



## Bergen Summer Research School

› Global Development Challenges

Global Health in Bio-medical, Social and Cultural perspectives  
Bergen, 21 June - 2 July 2010

PhD-Research Course: Globalization and Health

### Course leaders:

- [Gunnar Kvåle](#), Professor, University of Bergen, Centre for International Health
- [Kristian Heggenhougen](#), Professor, University of Bergen, Centre for International Health

### Invited Guest lecturer:

- [David Sanders](#), Professor, School of Public Health, University of Western Cape, South Africa

### Course description, goals and objectives

**Learning objectives** At the end of this course students should be able to:

- Assess the political, economic and other causes of disparities in health and health care between and within countries with a focus on how global factors may contribute to increasing inequity
- Appraise what measures that are needed to counteract the forces that lead to increased inequity in health and access to health care between and within countries and be able to discuss the need for *healthy policies* in all sectors
- Be able to study the consequences assess long term impact of new and existing interventions on health and health care, assess effects of policies and practices of major global actors as well as policies of the donor community and non-governmental actors..
- Assess the existing empirical evidence of the links between global change and health, and understand the methodological tools available to measure such links
- Be able to plan and conduct evaluations of new policies and programmes for improvement of health and health care (evaluations of processes as well as of outcomes and impact)

## Content

The module will examine the global policies and structures that affect health and health care and the international health policy agendas and how to study the effects of these policies and other interventions on health and health care. It will explore the complex relationships between health and health care and different socioeconomic, cultural, political and structural factors as well as individual characteristics. The political, economic and other causes of disparities in health and health care between and within countries will be discussed. Focus will be on factors that contribute to inequalities and inequities.

Structures, policies, practice and roles of major global actors in health (World Trade Organization, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the donor community (in particular the G8), the UN-system (including the WHO, UNICEF), non-governmental organizations and private agencies) will be discussed. The role of the state in responding to different international initiatives and the consequences on health and health care of politics and decisions of the major global actors will be assessed. In particular, the motivation for and consequences of the introduction of specific policies, e.g. Structural Adjustment Programmes, Sector Wide Approaches and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, will be examined. Further, new Global Health Initiatives like the International Health Partnership and the Global Campaign for the Health Millennium Development Goals as well as influence on health of policies in other areas will be discussed.

The module will also examine global governance discourses and the human resources for health and methods of preventing brain drain.

The course will include discussion on methods of advocacy to influence decision makers on different levels to introduce policies that promote health and to abolish policies with adverse impact on health and health care.

The main topics covered in the lectures/seminars will include:

- Theoretical and methodological challenges of measuring links between global change and health including evaluation and impact assessment of policies and interventions
- Influence of globalization on organization and funding of health care systems in low-and middle income countries
- How to study effects of interventions and causes of disparities in health and health care with a focus on global factors and on how different socioeconomic, cultural, political and structural factors and individual characteristics influence health and health care.
- The challenge of human resources for health and methods of prevention of brain drain and role of key actors in global governance for health
- The challenge of introducing change: Methods of advocacy and the role of the civil society

## ***Targeted students, Prerequisites and ECTS***

### **Selection**

Medical doctors, social scientists, psychologists, nurses, dentists and others with training at the master level or higher in a relevant subject at a recognized institution can be admitted. Candidates enrolled on a PhD program will have priority. Students enrolled on a Masters' degree program may also join the course (e.g. student on the TropEd and the Erasmus Mundus networks). Practical experience from policy making at local, national or international level will also count in the selection

### **Learning methods**

The module consists of 6 key note lectures/seminars followed by small group discussions and group work covering the key issues in global health as described above. The module will include a critical review of key papers on global health for each seminar/small group discussion with a focus on methodological aspects. The students will be provided with a list of relevant literature, approximately 20-50 pages per key seminar session.

### **Assessment Procedures**

The assessment takes the form of an evaluation of an essay (approximately 10 pages + references)

### **Prerequisites**

Proficiency in English at a level corresponding to TOEFL 5.0 or IELTS 5.0 is expected.

### **Attendance**

Number of students: 30

### **Duration and time**

2 weeks, June 21 – July 2, 2010

### **Other requirements**

Course literature, which will be ready by May 1<sup>st</sup> 2010, must be read prior to the course.

The course participants are expected to attend teaching sessions and take part in discussions and group work. Participation is also mandatory in the plenary events of the overall programme of the Bergen Summer Research School 2010 (the programme will be published on the web in June 2010).

**ECTS credit points: 3**

### ***Reading list:***

Will be ready by May 1<sup>st</sup> 2010