

902.618B Global Health

Spring 2026

Day and Time: Monday (3:00pm-5:50pm)

3-credit hours

Course Language: English

Classroom: Room 727, Building 220

Office Hour: Monday 6:00pm-7:00pm (Room 427, Building 221)

Instructor

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Course description

This is an introductory course in global health that aims to explore key issues in global health from a multidisciplinary (economics, political science, sociology, management, etc.) perspective. The course will begin with an introduction of a brief history, key social theories, and values of global health. The course then covers global burden of disease, inequalities in global health distribution and determinants, various global health systems, issues in health delivery, the role of international actors in global health, and the impact of foreign aid on health and development. Relevant real-world case examples are introduced as well. Finally, the course reviews prospects and emerging challenges in global health.

Learning objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to do the following:

- Gain a global perspective of health
- Understand the principles and goals of global health
- Describe the root causes of health inequity at the global level
- Understand the importance of health systems strengthening in improving global health
- Explain the impact of aid on development and health outcomes and pathways in resource-poor settings

Course format

- Please note that **this course is a highly interactive and participatory course** and requires students' proactive engagement in each session.

- Students are supposed to obtain the basic knowledge on each session topic through reading assignments. At the beginning of each class, there will be 2-3 QUIZ questions (not graded) to assess the students' understanding of the reading materials.
- The first half of each session will be spent on the instructor's lecture (focused on the gist of the session topic and introducing relevant theories, and/or recent trends beyond the reading materials).
- The second half will be spent on class activities including 1) group discussion and impromptu presentations, 2) group analysis (e.g., root-cause analysis), 3) hands-on exercises (DALY calculation), 4) live polling, etc.

Auditing policy

Auditing is not allowed for students who are enrolled and can register for a class.

Course materials

There is no required textbook for this course. The required (and/or further) readings for reading assignments for each topic are listed under the detailed Course Schedule pages of this document. All of the readings will be posted on the eTL site ahead of time for each session. For students interested in further readings, below are some recent relevant textbooks on global health related issues:

Supplementary books:

- Mario C. B. Raviglione, Fabrizio Tediosi, Simone Villa, Núria Casamitjana, Antoni Plasència, eds. 2023. Global Health Essentials. Springer.
- Bafulal Sethia and Parveen Kumar, eds. Essentials of Global Health. 2019. Elsevier.
- Birn AE, Pillay Y, Holtz TH, eds. 2017. Textbook of Global Health (4th Edition). New York: Oxford University Press.
- Paul Farmer, Jim Yong Kim, Arthur Kleinman, and Matthew Basilico, eds. 2013. Reimagining Global Health: An Introduction. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Course requirements

Attendance

- Students are expected to attend all classes. In case of unavoidable absence, students should let the instructor know ahead of time.

Reading assignments

- All students are expected to read all reading materials (at least those under the subheading 'reading assignments') before attending class.
- For some sessions, a short quiz may be administered to assess the students' understanding of the reading materials (not graded).

Class participation

- Students are expected to proactively participate in class activities and class discussion.

Group activities

- For some sessions, group work (e.g., group presentations on a pre-specified topic, group preparation for GH book club) is required.

- All students are expected to proactively participate in group activities (each student's level of contribution to group work will be evaluated through peer-evaluation).

Book Club

- As part of the class activities, there will be three Book Club sessions during the course.
- During the book club sessions, chapter summary presentations and discussion leading will be conducted as group work by teams. After each book club session, all students must submit an individual Book Club Reflection (max. 1 page).

Short essay (individual work)

- All students are supposed to write a short essay (2 pages, a template will be provided) answering the 4 key questions (to be introduced during Session 1).
- The individual essay should be submitted through eTL (due midnight before the day for the class of Session 14) and be verbally presented (without slides) during Session 14.

Final exam

- In-class exam will be held in Session 15.

