PHS 650: 076 Community Health in Conflict Situations
1 credit
Summer 2014
9am- 12pm
July 7th-11th

Course Overview

Violent conflict directly impacts development at all levels – individual to community, national and global levels. A large number of countries in the world are experiencing violent internal conflicts. They are taking a heavy toll in terms of people’s lives, livelihoods and assets - both physical and social. The health impact of these violent conflicts on the affected populace is significant, particularly on the disadvantaged and marginalized groups such as women, children and the elderly.

This course introduces key issues related to health of communities affected by violent internal conflict. This course also explores how conflict undermines sustainable development at different phases of a violent and key issues confronted in a post war/post conflict environment. Development practitioners working in conflict situations face enormous challenges in meeting the basic health needs of affected people. This course provides an overview of key issues related to provision of health care in a conflict situation and different approaches on addressing them illustrated by real life examples. As conflict and war disproportionately impact women and vulnerable populations the most, the dynamics of power relations related to gender will be analyzed through case studies and historical examples of internal conflict.

Course Leader and Guest Instructor:
Vinya Ariyaratne, MD, MPH.
General Secretary, Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement, Sri Lanka
Visiting Scholar, Global Health Institute. UW-Madison
Email: vinya@sarvodaya.org

GHI Course Co-Leaders:
Sweta Shrestha, MPH
Learning Objectives:
By the end of the course student will be able to:

- Explain the global burden of conflict on health and wellness
- Describe the health impact of these violent conflicts on the affected populace is significant, particularly on the disadvantaged and marginalized groups such as women, children and the elderly.
- Explore key issues related to health of communities affected by violent internal conflict.
- Explore how gender plays a key factor in health status during violent conflict.
- Utilize principles and strategies for interdisciplinary team work (communication, negotiation, respect for group dynamics, and conflict resolution).
- Explore concepts related to cultural competence and cultural humility, as well participatory community approaches to health.
- Examine ethical issues related to global health.

Teaching Methods:
Seminars will include didactic presentations and discussions led by course leader, course coordinator and the visiting scholar who is the content expert on community health in times of violence. Students will participate in classroom discussions, group work, and web-based discussions.

Grading and Assignments:
The grading scale for the course will be:
A: 90-100,
AB: 85-89,
B: 80-84,
BC: 74-79,
C: 69-73,
D: 64-68,
F: 63 or below

Assignments:
1. Attendance (30 %):
Given the interactive nature and short duration of the course, along with its dependence on teamwork, attendance is required. Students should inform instructor beforehand if an absence is absolutely necessary.

2. Class Participation (30 %):
The overall class structure will consist of lectures, discussion and group exercises. This course will be run on a “workshop” style where students’ own country experience with violent conflict will be presented and analyzed.
Students are expected to participate in discussions and group work and provide constructive support to classmates as they tease apart the complex issues surrounding conflict situations and health. Students are expected to come to class ready to comment on the required readings for the day. Students will be required to post comments on required readings on the Learn@UW site by midnight before the day of class.

3. Group Presentation (40 %): Using a template to be provided, teams will present their analysis featuring a current conflict situation. Presentations should include a background of the conflict, current status, impact on health of vulnerable populations along with steps being taken place or proposals on addressing community health in conflict situations.
Students will be expected to provide references that document the evidence base related to their topic and intervention. All presentation will also present organizational or leadership strategies that are important in the implementation and success of program.
Prerequisites:
Course is open to graduate and health sciences students along with upper level undergraduate students with interest in global health and conflict.

Course Schedule and Readings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Session Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to Conflict and Health Internal displacement and community health</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Psychological impact of conflict and mental health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Under-aged combatants Re-integration of ex-combatants</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Gender &amp; Reproductive Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Post-war reconstruction and health systems International Actors and Conventions</td>
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Day One (July 7th)

Topic: Introduction to course
1. Review course objectives and scope
2. Introductory lecture and discussion
   a. Introduction to Conflict and Health
   b. Internal displacement and community health

Readings:

- Clarence C Tam, Ben A Lopman, Olga Bornemisza and Egbert Sondorp. Epidemiology in conflict – A call to arms, International Journal of Mental Health Systems 2010, 4:15 http://www.ete-online.com/content/1/1/5

Guiding principles on Internal Displacement. (2004). UN, OCHA.

**Day Two (July 8th)**

**Topic: Mental Health**

1. Discussion of required readings
2. Lecture on Mental Health
3. Group work

**Readings:**

Day Three  (July 9th)
Topic: Under-aged combatants and Re-integration of Ex-combatants

1. Discussion of required readings
2. Lecture and discussion

Readings:


Day Four (July 10th)
Topic: Gender and Reproductive Health

1. Discussion of required readings
2. Lecture and discussion
3. Group work on final presentations

Readings:


Day Five (July 11th)
Topic: Post-war reconstruction and health systems
International Actors and conventions

1. Discussion of required readings
2. Lecture and discussion
3. Group Presentations

**Required Readings:**


**Policy on Absence**

Attendance and participation in the course counts for 60% of the grade. Missing class or failing to participate will negatively impact a student’s grade. Emergencies and excused absences will be handled on a case by case basis by the course leaders. Unexcused absence from class will result in points lost from attendance and participation for the week.

**Policy on Student Concerns/Complaints**

Any student who has a concern or complaint specific to an experience in this course should first talk with the instructor, preceptor, or course assistant as applicable. If the issue is not resolved at this level, the student should then go to the course professor.

**COURSE ENVIRONMENT AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/MISCONDUCT**

Collaborative Environment & Academic Misconduct Students are encouraged to discuss course material and content with each other. However, unless otherwise indicated, assignments, exams, and quizzes should be representative of your own work. Please refer to this website if you have questions about student misconduct: [http://www.wisc.edu/students/saja/misconduct/misconduct.html](http://www.wisc.edu/students/saja/misconduct/misconduct.html)

**Policy on Non-Discrimination**

The UW–Madison is committed to creating a dynamic, diverse and welcoming learning
environment for all students and has a non-discrimination policy that reflects this philosophy. Disrespectful behaviors or comments addressed towards any group or individual, regardless of race/ethnicity, sexuality, gender, religion, ability, or any other difference is deemed unacceptable in this class.

Policy on Special Needs or Disabilities

We wish to fully include persons with special needs or disabilities in this course. Please let Dr. Witt know if you need any special accommodations in the curriculum, instruction, or assessments of this course to enable you to fully participate.

Civility Policy

Members of the University of Wisconsin-Madison community are expected to deal with each other with respect and consideration. The civility policy for this course promotes mutual respect, civility and orderly conduct among the faculty, teaching assistants, and students. We do not intend this policy to deprive any person of his or her right to freedom of expression. Rather, we seek to maintain a safe, harassment-free work-place for the students, faculty, and teaching assistants. Positive communication is encouraged and volatile, hostile, or aggressive actions and language will not be tolerated. If the civility policy for this course is violated, then the individual is subject to removal from the class and possibly the course altogether. In addition, the proper authorities at the UW Departmental, School, and University levels will be notified of such behavior accordingly and further action may be taken if necessary.