and verbal communication skills, capacity for interprofessional teamwork, leadership, social awareness and cultural competency to enhance capacity strengthening and service delivery with compassion and integrity	Pre-class Online activity: (1.5 points) Due by 6pm, Tuesday Jan 31	Assignment 1:(5 points) Due: 02/07/2023,6 pm
4	Feb 7	Assess and relate cultural experience to a health promoting belief or practice	Exhibit skill sets required for global health practice including written and verbal communication skills, capacity for interprofessional teamwork, leadership, social awareness and cultural competency to enhance capacity strengthening and service delivery with compassion and integrity	Conduct informal interviews with family and friends in preparing class presentations. (Detailed instructions will be provided in Week 3) <i>Due by 6pm Tuesday Feb 7</i>	Discussion (5 points) Due: 02/14/2023, 6 pm

5	Feb 14	Social Determinants of Health conceptual framework and the positioning of culture within that framework	Demonstrate an understanding of the economic, educational, political, sociocultural, environmental, ecological and biological conditions that represent obstacles to attaining global health	Prepare talking points pre-class: (1 point) <i>Due by 6pm Tuesday Feb 14</i>	<i>Note: In-class Group work. Assignment 2: (5 points) 02/14/2023, 8 pm</i> Online Quiz: (5 points) Due: 02/21/2023, 6 pm
6	Feb 21	Utilize a cultural model to determine cultural factors to be considered in the development of health programs	Apply the fundamental principles of global public health perspectives on global public health education, research, and practice	Pre-class Online activity: (1.5 points) <i>Due by 6pm Tuesday Feb 21</i>	No assignment
7	Feb 28	Application of one method of research on culture, to a health-related challenge	Apply the fundamental principles of global public health perspectives on global public health education, research, and practice	View multiple videos related to research on culture <i>Due by 6pm Tuesday Feb 28</i>	Assignment 3: (10 points) Due: 03/07/2023, 6 pm
8	Mar 7	Ethical issues in past health research on different cultures and measures to prevent recurrence	Apply fundamental principles of global standards for the protection of human subjects in diverse cultural settings	<i>Note: Online 30 activity for week 7, will be added to Week 8's assignment.</i>	Discussion: (5 points) + Online 30 activity (1 point) Due: 03/21/2023, 6 pm <i>(After Spring Recess)</i>
SPRING RECESS: March 11-19, 2023					
9	Mar 21	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the contribution of culture to	Demonstrate an understanding of the economic, educational, political, sociocultural, environmental, ecological and biological conditions that represent obstacles to attaining global health	Prepare talking points pre-class: (1 point) <i>Due by 6pm Tuesday March 21</i>	Assignment 4: (10 points) Due: 03/28/2023, 6 pm

		health-related SDG Targets			
10	Mar 28	Work of global health agencies reviewed from a culture and health perspective	Analyze root causes of morbidity and mortality in major regions of the world and how they are affected by demographic, sociocultural, biological, occupational and environmental factors	Pre-class Online Activity: (1.5 points) <i>Due by 6pm Tuesday March 28</i>	Discussion: (3 points) Due: 04/04/2023, 6 pm
11	Apr 4	How well-meaning health policies can negatively impact on the culture of local populations	Demonstrate an understanding of the economic, educational, political, sociocultural, environmental, ecological and biological conditions that represent obstacles to attaining global health	View additional videos related to the topic <i>Due by 6pm Tuesday April 4</i>	Online Quiz: (5 points) Due: 04/11/2023, 6 pm
12	Apr 11	Influence of Culture on Global Health policymaking	Demonstrate an understanding of the economic, educational, political, sociocultural, environmental, ecological and biological conditions that represent obstacles to attaining global health	Pre-class Online activity: (1.5 points) Due by Tuesday April 11, 6pm	No assignment
13	Apr 18	Impact of culture on a current global health crisis	Analyze root causes of morbidity and mortality in major regions of the world and how they are affected by demographic, sociocultural, biological, occupational and environmental factors	Prepare talking points pre-class: (1 point) Due by Tuesday April 18, 6pm	Note: In class power point presentations: (5 points) <i>Due: 04/18/2023,6pm</i>
14	Apr 25	Oral Reflections on culture and health	Exhibit skill sets required for global health practice including written and verbal communication skills, capacity for interprofessional teamwork, leadership, social awareness and cultural competency to enhance capacity strengthening and service delivery with compassion and integrity	Prepare talking points pre-class: (1point) Due by Tuesday April 25, 6pm	Note: In-class verbal presentations: (2 points) <i>Due: 04/25/2023,6pm</i>
15	May 2	Final – End of Course Assignment	Exhibit skill sets required for global health practice including written and verbal communication skills, capacity for interprofessional teamwork, leadership, social awareness and cultural competency to enhance capacity strengthening and service delivery with compassion and integrity	No Online 30	Assignment 5: (15 points) <u>Due by Monday May 8, 2023, 12 midnight</u>

Note: See Canvas for weekly readings and supplementary materials

Learning Management System: Canvas will be used extensively throughout the semester for course syllabus, assignments, announcements, communication and/or other course-related activities. It is the student's responsibility to familiarize themselves with Canvas and check it regularly. If you have difficulties accessing Canvas, please inform the instructor and Canvas Support (help@canvas.rutgers.edu). Canvas is accessible at canvas.rutgers.edu.