Assessment of performance

- A total of 100 points are possible in this course. Grading will be based on the following performance:
 - Class participation: 10
 - Self-introduction
 - Completion of reading assignments
 - Participation in class activities (e.g., hands-on exercises, role playing)
 - Participation in class discussion
 - Group activities: 20 (instructor evaluation: 10, peer evaluation: 10)
 - Group work & presentations
 - Book club presentation and discussion
 - Book Club reflections (individual work): 10 (3 times)
 - Short essay (individual work): 10
 - Final exam: 50
- Final letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:
 - A = 88-100
 - B = 80-87
 - C = 70-79
 - D = 60-69

At-a-Glance Course Calendar

Session (Date)	Topic	Assignments	Class activity
Session 1 (3/9/26)	Introduction		Self-introduction Warm-up video viewing
Session 2 (3/16/26)	Globalization and global health		Group presentation #1
Session 3 (3/23/26)	Global burden of disease		GBD data extraction DALY calculation
Session 4* (3/30/26)	Social determinants of health and the divide	Book Club Reflection #1	GH Book Club #1
Session 5 (4/6/26)	Inequality and inequity in global health		Group discussion
Session 6 (4/13/26)	Gender health inequity		Root-cause analysis
Session 7 (4/20/26)	Philosophical foundations of global health		Group presentation #2 Live polling
Session 8 (4/27/26)	Ethics of global health	Book Club Reflection #2	GH Book Club #2
Session 9 (5/4/26)	Health systems in low- and middle-income countries		Group presentation #3
Session 10 (5/11/26)	Health service delivery in resource-poor settings		Group discussion
Session 11 (5/18/26)	Global health financing		Group discussion
Session 12** (5/25/26)	Global health governance		Role playing
Session 13 (6/1/26)	Aid on health and development	Book Club Reflection #3	GH Book Club #3
Session 14 (6/8/26)	Prospects and challenges in global health / Wrap-up	A short essay on key questions	Individual presentation of a short essay
Session 15 (6/15/26)	Final exam	--	--

* For Session 4 (March 30th, 2026) only, the class time will be changed from 15:00–17:50 to 13:30–16:20 due to a ceremony event of GSPH.

** May 25th, 2026 is a substitute public holiday; however, due to the difficulty of securing a make-up class session, class will be held as scheduled at the same time (15:00–17:50), but will be conducted online via Zoom rather than in person.

Detailed course schedule

Session 1	Introduction	3/9/26
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Topics:

- Course overview/administration
- Introduction to global health

Class activity:

- Self-introduction – How did I become interested in Global Health?
- Viewing warm-up video clips

Reading assignments:

Koplan, J. et al. Towards a Common Definition of Global Health. *Lancet* 2009; 373:1993-1995.

Bozorgmehr, K. Rethinking the ‘Global’ in Global Health: A Dialectic Approach. *Globalization and Health* 2010;6:19.

Session 2	Globalization and global health	3/16/26
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Topics:

- A brief history of global health
- Definition of globalization
- Impact of globalization on global health

Class activity:

- Group presentation – How did globalization impact the world’s health?

Reading assignments:

Holst J. Global Health – emergence, hegemonic trends and biomedical reductionism. *Globalization and Health* 2020;16. DOI:10.1186/s12992-020-00573-4.

Matt X. Richardson, Mike M. Callaghan, Sarah Wamala. Globalization and Global Health. *The Hand Book of Global Health Policy* 2014, 555-576.

Further readings:

Markel H. Worldly approaches to global health: 1851 to the present. *Public Health* 2014;128(2):124-8.

Brown TM, Cueto M, Fee E. The World Health Organization and the transition from ‘international’ to ‘global’ public health. *American Journal of Public Health* 2006;96(1):62-72.

Birn A. Philanthrocapitalism, past and present: The Rockefeller Foundation, the Gates Foundation, and the setting(s) of the international/global health agenda. *Hypothesis* 2014,12(1):e8.

