**American Medical Student Association**

**AMSA Academy**

**Global Health Scholars Program**

2016-2017

**Tuesdays 8PM EDT/EST**

**Course Director:** Nilofar Hassanzadeh

**Vice Director:** Danielle Kelvas

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**Grading**: Pass/Fail (see below for Completion Requirements)

**I. Course Description**

Global health addresses the key tenets of health care on a global scale. Complex interdependent relationships of health systems that transcend national boundaries are of special interest in sustaining global health initiatives within and between countries. The current definition proposed by Koplan et al. defines global health as “an area for study, research, and practice that places a priority on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide. Global health emphasises transnational health issues, determinants, and solutions; involves many disciplines within and beyond the health sciences and promotes interdisciplinary collaboration; and is a synthesis of population-based prevention with individual-level clinical care.”[[1]](#footnote-1) Continuous shifts in the global economy and population dynamics have dramatically increased the demand for healthcare professionals with global health expertise. By delivering lectures from top leaders in the field, the Global Health Scholars Program (GHSP) will encourage scholars to drive change and make positive impacts in underserved communities worldwide.

**II. Course Objectives**

By the end of this Scholars Program, scholars will be able to:

* Identify key concepts and methods used to analyze global health issues.
* Discuss and examine different approaches to health policy and advocacy.
* Analyze epidemiological factors related to specific diseases and potential means for prevention.
* Practice interpersonal communication and demonstrate respect for cross-cultural perspectives in the healthcare field.
* Describe the framework and structure of healthcare systems.
* Engage and critique global health topics with fellow scholars and speakers.
* Design a program to address a specific global health issue and develop strategies for successful intervention.
* Research and reflect upon current literature addressing global health epidemics.

**III. Format and Procedures**

***Course Schedule***

* The course will run from October 2016 to February 2017.
* Two webinars will be held each month on Tuesdays at 8PM EDT/EST.
* Individual topics are listed in the calendar below.

***Course Website***

* The course will be administered through an online platform.
* The course will largely be conducted via webinar using an online-based web conference platform. You will need access to either a phone or a computer equipped with audio.
* The web platform will serve as the main platform for all assignments, discussions, resources, and progress tracking.

***Attendance and Participation***

* Attendance is mandatory for all webinars (see exceptions below).
* Attending AMSA’s National Convention in February 2017 will be highly encouraged and allow scholars the opportunity to showcase the work they have conducted throughout the Scholars Program.

***Grading***

* The course will be on a pass/fail grading scale.
* Rubrics for individual assignments will be used for grading and will be available on the course website.
* In order to receive certification scholars must complete all expectations pertaining to attendance and assignments listed below.

***Course Credit***

* Scholars may be able to receive elective credit from their home institution for this course. While AMSA unfortunately cannot grant elective credit at this time, we are happy to support you with documentation that will aid you as you seek elective credit.
* Each scholar that completes the requirements outlined in Section V below will be provided an official Certificate of Completion.

**IV. Expectations of Scholars**

Scholars are expected to:

* Engage in reflection and open discussion with fellow scholars on upcoming topics.
* Complete brief pre- and post- quizzes for each webinar.
* Analyze and respond to reading and written assignments prior to each webinar.
* Perform action challenges to promote current global health initiatives.
* Notify the course directors if they are unable to complete the activities associated with each webinar or are unable to attend a webinar.
* Evaluate course curriculum and expectations in surveys provided by course directors.
* Construct a final project that promotes a sustainable method for addressing a specific global health priority.
* Actively participate in all course discussions with respect and consideration for their fellow scholars and speakers.

**V. Completion Requirements for Certification**

* Class attendance
  + *Domestic Students and International Students in the Caribbean and the Americas:*
    - Must attend 80% of webinars
    - Can watch **up to two** recorded webinars and complete a reflection of the webinar to obtain make-up credit for attendance
  + *International Students in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia*
    - Must watch 80% of recorded webinars within 48 hours of the original session
    - Submit a short reflection of the webinar to the co-Course Directors within 72 hours of the original session
* Participation policy
  + Must post to 80% of online discussion questions
* Final Project
  + Requirements & Guidelines
    - Scholars will be given the opportunity to choose a specific topic in global health that they would like to address. The project will give the scholars the ability to construct a well thought out vision and proposal for how their specific issue can be funded, facilitated, and maintained amongst external circumstances and challenges. The goal of the project is to provide scholars with the means necessary to execute their vision in future endeavors.
  + Timeline
    - The project will be broken down into multiple sub-sections with individual deadlines allowing scholars to visualize and execute the completion of their final project in a timely and efficient manner.
    - All deadlines for each sub-section are listed below in the Course Calendar and will posted on the course website.

**VI. Inclusivity Statement**

We understand that our members represent a rich variety of backgrounds and perspectives. The American Medical Student Association (AMSA) Academy is committed to providing an atmosphere for learning that respects diversity. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

* Share their unique experiences, values and beliefs.
* Be open to the views of others.
* Honor the uniqueness of their colleagues.
* Appreciate the opportunity that we have to learn from each other in this community.
* Value each other’s opinions and communicate in a respectful manner.
* Keep confidential discussions that the community has of a personal (or professional) nature.
* Use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and within the AMSA community.

**VII. Course Calendar (May change to accommodate guest presenters needs)**

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| **Date** | **Topic** | **Project Timeline** |
| October 4th, 2016 | Introduction to global health | Project Check-in #1  October 20th, 2016 : Identify Topic and Country of Choice |
| October 18th, 2016 | Health policy and implementation |
| November 1st, 2016 | Cross-cultural competency and ethical reasoning | Project Check-in #2  November 20th, 2016: Submit outline of objectives for project model |
| November 15th, 2016 | Strengthening and developing of global health systems |
| December 6th, 2016 | Maternal and child health | Project Check-in #3  December 18th, 2016: Respond and modify all suggestions provided by the course directors on project proposal |
| December 20th, 2016 | Sex-trafficking |
| January 3rd, 2017 | Water and sanitation | Project Check-in #4  January 10th, 2017: Submit project model and abstract for evaluation by course directors |
| January 17th, 2017 | HIV/AIDS |
| February 7th, 2017 | Nutrition | Project Check-in #5  February 10th, 2017: Submit final project model and abstract |
| February 21st, 2017 | Global surgery |
| February 23-26, 2017 | AMSA National Convention |

1. Koplan JP, Bond TC, Merson MH, Reddy KS, Rodriguez MH, Sewankambo NK, et al. Towards a common definition of global health. *Lancet.* 2009; 373:1993–5. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)