School of Public Health Honor Code: The School of Public Health Honor Code is found in the School Catalog (sph.rutgers.edu/academics/catalog.html). Each student bears a fundamental responsibility for maintaining academic integrity and intellectual honesty in his or her graduate work. For example, all students are expected to observe the generally accepted principles of scholarly work, to submit their own rather than another's work, to refrain from falsifying data, and to refrain from receiving and/or giving aid on examinations or other assigned work requiring independent effort. In submitting written material, the writer takes full responsibility for the work as a whole and implies that, except as properly noted by use of quotation marks, footnotes, etc., both the ideas and the works used are his or her own. In addition to maintaining personal academic integrity, each student is expected to contribute to the academic integrity of the School community by not facilitating inappropriate use of her/his own work by others and by reporting acts of academic dishonesty by others to an appropriate school authority. It should be clearly understood that plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can lead to sanctions up to and including separation from the Rutgers School of Public Health.

Students with Disabilities: Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student must apply for Services by first completing a Registration Form with the Rutgers Office of Disability Services (ODS) at ods.rutgers.edu. The student will also be required to participate in an ODS intake interview and provide documentation. If reasonable accommodations are granted, ODS will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations which should be shared with your instructors as early in your courses as possible.

Commitment to Safe Learning Environment: The Rutgers School of Public Health is committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the School as a whole. Free expression in an academic community is essential to the mission of providing the highest caliber of education possible. The School encourages civil discourse, reasoned thought, sustained discussion, and constructive engagement. Provocative ideas respectfully presented are an expected result. An enlightened academic community, however, connects freedom with responsibility. The School encourages all students to disclose any situations where you may feel unsafe, discriminated against, or harassed. Harassment or discrimination of any kind will be not tolerated and violations may lead to disciplinary actions.

Student Well-Being: The School of Public Health recognizes that students may experience stressors or challenges that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. If the source of your stressors or challenges is academic, students are encouraged to discuss these challenges and circumstances with their instructor, if they feel they may need additional support or temporary accommodations at the beginning or during this course. The course instructor may consider making reasonable temporary adjustments depending on the student's situation. For personal concerns or if additional support is needed, students may reach out to the [Office of Student Affairs](#) or any of the appropriate referral resources listed on the [SPH Student Connect](#) Canvas page.

Reporting Discrimination or Harassment: If you experience any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. You may report such incidents to the [RBHS Title IX Office](#) or to the School of Public Health's [Office of Student Affairs](#). Rutgers University has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. If you experience any other form of discrimination or harassment, including racial, ethnic, religious, political, or academic, please report any

such incidents to the School's [Office of Student Affairs](#). The School strongly encourages all students to report any incidents of discrimination or harassment to the School. Please be aware that all Rutgers employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as advocates, counselors, clergy and healthcare providers as listed in Appendix A to [Policy 10.3.12](#)) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the School and potentially the University. For example, if you tell a faculty or staff member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty or staff member must share that information with the [RBHS Title IX Coordinator](#). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can find a list of resources in Appendix A to University [Policy 10.3.12](#). For more information about your options at Rutgers, please visit [Rutgers Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance](#).

Overview of School Policies: Academic and non-academic policies and procedures, such as Auditing a Course, Retaking Courses, Grade Grievance and others that cover registration, courses and grading, academic standing and progress, student rights and responsibilities, graduation and more may be found under [Policies](#) on the School of Public Health website. Below are select specific policies; however, students are responsible for keeping informed about academic and non-academic policies and procedures beyond those noted on this syllabus.

Graduate Student Computer Policy: Students are required to possess a personal laptop, no older than approximately two years, that must meet minimum requirements which may be found online at: sph.rutgers.edu/student-life/computer-support.html

Policy Concerning Use of Recording Devices and Other Electronic Communications Systems:

When personally owned communication/recording devices are used by students to record lectures and/or classroom lessons, such use must be authorized by the faculty member or instructor who must give either oral or written permission prior to the start of the semester and identify restrictions, if any, on the use of mobile communications or recording devices.

Policy Concerning Use of Turnitin: Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com (directly or via learning management system, i.e. Canvas) for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site. Students who do not agree should contact the course instructor immediately.

Withdrawal/Refund Schedule: Students who stop attending their course(s) without submitting a completed [Add/Drop Course](#) form will receive a failing grade. Furthermore, students dropping to zero credits for the semester are considered withdrawn and must submit a completed [Leave of Absence](#) form from the School of Public Health's Office of Student Affairs. The School of Public Health refunds tuition only. Administrative and technology fees are non-refundable. You may find the Withdrawal/Refund Schedule on the School of Public Health website at: sph.rutgers.edu/academics/academic-calendar.html