Course proposal

Health and Human Rights: Principles, Practice and Dilemmas

Owning programme: MSc Global Health and Public Policy

Convenor: Johanna Hanefeld

Credits: 10 weeks, 20 credits

Semester: Semester 2

List as optional unit for: MSc Global Health and Public Policy, MSc Health Systems and Public Policy, MSc Health Inequalities and Public Policy. and MSc Anthropology of Health and Illness.

We have held preliminary discussions with colleagues in CAS and Anthropology and would also expect this course to be welcomed as an option for further MSc programmes.

Teaching: 10 x one hour lecture, and 9 x 2 hour seminar.

Assessment: 4,000 word essay

Aim: To provide students with an understanding of rights-based approaches to health and to enable them to apply these to the practice of global public health.

The course will cover the right to health, rights-based approaches to health and ethical issues arising in the practice of global public health. Following an introduction to the principles, theories and international instruments, the module will then explore their application by means of five case studies. Each case study will allow students to critically examine a contemporary aspect of health and human rights, ranging from individual litigation, community empowerment, changes in government policy, to addressing ethical questions in global public health research. Students will be expected to work in groups and they will be assessed on the basis of a joint project report and a short examination.

The course will:
Examine the theory of health and human rights, including international legal instruments and their relevance to health including: the International Convenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Commission on the Status of Women.

Critically assess ways in which the right to health and rights-based approaches have been used to empower communities, change government policy through international legal instruments and by individuals, in litigation to gain access to treatment.
Apply human rights principles to contemporary challenges in global public health via the use of case studies.

Critically analyse the challenges involved operationalisation of a rights based approach to health and in research.

**Course outline**

Seminars will be based on student led group work, focusing on applying principles introduced in the lecture to a series of case studies.

1. Introduction to course and health and human rights principles.
2. Health and human rights and health systems
   - Case study: Maternal mortality
3. Human rights and social determinants of health
   - Case study: IDP, Roma lead poisoning in Kosovo
4. Human rights impact assessments
   - Case study: Scotland
   - (in collaboration with the Scottish Human Rights Commission)
5. Access to treatment
   - Case study: HIV in South Africa
6. Relief work and humanitarianism
   - Case study: South Sudan Famine
7. Widow cleansing, inheritance in Tanzania
8. Human rights research and empowerment
   - Case study: PopART trial in Zambia and South Africa
9. Sexual minorities, Sexual and Reproductive Rights,
   - Case study: Uganda, Malawi, Jamaica
10. Summary lecture and discussion

**Indicative reading** (to be further developed)


