


Foundations of Global Health 1

 *September-December*

Foundations of Global Health 1 provides students with essential tools for critically assessing problems in global health policy from a global, and national/local perspective. Traditional approaches to policy analysis often focus on the effectiveness of policy solutions. In the more critical approach we use in Foundations 1, we will focus instead on the preceding phase in the policy cycle: namely, how the 'problem' leading to the policy is defined, how the policy came about (actors and political processes), and how the policy deals with complex and interactive social inequalities. We will use the WPR (What is the problem represented to be) and IBPA (Intersectionality Based Policy Analysis Framework) which is intended for evaluating differential effects of policy on different groups and to tackle health inequalities when making health-related decisions at the level of policy and programming. The various policy analysis assignments in Foundations 1 focus on implicit norms embedded in the problem framing, the context of policy formation, the actors involved in the political process, and the manner in which inequalities are considered in health policy.

Course format

Students will work in **online groups of 6** students from two different partner universities: McMaster University (Canada), Thamassat University (Thailand), Manipal Academy of Higher Education (India), Universidad del Rosario (Colombia), Afhad University for Women (Sudan), Maastricht University (The Netherlands), University of South-Eastern Norway. Furthermore students from aspirant partners of the consortium, Niigata University (Japan), Bangladesh University of Professionals and University of Alabama (US) participate in the course. Each group is assigned an instructor (their **tutor**). The objectives of the course will be achieved through self-directed group work supported by lectures, readings, and feedback from the tutor. The marking scheme for the course will be based on **group work** with each group completing two assignments pertaining to the critical analysis of different policies. In addition, **each individual student** is required to submit a **reflection précis**, on the evolution of your own professional skills and abilities within the context of group processes.

Course objectives

- To be able to conduct a policy analysis and identify and critically appraise the way the problem is framed in real life policies or policy proposals.
- To be able to critically appraise the implications of the problem definition (framing of the problem) for the distribution of responsibility and accountability.
- To get insights in how inequities and unequal power dynamics shape global health issues.
- To be able to identify global actors of major health issues and be aware of the context in which they operate.
- To be able to critically appraise (global) health policies at various levels, integrating knowledge from diverse disciplines including health, business and the social sciences.
- To be able to communicate the results of a global health issue concisely and effectively.
- To develop and demonstrate an attitude of professionalism and critical self-awareness within the context of global health teamwork.

Recommended reading

- Bacchi, C. (2009). *Analysing Policy: What's the problem represented to be?* Pearson: French Forest.
- Hankivsky, O., Grace, D. & Hunting, G. (2012) *An intersectionality-based policy analysis framework*. Vancouver, BC: Simon Fraser University.
- Benatar, S. & Upshur, R. (2011) What is global health? In: Benatar, S. & Brock, G. (eds.) *Global Health and Global Ethics*. Cambridge University Press. Pg. 13-23.
- Labonté, R. & Ruckert, A. (2019) *Health equity in a globalizing era: Past challenges, future prospects*. Oxford University press. Chapter 2 & 17.
- Birn, A.E., Pillay, Y., & Holtz, T.H. (2017) *Textbook of global health*. Oxford University Press. Chapter 14.
- *Global Health Watch 6: An Alternative World Health Report*. 2022. Chapter C6. Conflict and health in the era of coronavirus.

