GLOBAL HEALTH STUDIES (HLTH)

* HLTH 081a, Current Issues in Medicine and Public Health  Robert Bazell
Analysis of issues in public health and medicine that get extensive media attention and provoke policy debates. Covid-19 is the primary focus this semester with a survey of epidemiology and other fields related to its coverage. Students critique and produce medical journalism and look at the history of coverage of topics such as vaccination, the value of cancer screening and genetic testing, determinants of a healthy lifestyle, the U.S. role in global health, and the cost of health care. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.

* HLTH 155a / E&EB 106a / MCDB 106a, Biology of Malaria, Lyme, and Other Vector-Borne Diseases  Alexia Belperron
Introduction to the biology of pathogen transmission from one organism to another by insects; special focus on malaria, dengue, and Lyme disease. Biology of the pathogens including modes of transmission, establishment of infection, and immune responses; the challenges associated with vector control, prevention, development of vaccines, and treatments. Intended for non-science majors; preference to freshmen and sophomores. Prerequisite: high school biology. SC

* HLTH 250a / E&EB 335a, Evolution and Medicine  Brandon Ogbunu
Introduction to the ways in which evolutionary science informs medical research and clinical practice. Diseases of civilization and their relation to humans’ evolutionary past; the evolution of human defense mechanisms; antibiotic resistance and virulence in pathogens; cancer as an evolutionary process. Students view course lectures online; class time focuses on discussion of lecture topics and research papers. Prerequisite: BIOL 101–104. WR, SC

* HLTH 420a / EP&E 346a, Global Health Ethics  Cara Fallon
When a new virus sweeps the globe, how should physicians, governments, and societies respond? What are an individual’s rights and responsibilities in the face of illness, and how do public health organizations prioritize competing claims? How should issues of consent, quarantine, compulsory treatment, and surveillance be managed, and how do these issues change as they transcend geographic borders? This seminar examines critical issues in global health through the method of ethical analysis. The course begins with the foundations for analyzing ethical problems, considering moral and ethical frameworks for health. We examine dilemmas such as quarantines, access to care, and the limits of autonomy, and we delve into critical challenges of vulnerable populations and global inequities. We conclude by analyzing emerging tensions posed by artificial intelligence and digital health technologies. Drawing together global health perspectives and ethical analysis, we consider the principles, tradeoffs, and central tensions that inform global health today. WR, SO

* HLTH 490a / GLBL 420a, Global Health Research Colloquium  Robert Hecht
How can health gains for low and middle-income households and nations be accelerated and sustained through better policy and resource allocation choices by governments, communities, and international organizations? Using data and customized analytical techniques, students explore ways to formulate and assess policy and program options to address the most pressing health challenges of our times (e.g., HIV, vaccine-preventable illness, non-communicable diseases, pandemics such as Ebola and Covid-19). We examine a series of 8-10 leading analytical frameworks and tools and see how they can be applied to major health issues in Africa, Asia, and Latin America to generate important insights and impacts on the ground. Students contribute to shaping the agenda for further development of innovative methods for global health policy research and advisory services and implementation and pursue their own mini project on a topic of their choosing. Prerequisite: HLTH 230. This is a required course for the Global Health Scholars in their senior year. Enrollment is limited to 18, and preference is given to Global Health Fellows. Students must have completed global health fieldwork. RP