Session 3	Global Burden of Disease	3/23/26
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Topics:

- Types of population health measures; Disability-adjusted life years (DALYs)
- Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study
- Current status of the world's health

Class activity:

- Hands-on exercises (bring your own laptop)
 - Extraction of burden of disease data using the IHME GBD database
 - Calculation of DALYs, with and without an intervention

Reading assignments:

Byass P. Measuring the World's Health: How Good are Our Estimates. *The Hand Book of Global Health Policy* 2014, 99-117.

Ferrari. Global, regional, and national burden of 12 mental disorders in 204 countries and territories, 1990–2019: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019. *The Lancet Psychiatry* 2022;9:137-150.

Further readings:

Arnesen T, Nord E. The value of DALY life: problems with ethics and validity of disability adjusted life years. *BMJ* 1999;319:1423-1425.

WHO. WHO methods and data sources for global burden of disease estimates 2000-2015. Global Health Estimates Technical Paper WHO/HIS/IER/ GHE/ 2017.1.

Hosseinpour AR, Bergen N, Schlotheuber A, Grove J. Measuring health inequalities in the context of sustainable development goals. *Bull World Health Organ* 2018;96:654–659.

Session 4	Social determinants of health and the divide	3/30/26
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Topics:

- Current status of health distribution at the global level
- Social determinants of health
- Determinants of global health
- The global divide between 'Global North' and 'Global South'

Class activity:

- Group discussion – What causes the stark socioeconomic, technological, and political disparities between ‘Global North’ and ‘Global South’?
- **Global Health Book Club #1: The Global Divide**

Hickel J. *The Divide: A Brief Guide to Global Inequality and its Solutions*. London: William Heinemann, 2017.
(한국어 번역본) 제임스 히켈(2024). *격차 - 빈곤과 불평등의 세기를 끝내기 위한 탈성장의 정치경제학* (김승진 역). 서울: 아를.

Recommended further readings:

- 1) Stiglitz J. *The Price of Inequality: How Today's Divided Society Endangers Our Future*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2012.
(Kor title) 조지프 스티글리츠(2013). *불평등의 대가 - 분열된 사회는 왜 위험한가* (이순희 역). 서울: 열린책들.
- 2) Sen A. *Inequality re-imagined*. Cambridge Massachusetts: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1992.
(Kor title) 아마티아 센(2008). *불평등의 재검토* (이상호, 이덕재 역). 서울: 한울아카데미.
- 3) Piketty T. *Capital in the 21st century*. Cambridge Massachusetts : The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2013.
(Kor title) 토마 피케티(2014). *21세기 자본* (장경덕 역). 서울: 글항아리.
- 4) Holton R. *Global inequalities*. New York: Palgrave; London: Bloomsbury, 2014.
(Kor title) 로버트 홀튼(2019). *지구적 불평등* (나익주 역). 서울: 한울아카데미.

Reading assignments:

***CSDH (2008). *Closing the gap in a generation: health equity through action on the social determinants of health. Final Report of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health*. Geneva, World Health Organization.

Alsan M, Westerhaus M, Herce M, Nakashima K, Farmer P. *Poverty, Global Health, and Infectious Disease: Lessons from Haiti and Rwanda. Infectious Disease Clinics of North America* 2011; 25: 611-622.

Session 5	Inequality and inequity in global health	4/6/26
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Topics:

- Inequalities in the distribution of the global burden of disease
- Impact of inequalities on health
- Root causes of global health inequity

Class activity:

- Group discussion –Does inequality affect health? If so, to what extent, through what pathways, and for whom?

Reading assignments:

Marmot M. Health in an unequal world. *Lancet* 2006;368:2081-2090.

Hosseinpoor AR, Bergen N, Schlottheuber A, Grove J. Measuring health inequalities in the context of sustainable development goals. *Bull World Health Organ* 2018;96: 654–659.

Session 6	Gender and global health	4/13/26
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Topics:

- The role of gender in health
- Gender inequities in global health

Class activity:

- Root-cause analysis – What are the prime determinants of gender inequity in health?

Reading assignments:

Connell R. Gender, health and theory: Conceptualizing the issue, in local and world perspective. *Social Science & Medicine* 2012;74:1675-1683.

