

## Nutritional Sciences 4570:

### HEALTH, POVERTY AND INEQUALITY: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Fall 2009

**Professor David E. Sahn**

#### **Course description:**

The course will focus on issues of global health inequality. We will explore the nature and extent of global inequalities in health, and the possible policy responses to improving health and well-being, and reducing observed disparities. We will examine global health inequalities at various levels, including across countries, at the national level, and even within the household. Likewise, the class will examine the implications of the health crisis that afflicts the poorest countries, especially in Africa. Special attention will be given to problems such as malnutrition and HIV/AIDS. The ethics of dealing with problems of global health inequality, as well as some policy options will also be discussed. The latter issue of how to most cost-effectively address global health problems will be the subject of class projects, as discussed below.

The class will consist of lectures and student lead discussion sessions. The class size is being limited with the expectation that students will come to each class having done all the required assigned readings, including being prepared to lead and/or actively participate in a discussion. In the case of the later, students will be asked to suggest one question and/or issue for the discussion sessions no later than noon on the day before the scheduled discussion. I will select the two or three most salient questions/issues to guide our discussion. A couple of students will be also be randomly assigned to lead each discussion group. For that reason, ***you must do the readings before the discussion sessions, and you must attend these sessions.*** Remember that our class discussions are public goods – your preparation and participation benefit your classmates as well as yourself.

The grade will be determined based on an equal weighting of four criteria. The first is a series of short quizzes that will be given every week or two based on the readings and lectures. The second criteria will be class participation. The third evaluation criteria will be a student project that will involve a group presentation and preparation of a group report. The group report and presentation will involve students working as a team to develop a proposal for the best policies to reduce a major global health problem, given a pre-determined budget, in the style of the Copenhagen Consensus (<http://www.copenhagenconsensus.com>). I will assign you to a group early in the course. During the last few weeks of class, you will present this proposal to the class. The final grading criteria will be a 10-to-12 page single-spaced paper which comments on the various proposals. More specifically, you will be asked to allocate the budget among the various activities in the proposals, and justify your choice in terms of

considerations such as the relative importance of the problem being addressed, and the costs associated with, and feasibility of addressing the problem.

**Calendar:**

September 10: 1-2 page statement on the topic for your challenge paper  
October 8: Annotated outline for your challenge paper (~ 3 pages)  
November 3: Draft of challenge paper (~ 20 single spaced pages – exclusive of tables and figures)  
December 3: Final of Challenge paper  
December 15: Final paper

**Pre-requisites: Introductory Microeconomics and Introductory Statistics**

**Meeting Time and Location:** Tuesday and Thursday 11:40-12:55

**Office Hours:** Professor Sahn will hold office hours by appointment and on Thursday afternoon from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in B16 MVR  
[David.Sahn@cornell.edu](mailto:David.Sahn@cornell.edu)

**Course Website:** <http://www.blackboard.cornell.edu>

**Teaching Assistant:** Francis Ngunjiri, [fn9@cornell.edu](mailto:fn9@cornell.edu)

**Note on Readings (below):** *Asterisk (\*) readings below are optional readings. All others are required.*

**POVERTY AND INEQUALITY**

Sen, Amartya (1987) “The Standard of Living: Lecture II, Lives and Capabilities,” in, *The Standard of Living* (Geoffrey Hawthorn, ed.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 20-38. ISBN 0 521 32101 8 *Available on the Blackboard.*

World Bank. (2001) “World Development Report: Attacking Poverty 2000/2001” Washington, DC: World Bank, pp. 15-29.  
<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTPOVERTY/0,,contentMDK:20194762~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:336992,00.html>

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2003). *Human Development Report 2003: Millennium Development Goals: A compact among nations to end human poverty*. New York: Oxford University Press. Pp. 27-68.  
<http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2003/>

## **HEALTH INEQUALITY: Concepts, Measurement and Patterns**

\*Wilkinson, Richard G. (2001). *Mind the Gap: Hierarchy, Health and Human Evolution*. Darwinism Today Series. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London; and Yale University Press, New Haven. *On Reserve in Mann Library*.

\*Gwatkin, D. R. (2000). "Health Inequalities and the Health of the Poor: What do we know? What can we do?" *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 78(1): 3-18.  
<http://www.who.int/docstore/bulletin/pdf/2000/issue1/bu0287.pdf>

Gwatkin, Davidson R., Shea Rutstein, Kiersten Johnson, Eldaw Suliman, Adam Wagstaff, and Agbessi Amouzou (2007). *Socio-Economic Differences in Health, Nutrition, and Population*. Washington, DC: The World Bank.  
<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTHEALTHNUTRITIONANDPOPULATION/EXTPAH/0,,contentMDK:20219043~menuPK:460195~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:400476,00.html>

Fogel, Robert W. (2005). "Changes in the Disparities in Chronic Diseases during the Course of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century." *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine* 48 (1) Supplement: S150-S165.  
*Available on the Blackboard*.

