

NS 4570/Econ 4740:

HEALTH, POVERTY, AND INEQUALITY: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Fall 2018

Tuesday/Thursday 11:40 a.m.– 12:55 p.m.

Professor David E. Sahn

Course description:

The course will focus on issues of global health challenges and their relationship to poverty and 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. 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 most cost-effectively to address global health problems will be the subject of class projects, as discussed below.

The class will consist of approximately one-third lectures, particularly to present specific concepts and methodological approaches; one-third student-led discussions of topics to be identified; and one-third group presentations of a project in which students examine options for ameliorating a major global health challenge. The class size is being limited with the expectation that students will come to each class having completed all the required assigned readings, including being prepared to lead and/or actively participate in a discussion.

In terms of the discussion sessions, small groups of students will be assigned various leadership roles in the classroom discussion sessions. The students will take the lead in actively debating and discussing different perspectives on the nature of and solutions to global health issues. All students in the class will be required to participate. The selection of students for any given session will be randomized and informed of their roles one week ahead of the discussion. In some cases, the discussion will be set up as a debate between two juxtaposing viewpoints. The students not assigned leadership roles for a given class discussion will still be required to formulate at least one question and one comment (to which the leaders should respond), which must be posted on the class website ahead of the class period for the discussion. These posts will be anonymous to everyone but me. I, along with the students leading the discussion, will selectively choose from the submitted questions/comments to help kick off the discussion session. These questions will be due no later than noon two days prior to the scheduled discussion. For that reason, ***students must do the readings before the discussion sessions and must attend these sessions***. Our class discussions are public goods—your preparation and participation benefit your classmates as well as yourself.

As noted above, there will also be a group student project that will involve a presentation and the preparation of a policy paper on how to solve or address a major global health problem, along with a funding proposal. The group report and presentation will involve students working as a team to develop this proposal using a predetermined budget. The group will be asked to prepare something that is in the style of the Copenhagen Consensus (<http://www.copenhagenconsensus.com>). I will assign students to groups early in the beginning of the semester, based on individual student preferences expressed for particular topics. Every student will not necessarily be assigned to a group reflecting his or her first preference, or even second choice, but I will do my best to take into account individual interests.

During the last half of the semester, each group will present their proposal to the class. This implies that most of the work in preparing these term projects will be done in the first 8 (of the 14) weeks of the semester. This should be advantageous, as I am aware that student work demands really increase in November. The students in the audience will be asked to come to class with questions and critiques at the times that the funding proposals are presented. After each presentation, students in the audience will also be required to post their assessments, comments, and critiques on the class website. These postings again will be anonymous to everyone but me. Based on these assessments, the presenting group will be asked to revise their Challenge paper.

The course final will consist of an approximately 8-page, double-spaced assignment in which you will be asked to allocate the budget among the various activities of the proposal, and justify your choice in terms of considerations, such as the relative importance of the problem being addressed, the costs associated with each activity, and its feasibility of addressing the problem.

Grade:

The grade for the class will be composed of the following:

25% — 2 quizzes that will cover material primarily from the lectures: October 4 and December 4

10% — Group-led discussion session and other class participation

5% — Question submissions for discussion sessions

30% — Group Challenge report and presentation (of which 75% of the grade will be based on the scoring of the papers and presentations by the students, and 25% will be based on my scoring)

10% — Comments and critique of Challenge proposals

20% — Final paper

Calendar for Challenge paper submission:

- September 10: 1-to-2-page statement (double spaced) on the major themes/interventions to be taken in Challenge paper
- October 11: Detailed annotated outline for your Challenge paper (~ 5 to 8 double-spaced pages)
- October 25: Draft of Challenge paper (~ 20 double-spaced pages, exclusive of tables and figures)
- December 7: Revision of group Challenge paper
- December 15: Final paper

Prerequisites: Introductory Microeconomics and Introductory Statistics

Meeting Time and Location: Tuesday–Thursday 11:40 a.m.–12:55 p.m.
MVR Hall G71

Office Hours: Thursday 2–3:30 p.m. and by appointment
309 Savage Hall
David.Sahn@cornell.edu

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

Course Website builder: Patricia Mason, <mailto:pkm6@cornell.edu> All assignments will be submitted on blackboard *and* submitted via email to Patricia Mason

Class Outline

Definitions: Concept of Well-being—Poverty, Health and Inequality

Sen, Amartya. 1987. “The Standard of Living: Lecture II, Lives and Capabilities.” In *The Standard of Living*, edited by Geoffrey Hawthorn, 20–38. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0 521 32101 8 *Available on the Blackboard.*