*Hawkes S, Buse K. Gender and global health: evidence, policy, and inconvenient truths. *The Lancet* 2013;381:1783-1787.

*Sara E. Davies Bennett, Belinda Bennett. “A gendered human rights analysis of Ebola and Zika: locating gender in global health emergencies.” *International Affairs* 2016;92(5):1041–1060.

Further readings:

Cook RJ. Women's health and human rights: the promotion and protection of women's health through international human rights law. World Health Organization, Geneva, 1994.

Women and Gender Equity Knowledge Network. Final Report to the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health - Unequal, unfair, ineffective and inefficient gender inequity in health: Why it exists and how we can change it, 2007.

Topics:

- Universalist traditions: utilitarianism, Rawlsian justice, liberal cosmopolitanism, capabilities, and human rights

Class activity:

- Group presentation on main philosophical foundations for global health obligation (utilitarianism, liberal cosmopolitanism, capability approach, and human rights approach)
- Live polling – What is your own main moral framework for obligation in improving global health?

Reading assignments:

Farmer P, Kim JY, Kleinman A, Basilio M, eds. Reimagining Global Health: An Introduction. Chapter 9. Values and Global Health. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2013.

Recommended further readings:**Utilitarianism**

- 1) Lazari-Radek K., Singer P. Utilitarianism: a very short introduction. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2017.
(Kor title) 카타르지나 드 라자리-라텍, 피터싱어(2019). 공리주의 입문 (류지한 역). 서울: 울력.
- 2) Singer P. The life you can save: acting now to end world poverty. New York: Random House, 2009.
(Kor title) 피터 싱어(2009). 물에 빠진 아이 구하기 (함규진 역). 서울: 산책자.

Capability approach

- 1) Nussbaum M. Political emotions: why love matters for justice. Cambridge: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2013.
(Kor title) 마사 누스바움(2015). 역량의 창조 (한상연 역). 서울: 돌베개.
- 2) Sen A. Development as a Freedom. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.
(Kor title) 아마티아 센(2013). 자유로서의 발전 (김원기 역). 서울: 갈라파고스.

Liberal cosmopolitanism

- 1) Rawls J. Justice as fairness: a restatement. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1971.
(Kor title) 존 롤스(2003). 정의론 (황경식 역). 서울: 이학사.
- 2) Pogge T. World poverty and human rights. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2002.

Human rights approach

- 1) 정정훈(2014). 인권과 인권들. 서울: 그린비. (Korean only)
- 2) UN Human Rights Council, Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General. A/HRC/21/22, UN General Assembly. 2021.
(https://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/women/docs/a.hrc.21.22_en.pdf)

Session 8	Ethics of global health	4/27/2026
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Topics:

- Relational & contextual traditions: communitarianism, structural violence, postcolonial critique, and decolonial solidarity

Class activity:

- Group discussion – What do major ethical perspectives tell us about global health equity?

Reading assignments:

Stapleton, G, Schröder-Bäck, P, Laaser, U, Meershoek, A, Popa, D. Global Health Ethics: An Introduction to Prominent Theories and Relevant Topics. *Global Health Action* 2014;7(1), 23569.

Callahan, D. Individual Good and Common Good: A Communitarian Approach to Bioethics. *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine*, 46(4), 496–507, 2003.

Farmer, P. *Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor*. University of California Press, 2003. [Ch.1: On Suffering and Structural Violence]

Ewuoso, C. Solidarity and Its Decoloniality in Global Health Ethics. *International Journal for Equity in Health*, 24, 18, 2025.



Class activity:

- **Global Health Book Club #2: Inequality and Health**

- 1) Marmot M. *The Health Gap: the challenge of an unequal world*. London: Bloomsbury, 2015.

(Kor title) 마이클 마멋(2017). *건강 격차* (김승진 역). 서울: 동녘.

- 2) Wilkinson R. *The Impact of Inequality: How to Make Sick Societies Healthier*. New York: New Press, 2005.