\*Fogel, Robert W. (2004). *The Escape from Hunger and Premature Death, 1700-2100: Europe, America, and the Third World*. New York: Cambridge University Press. *On Reserve in Mann Library*.

Deaton, Angus. (2006). "Global Patterns of Income and Health: Facts, Interpretations, and Policies." UNU World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER), Helsinki, Finland.  
[http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/annual-lectures/en\\_GB/AL10/](http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/annual-lectures/en_GB/AL10/)

\*Deaton, Angus. (2003). "Health, Inequality and Economic Development." *Journal of Economic Literature* 41(1):113-158. *Available on the Blackboard*.

Gakidou, E. E., C. J. L. Murray, and J. Frenk. (2000). "Defining and Measuring Health Inequality: An Approach Based on the Distribution of Health Expectancy." *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 78(1): 42-54. [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/bulletin/2000/Vol78No1/bulletin\\_2000\\_78\(1\)\\_42-54.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/bulletin/2000/Vol78No1/bulletin_2000_78(1)_42-54.pdf)

## **INTRA-HOUSEHOLD INEQUALITY**

Sen, Amartya. "More than 100 Million Women Are Missing." *The New York Review of Books* 37(20) (Dec 20, 1990).

<http://ucatlas.ucsc.edu/gender/Sen100M.html>

Alderman, Harold, Pierre-Andre Chiappori, Lawrence Haddad, John Hoddinott, and Ravi Kanbur (1995) "Unitary versus Collective Models of the Household: Is It Time to Shift the Burden of Proof." *The World Bank Research Observer*. 10(1): 1-19. Available on the Blackboard.

Buvinić, Mayra, André Medici, Elisa Fernández, and Ana Cristina Torres, "Gender Differentials in Health." (2006) In Jamison, Dean T., Joel G. Breman, Anthony R. Measham, George Alleyne, Mariam Claeson, David B. Evans, Prabhat Jha, Anne Mills, and Philip Musgrove, (eds.) *Disease Control Priorities in Developing Countries* (2nd Edition), The Disease Control Priorities Project (DCPP), Chapter 10.

<http://files.dcp2.org/pdf/DCP/DCP10.pdf>

\*Sahn, David E. and Stephen D. Younger (2009) "Measuring Intra-Household Health Inequality: Explorations Using the Body Mass Index." *Health Economics* 18(S1): S13-S36 (UNU-WIDER Special Issue on Health and Development). Available on the Blackboard.

## **GLOBAL INEQUALITY IN BURDEN OF DISEASE/COST EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSIS**

Skolnik, Richard (2008) *Essentials of Global Health*. Boston: Jones and Bartlett, Ch. 2 pp. 17-40. On Reserve in Mann Library.

Strauss, John and Duncan Thomas (2007). "Health Over the Life Course." California Center for Population Research, On-Line Working Paper Series University of California, Los Angeles, CA, pp. 32-34.

Available on the Blackboard.

Lopez, Alan D., Colin D. Mathers, Majid Ezzati, Dean T. Jamison, and Christopher J. L. Murray (2006). "Global Burden of Disease and Risk Factors" <http://www.dcp2.org/pubs/GBD>.

\* Skolnik, Richard (2008) *Essentials of Global Health*. Boston: Jones and Bartlett, Chs. 11-12, pp. 187-230. *On Reserve in Mann Library*.

\*Murray, Christopher J. L., and Alan D. Lopez, eds. (1996). *The Global Burden of Disease: A comprehensive assessment of mortality and disability from diseases, injuries, and risk factors in 1990 and projected to 2020*. 1st ed. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. *On Reserve in Mann Library*.