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>

- 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. 32–4. *Available on the Blackboard.*
- Strauss, John, and Duncan Thomas. 2007. "Meaning of Health" from Chap. 54 "Health over the Life Course." In *Handbook of Development Economics*, Vol. 4, edited by Schultz, T. Paul, and John A. Strauss, 3403–3419. Amsterdam: Elsevier. [Book is available online at CU Library, from TofC, choose article PDF].
- Sen, Amartya. 1999. *Commodities and Capabilities*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 1–44. *Will be on Course Reserve at Mann Library – library is acquiring volume.*
- World Bank. 2001. "World Development Report: Attacking Poverty 2000/2001." World Bank, Washington, DC, pp. 15–29.
<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/11856>
- 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/content/human-development-report-2003>
- Ravallion, Martin. 1994. *Poverty Comparisons*. Chur, Switzerland: Harwood Academic, pp. 4–26. *Available on the Blackboard.*

Health and Economic Development

- Cumming-Bruce, Nick. 2008. "Global Child Mortality Total is Halved." *New York Times*, February 2, 2008. <https://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/22/health/22iht-CHILD.4.9413329.html>
- Cutler, David, Angus Deaton, and Adriana Lleras-Muney. 2006. "The Determinants of Mortality." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 20 (3): 97–120.
- Fogel, Robert. 2004. "Health, Nutrition, and Economic Growth." *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 52 (3): 643–58.
- Fogel, Robert W. 2005. "Changes in the Disparities in Chronic Diseases during the Course of the 20th Century." *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine* 48(1) Supplement: S150–S165.
- Deaton, Angus. 2006. "Global Patterns of Income and Health: Facts, Interpretations, and Policies." UNU World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER), Helsinki, Finland. <https://www.wider.unu.edu/sites/default/files/AL10-2006.pdf>
- *Fogel, Robert W. 2004. *The Escape from Hunger and Premature Death, 1700-2100: Europe, America, and the Third World*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

**Recommended reading.*

Health and Economic Inequality

- Deaton, Angus. 2003. "Health, Inequality and Economic Development." *Journal of Economic Literature* 41 (1): 113–58.
- 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.
- 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://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/962091468332070548/pdf/483610WP0Socio10Box338901B01PUBLIC1.pdf>
- 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.
- Sahn, David. E. "Health Inequality across Populations of Individuals." *African Development Review* 24 (4): 316–26.

Health Inequality Measurement

- World Bank Institute. 2005. *Introduction to Poverty Analysis*. Chapter 6. "Inequality Measures." World Bank.
<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/PGLP/Resources/PovertyManual.pdf>
- Wagstaff, Adam, and Eddy van Doorslaer. 2004. "Overall vs. Socioeconomic Health Inequality: A Measurement Framework and Two Empirical Illustrations." *Health Economics* 13 (3): 297–301.

Gender Inequality

- Sen, Amartya. 1990. "More than 100 Million Women Are Missing." *The New York Review of Books* 37 (20): 61, December 20. <https://www.nybooks.com/articles/1990/12/20/more-than-100-million-women-are-missing/>
- 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?" *World Bank Research Observer*. 10 (1): 1–19.
- Buvinić, Mayra, André Medici, Elisa Fernández, and Ana Cristina Torres, "Gender Differentials in Health." 2006. In *Disease Control Priorities in Developing Countries*, 2nd ed., edited by Dean T. Jamison, Joel G. Breman, Anthony R. Measham, George Alleyne, Mariam Claeson, David B. Evans, Prabhat Jha, Anne Mills, and Philip Musgrove. Disease Control Priorities Project (DCPP), Chapter 10. Washington, DC:

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank; New York: Oxford University Press. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK11728/>

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).

Global Burden of Disease

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.*

Skolnik, Richard. 2008. *Essentials of Global Health*. Boston: Jones and Bartlett, pp. 24–34. *On Reserve in Mann Library.*

Cost Effectiveness and DALYs

Meltzer, David. 2006. "Economic Approaches to Valuing Global Health Research." In *Disease Control Priorities in Developing Countries*, 2nd ed., edited by Dean T. Jamison, Joel G. Breman, Anthony R. Measham, George Alleyne, Mariam Claeson, David B. Evans, Prabhat Jha, Anne Mills, and Philip Musgrove. The Disease Control Priorities Project (DCPP), Chapter 7. Washington, DC: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank; New York: Oxford University Press. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK11728/>

Jamison, Dean. 2006. "Investing in Health." In *Disease Control Priorities in Developing Countries*, 2nd ed., edited by Dean T. Jamison, Joel G. Breman, Anthony R. Measham, George Alleyne, Mariam Claeson, David B. Evans, Prabhat Jha, Anne Mills, and Philip Musgrove. The Disease Control Priorities Project (DCPP), Chapter 1. Washington, DC: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank; New York: Oxford University Press. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK11728/>

World Health Organization (WHO). 2013. "WHO Methods and Data Sources for Global Burden of Disease Estimates 2000–2011." Department of Health Statistics and Information Systems WHO, Geneva. http://www.who.int/healthinfo/statistics/GlobalDALYmethods_2000_2011.pdf