(Kor title) 리처드 윌킨슨(2008). *평등해야 건강하다* (김홍수영 역). 서울: 후마니타스.

Recommended books for further reading:

- 1) 김창엽(2013). 건강할 권리. 서울: 후마니타스 (in Korean only)
- 2) Wilkinson R, Pickett K. *The Inner Level: How More Equal Societies Reduce Stress, Restore Sanity and Improve Everyone's Well-Being*. New York: Penguin Books, 2018.
(Kor title) 리처드 윌킨슨, 케이트 피켓(2019). 불평등 트라우마 (이은경 역). 서울: 생각이음.
- 3) Wilkinson R. *Unhealthy Societies: The Afflictions of Inequality*. London; New York: Routledge, 1996.
(Kor title) 리처드 윌킨슨(2004). 건강불평등, 사회는 어떻게 죽이는가? (정연복 역). 서울: 당대.

Session 9	Health systems in resource-poor settings	5/4/26
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Topics:

- Shared experience of real-world involvement in global health activities
- Career development in global health

Topics:

- Types of health systems
- The weaknesses of health care systems in low- and middle-income countries
- Health system strengthening approach

Class activity:

- Group discussion – How to design a health system for a newly independent, conflict-affected, low-income countries? Where to start and for what values and goals?

Reading assignments:

WHO. Everybody business: strengthening health systems to improve health outcomes: WHO's framework for action, 2007.

Mills A. Health care systems in low- and middle-income countries. *N Engl J Med* 2014;370(6):552-7.

Further readings:

Hafner T, Shiffman J. The emergence of global attention to health systems strengthening. *Health Policy Plan* 2013;28(1):41-50.

Reich,MR, Takemi K, Roberts MJ, Hsiao WC. Global action on health systems: a proposal for the Toyako G8 summit. *Lancet* 2008;371:865-869.

Murray CJL, Frenk J. "A framework for assessing the performance of health systems." *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 2000;78(6):717-731.

Session 10	Health service delivery in resource-poor settings	5/11/26
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Topics:

- Health service delivery framework
- Universal Health Coverage (UHC)
- Challenges in health service delivery in resource-poor countries

Class activity:

- Group discussion – Could the *Coca-Cola* company help health service delivery in resource-poor settings? Why or Why not?

Reading assignments:

World Bank. Improving health service delivery in developing countries: from evidence to action. edited by Perters DH et al. Washington, DC, 2009. (pp.1-24 only)

Sen A. Universal health care: the affordable dream. *Harvard Public Health Review* 2015;4:1-8.

Further readings:

World Bank. Improving the delivery of health services: a guide to choosing strategies. Washington, DC, 2011.

Abihiro GA, De Allegri M. Universal health coverage from multiple perspectives: a synthesis of conceptual literature and global debates. *BMC Int Health Hum Rights* 2015;15:17.

Mills A. Mass campaigns versus general health services: what have we learnt in 40 years about vertical versus horizontal approaches? *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 2005;83(4):315-316.

Session 11	Global health financing	5/18/26
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Topics:

- Components of global health financing
- Recent trend and key issues in global health financing

Class activity:

- Group discussion – Would UHC be *affordable* in low- and middle-income countries? *Who will pay?*

Reading assignments:

McCoy D, Chand S, Sridhar D. Global health funding: how much, where it

comes from and where it goes. *Health Policy and Planning* 2009;24(6):407-17.

Sridhar D, Batniji R. Misfinancing global health: a case for transparency in disbursements and decision making. *The Lancet* 2008;372(9644):1185-91.

Further readings:

Ottersen T, Elovainio R, Evans DB et al. Towards a coherent global framework for health financing: recommendations and recent developments. *Health Econ Policy Law* 2017;12(2):285-296.

Stenberg K, Hanssen O, Edejer TT et al. Financing transformative health systems towards achievement of the health Sustainable Development Goals: a model for projected resource needs in 67 low-income and middle-income countries. *Lancet Glob Health* 2017;5(9):e875-e887.