Jamison, Dean (2006). "Investing in Health." In Jamison, Dean T., Joel G. Breman, Anthony R. Measham, George Alleyne, Mariam Claeson, David B. Evans, Prabhat Jha, Anne Mills, and Philip Musgrove, (eds.) *Disease Control Priorities in Developing Countries* (2nd Edition), The Disease Control Priorities Project (DCPP), Chapter 1.  
<http://www.dcp2.org/pubs/DCP/1/FullText>

Meltzer, David (2006). "Economic Approaches to Valuing Global Health Research." In Jamison, Dean T., Joel G. Breman, Anthony R. Measham, George Alleyne, Mariam Claeson, David B. Evans, Prabhat Jha, Anne Mills, and Philip Musgrove, (eds.) *Disease Control Priorities in Developing Countries* (2nd Edition), The Disease Control Priorities Project (DCPP), Chapter 7.  
<http://www.dcp2.org/pubs/DCP/7/FullText>

Musgrove, Philip and Julia Fox-Rushby (2006). "Cost-Effectiveness Analysis for Priority Setting." In Jamison, Dean T., Joel G. Breman, Anthony R. Measham, George Alleyne, Mariam Claeson, David B. Evans, Prabhat Jha, Anne Mills, and Philip Musgrove, (eds.) *Disease Control Priorities in Developing Countries* (2nd Edition), The Disease Control Priorities Project (DCPP), Chapter 15.  
<http://files.dcp2.org/pdf/DCP/DCP15.pdf>

Lomborg, Bjorn, ed. (2004). *Global Crises, Global Solutions*. Cambridge University Press, Chapter 1. *Available on the Blackboard*.

## **SUPPLY OF SERVICE/EXPENDITURE INEQUALITY**

Demery, Lionel (2003). "Analyzing the Incidence of Public Spending." In Bourguignon, F. and Pereira da Silva, L. (eds.), *The Impact of Economic Policies on Poverty and Income Distribution*. World Bank and Oxford University Press, pp. 41-68.  
[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPSIA/Resources/490023-1121114603600/12925\\_toolkit\\_chapter2.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPSIA/Resources/490023-1121114603600/12925_toolkit_chapter2.pdf)

\*Sahn, David E. and Stephen D. Younger (1999) "Dominance Testing of Social Sector Expenditures and Taxes in Africa," International Monetary Fund Working Paper No. 99/172. Washington, D.C.: IMF.  
<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/1999/wp99172.pdf>

## EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAMS AND POLICY

Skolnik, Richard (2008) *Essentials of Global Health*. Boston: Jones and Bartlett, Chapters 5 and 15. *On Reserve in Mann Library*.

Filmer, Deon, Jeffrey S. Hammer, and Lant H. Pritchett (2000). "Weak Links in the Chain: A Diagnosis of Health Policy in Poor Countries." *World Bank Research Observer* 15(2): 199-224. *Available on the Blackboard*.

Filmer, Deon, Jeffrey S. Hammer, and Lant H. Pritchett (2002). "Weak Links in the Chain II: A Prescription for Health Policy in Poor Countries." *World Bank Research Observer* 17(1): 47-66. *Available on the Blackboard*.

\*Ruth Levine (ed.), *Millions Saved: Proven Successes in Global Health*, 2004 the Peterson Institute for the Center for Global Development, Washington DC. *On Reserve in Mann Library*.

World Bank (2003). *World Development Report 2004: "Making Services Work for Poor People."* Chapters 3 through 6.  
[http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/main?pagePK=64193027&piPK=64187937&theSitePK=523679&menuPK=64187510&searchMenuPK=64187283&siteName=WDS&entityID=000090341\\_20031007150121](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/main?pagePK=64193027&piPK=64187937&theSitePK=523679&menuPK=64187510&searchMenuPK=64187283&siteName=WDS&entityID=000090341_20031007150121)

## FOOD AND NUTRITION

Skolnik, Richard (2008) *Essentials of Global Health*. Boston: Jones and Bartlett, Chapter 8. *On Reserve in Mann Library*.

von Braun, Joachim (2005). *The World Food Situation: An Overview*. Washington DC: IFPRI.  
<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/world-food-situation-1>

Timmer, C. P., Walter P. Falcon, and Scott R. Pearson (1983). *Food Policy Analysis*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, Ch. 2, pp. 22-72.  
<http://www.stanford.edu/group/FRI/indonesia/documents/foodpolicy/front.fm.html>

Popkin, B. (2001). "The Nutrition Transition and Obesity in the Developing World." *Journal of Nutrition* 131, 871S-73S. Available on the Blackboard.

Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). FAO Food Balance Sheets. Rome, Italy. Various Years and Countries.  
<http://faostat.fao.org/site/368/default.aspx - ancor>

\*Ahmed, Akhter U., Ruth Vargas Hill, Lisa C. Smith, Doris M. Wiesmann, and Tim Frankenberger (2007). "The World's Most Deprived: Characteristics and Causes of Extreme Poverty and Hunger." 2020 Discussion Paper No. 43, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington, DC. Chapters 2-4.  
<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/worlds-most-deprived>

## MACROECONOMICS AND HEALTH

Skolnik, Richard (2008) *Essentials of Global Health*. Boston: Jones and Bartlett, Chapter 11. *On Reserve in Mann Library*.

