GLOBAL HEALTH STUDIES (HLTH)

* HLTH 081a or b, 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. The Covid-19 pandemic has revealed severe challenges in the communication between science and health experts and the public. Thus, a prime focus is a survey of epidemiology and related topics such as vaccination attitudes. The class covers other topics including (but not limited to) the value of cancer screening, genetic testing, the U.S. role in global health, physician assisted suicide and the cost of health care. Students learn to understand the scientific literature and critique its coverage in popular media—as well as producing science and medical journalism themselves. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  SC

HLTH 140a / SOCY 126a, Health of the Public   Nicholas Christakis
Introduction to the field of public health. The social causes and contexts of illness, death, longevity, and health care in the United States today. How social scientists, biologists, epidemiologists, public health experts, and doctors use theory to understand issues and make causal inferences based on observational or experimental data. Biosocial science and techniques of big data as applied to health.  SO

* HLTH 370a / ER&M 360a / HSHM 432a / SOCY 390a / WGSS 390a, Politics of Reproduction   Rene Almeling
Reproduction as a process that is simultaneously biological and social, involving male and female bodies, family formation, and powerful social institutions such as medicine, law, and the marketplace. Sociological research on reproductive topics such as pregnancy, birth, abortion, contraception, infertility, reproductive technology, and aging. Core sociological concepts used to examine how the politics of reproduction are shaped by the intersecting inequalities of gender, race, class, and sexuality.  WR, SO

* HLTH 490a / GLBL 420a, Global Health Research Colloquium   Staff
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