Schaferhoff M, Schrade C, Schneider MT. The Global Health Financing Architecture and the Millennium Development Goals. *The Hand Book of Global Health Policy* 2014, 357-373.

Allen LN. Financing national non-communicable disease responses. *Global Health Action* 2017;10:1.

Session 12	Global health governance [online]	5/25/26
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Topics:

- Definitions of governance, global governance, and global health governance
- Recent trend and key issues in global health governance
- Types and roles of key actors in global health

Class activity:

- Role playing – Global health security governance against the coronavirus pandemic: for whom, by whom?

Reading assignments:

Batniji R, Songane F. Contemporary Global Health Governance: Origins, Functions, and Challenges. *The Hand Book of Global Health Policy* 2014, pp. 63-74.

Frenk J, Moon S. Governance challenges in global health. *N Engl J Med* 2013; 368(10):936-42.

Further readings:

Who runs global health? *Lancet* 2009; 373:2083.

Ruger JP. The Changing Role of the World Bank in Global Health. *American*

Journal of Public Health 2005;95(1):60-70.

Cohen MA. The New Colonialists. *Foreign Policy* 2008;167:74-79.

Lee K, Kamradt-Scott A. The multiple meanings of global health governance: a call for conceptual clarity. *Globalization and Health* 2014;10:28.

Session 13	Aid on health and development	6/1/26
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Topics:

- Impact of foreign aid on health and development
- Roles of foreign aid in improving global health

Class activity:

- Global Health Book Club #3: Aid and Development
 - 1) Easterly W. *The White Man's Burden: Why the West's efforts to aid the rest have done so much ill and so little good.* New York: Penguin Press, 2007.
(Kor title) 윌리엄 이스털리(2011). *세계의 절반 구하기* (황규득 역). 서울: 미지북스.
 - 2) Lancaster C. *Foreign Aid: Diplomacy, Development, Domestic Politics.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006.
(Kor title) 캐럴 랭커스터(2010). *왜 세계는 가난한 나라를 돕는가?* (유지훈 역). 서울: 시공사.
 - 3) Moyo D. *Dead Aid: why aid is not working and how there is a better way for Africa.* New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009.
(Kor title) 담비사 모요(2012). *죽은 원조* (김진경 역). 서울: 알마.
 - 4) Sachs J. *The Age of Sustainable Development.* New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 2015.
(Kor title) 제프리 삭스(2015). *지속 가능한 발전의 시대* (홍성완 역). 서울: 21세기북스.
- Group discussion – Is aid *really* dead? How can we make it *work*?

Reading assignments:

Coyne CJ and Williamson CR. Can International Aid Improve Health? *The Hand Book of Global Health Policy* 2014, pp. 375-392.

Sridhar, Devi. Seven Challenges in International Development Assistance for Health and Ways Forward. *The Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics* 2010;38(3): 459-69.

Further readings:

Ravishankar, N, Biggins, P, Cooley, RJ, Leach-Kermon, K, Michaud, CM, Jamison, DT, Murray, CLJ. Financing of global health: tracking development assistance for health from 1990-2007. *The Lancet* 2009;373:2113-2124.

Session 14	Prospects and challenges in global health	6/8/26
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Topics:

- Emerging challenges in global health
- Future of global health
- Individual presentation
- Class wrap-up

Class activity:

- Individual presentation – What are your own answers to the key questions in global health?

Reading assignments:

Yamey G, Feachem R. Evidence-based policymaking in global health - the payoffs and pitfalls. *Evidence-Based Medicine* 2011;16(4):97-99.

Büyüm A, Kenney C, Koris A, Mkumba L, Raveendran Y. Decolonising global health: if not now, when? *BMJ Global Health* 2020;5:e003394.

Garrett L. The Challenges of Global Health. *Foreign Affairs* 2007;86(1):15-38.

Lomazzi M, Jenkins C, Borisch B. Global public health today: connecting the dots. *Glob Health Action* 2016;9.1:28772.

Session 15	Final exam	6/15/26
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- In-class, closed books