Bloom, David and David Canning (2000). "The Health and Wealth of Nations." *Science* 287(5456): 1207-1209. Available on the Blackboard.

Montgomery, Keith. *The Demographic Transition*.  
<http://www.uwmc.uwc.edu/geography/Demotrans/demtran.htm>

World Health Organization (WHO) (2002). *Health, Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction*. (Chapters 2 and 3) Report of the Working Group 1 of the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health. Geneva: World Health Organization.

<http://www.emro.who.int/cbi/pdf/PovertyReduction.pdf>

Hsiao, William and Peter Heller (2007). "What Should Macroeconomists Know About Health Care Policy?" IMF Working Paper No. 07/13, International Monetary Fund (IMF), January. Available on the Blackboard.

## HIV/AIDS

World Health Organization (2002). "HIV/AIDS" (Chapter 7). In *Health, Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction*. Report of the Working Group 1 of the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health. Geneva: World Health Organization. <http://www.emro.who.int/cbi/pdf/PovertyReduction.pdf>

UNAIDS (2006). *Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic*.

Chapter 4:

pp. 84-86 (from Poverty and Inequality up to The Weight of stigmatization)

pp. 91-93 (Impact on children)

pp. 96-102 (from Impact on Education to end)

[http://data.unaids.org/pub/GlobalReport/2006/2006\\_GR\\_CH04\\_en.pdf](http://data.unaids.org/pub/GlobalReport/2006/2006_GR_CH04_en.pdf)

Glick, P. (2007). "Reproductive Health and Behavior, HIV/AIDS, and Poverty in Africa." Cornell Food and Nutrition Policy Program Working Paper No. 219, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. (*Read all of the section II.3: "HIV prevention policies: Evidence and gaps in knowledge except subsection "Integration of HIV prevention and care into existing family planning/reproductive health services"*)

<http://www.cfnpp.cornell.edu/images/wp219.pdf>

\*Epstein, Helen (2005). "God and the Fight Against AIDS." *New York Review of Books* 52(7): April 28, 2005.

<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/17963>

## FOOD AID

Barrett, Christopher B. and Daniel G. Maxwell (2006). "Towards a Global Food Compact." *Food Policy* 31: 105–118. Available on the Blackboard.

Barrett, Christopher B. (2006). "U.S. Food AID: It's Not Your Parents' Program Any More!" *Journal of Agribusiness* 24(1): 1-16. Available on the Blackboard.

FAO (2006). *The State of Food and Agriculture 2006: Food aid for food security?* Rome: FAO. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/009/a0800e/a0800e00.htm>

## PHARMACEUTICALS AND VACCINES

Kremer, Michael (2002). "Pharmaceuticals and the Developing World." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 16(4): 67-90. Available on the Blackboard.

Levine, Ruth, Michael Kremer, and Alice Albright, Co-Chairs (2005). *Making Markets for Vaccines: Ideas to Action*. Washington DC: Center for Global Development  
<http://www.cgdev.org/doc/books/vaccine/MakingMarkets-complete.pdf>

Kremer, Michael and Rachel Glennerster (2004). *Strong Medicine: Creating Incentives for Pharmaceutical Research on Neglected Diseases*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (Chapters 3-8 particularly). *On Reserve in Mann Library*.

## NUTRITION TRANSITION

Popkin, B. (2001). "The Nutrition Transition and Obesity in the Developing World." *Journal of Nutrition* 131, 871S-73S. Available on the Blackboard.

## ETHICS

Skolnik, Richard (2008) *Essentials of Global Health*. Boston: Jones and Bartlett, Chapter 4. *On Reserve in Mann Library*.

Per Pinstrup-Andersen and Peter Sandøe (2007). "Introduction and Summary." In Pinstrup-Andersen, Per (ed.), *Ethics, Hunger, and Globalization: In Search of Appropriate Policies*. Dordrecht: Springer. Chapter 1. Available on the Blackboard.

Per Pinstrup-Andersen (2007). "Eliminating Poverty and Hunger in Developing Countries: A Moral Imperative or Enlightened Self-Interest?" In Pinstrup-Andersen, Per (ed.), *Ethics, Hunger and Globalization: In Search of Appropriate Policies*. Dordrecht: Springer, Chapter 2. Available on the Blackboard.