Macroeconomics of Health

Montgomery, Keith. n.d. "The Demographic Transition." <http://pages.uwc.edu/keith.montgomery/demotrans/demtran.htm>

- Hsiao, William, and Peter S. Heller. 2007. "What Should Macroeconomists Know About Health Care Policy?" IMF Working Paper No. 07/13, International Monetary Fund, January. <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2007/wp0713.pdf>
- Skolnik, Richard. 2008. *Essentials of Global Health*. Boston: Jones and Bartlett, Ch. 11. *On Reserve in Mann Library*.
- World Health Organization (WHO). 2002. "Health, Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction." Report of the Working Group 1 of the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health. Geneva: World Health Organization.
<http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/42492/9241590092.pdf>
- Bloom, David and David Canning. 2000. "The Health and Wealth of Nations." *Science* 287 (5456): 1207–9.
- Bloom, David E., David Canning, and Jaypee Sevilla. 2003. *The Demographic Dividend: A New Perspective on the Economic Consequences of Population Change*. Santa Monica: RAND, Chapters 1 and 2.

Vaccines and Pharmaceuticals

- Kremer, Michael. 2002. "Pharmaceuticals and the Developing World." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 16 (4): 67–90.
- Levine, Ruth, Michael Kremer, and Alice Albright, co-chairs. 2005. "Making Markets for Vaccines: Ideas to Action." Report of the Center for Global Development Advance Market Commitment Working Group, Center for Global Development, Washington, DC. <https://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*.

Global Food Inequality

- Skolnik, Richard. 2008. *Essentials of Global Health*. Boston: Jones and Bartlett, Chapter 8. *On Reserve in Mann Library*.
- FAO (Food and Agricultural Organization). 2018. FAO Food Balance Sheets. Rome, Italy. Various Years and Countries. <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/FBS>
- Timmer, C. P., Walter P. Falcon, and Scott R. Pearson. 1983. *Food Policy Analysis*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press for the World Bank, Ch. 2, pp. 22–72.
<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/308741468762347702/pdf/multi0page.pdf>
- von Braun, Joachim. 2005. The World Food Situation: An Overview. International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington, DC.
<http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.78.1191&rep=rep1&type=pdf>

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>

Ethics I: Food System

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

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

Miller, Richard. 2009. "Global Power and Economic Justice." In *Global Basic Rights*. Edited by Charles Beitz and Robert Goodin. Oxford: Oxford University Press. *Available on the Blackboard.*

Pogge Thomas. 2005. "World Poverty and Human Rights." *Ethics and International Affairs* 19 (1): 1–7.

Singer, Peter. 1972. "Famine, Affluence and Morality." *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 1 (3): 229–43. *Available on the Blackboard.*

Shue, Henry. 1996. *Basic Rights*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 18–21, 23–5, 111–27. *Available on the Blackboard.*

Service Delivery and Program Effectiveness

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.

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.

Ruth Levine, ed. 2007. *Case Studies in Global Health: Millions Saved*. Peterson Institute for the Center for Global Development, Washington DC. *On Reserve in Mann Library.*

Demery, Lionel. 2003. "Analyzing the Incidence of Public Spending." In *The Impact of Economic Policies on Poverty and Income Distribution*, edited by F. Bourguignon, and L. Pereira da Silva. World Bank and Oxford University Press, pp. 41–68.
<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/973661468739790876/pdf/multi0page.pdf>

World Bank. 2003. *World Development Report 2004: "Making Services Work for Poor People."* Chapters 3 through 6.
<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/598>

Foreign Aid and The Role of External Assistance

Easterly, William. 2006. *The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good.* London: The Penguin Press. *On Reserve in Mann Library.*

Sachs, Jeffrey. 2005. *The End of Poverty.* New York: Penguin Press. Introduction and chapters 10, 11(211–16), 13, 15, 16. *On Reserve in Mann Library.*

Fiscal Incidence

Barofsky, Jeremy, and Stephen D. Younger. 2018. "Appendix 6F: Comparing Methods to Estimate the Value of Public Health Spending to Its Beneficiaries." *Available on the Blackboard.*

Neves de Camoes, Carlos Conde JT, Alzira Doutel, Maya Goldman, Francisco Soares de Jesus, Cirilo Pereira Mendonca, Nilton Vicente, and Stephen D. Younger. 2018. "Fiscal Incidence in Timor-Leste." Asian Development Bank, June 28. *Available on the Blackboard.*

Younger, Stephen D., and David E. Sahn. 1999. "Fiscal Incidence in Africa: Microeconomic Evidence." Cornell Food and Nutrition Policy Program Working Paper No. 91.
<http://www.cfnpp.cornell.edu/images/wp91.pdf>