GD204-30 Health and Sustainable Development

24/25

Department
Global Sustainable Development
Level
Undergraduate Level 2
Module leader
Camilla Audia
Credit value
30
Module duration
20 weeks
Assessment
100% coursework
Study location
University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module offers an in-depth examination of the field of global health, including theories, case-studies from around
the world and analysis of Sustainable Development Goal 3 ("good health and well-being"). This two-term module
involves a blend of conceptual foundations, case study analysis, and active learning through role-play, engaging with
different media and group work. Teaching and case studies are interdisciplinary, drawing on social science research,
human geography and planetary health. Both terms are alone-standing but complement each other.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

Term 1 introduces the concept and dimensions of global health and equips students with a big-picture understanding

of health governance and health systems. It focuses on theories, actors and interdisciplinary dimensions of global
health and the changing priorities of the international development agenda within and beyond the Sustainable
Development Goals. These core concepts are illustrated with case-studies from across the world, including state of
the art, current research and the combination of readings, lectures and active engagement will further enable students
to grasp and discuss key issues that dominate global health using cross-disciplinary frameworks, their relationship to
international development and other sustainable development goals, and their global and local dimensions.
Term 2 will focus on cross-cutting issues that shape and impact on global health. This will include frameworks for
interpreting, addressing and initiating change as active players in global health; unfinished and upcoming issues that
will dominate debates and discourses in the coming years and tools to understand and become change-makers. This
term still offers some key foundations of global health and development, focussing on inequalities and past and recent
issues, then focusses on human behaviour and influences on global health; ethics; trans-disciplinarity and multiplicity
of knowledge systems as potential ways forward in global health.
Both terms include a variety of teaching methods, in and out of the classroom seminars, guest-lectures to present
ongoing research topics and active learning opportunities.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Term 1
Following an introduction to global health and development, we will explore the global and local governance (or
absence thereof) of health, historical trajectories that define current governance arrangements and the structures of
national health systems. From there, we will study specific topics of global health within the Sustainable Development
Goal 3 and topics outside the SDGs that are key to the global health agendas. We will also look at the links between
global health and environmental change and present recent case-studies from across Global North and Global South.
Term 2
The introductory week of this module will outline cross-cutting issues in health and sustainable development, and their
analytical power in interrogating and challenging current global health practice. We will then focus on cross-cutting

issues that shape and impact on global health. This will include frameworks for interpreting, addressing and initiating
change as active players in global health; unfinished and upcoming issues that will dominate debates and discourses
in the coming years and tools to understand and become change-makers. This term still offers some key foundations
of global health and development, focussing on inequalities and past and recent issues, then focusses on human
behaviour and influences on global health; ethics; trans-disciplinarity and multiplicity of knowledge systems as
potential ways forward in global health.
Throughout the module, students will explore case studies from across the globe, covering low-, middle-, and highincome
contexts. Seminars will also emphasise the use of data to inform our understanding of global and local health
problems.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Appreciate economic, social, environmental, and governance dimensions of global health issues
- Understand and evaluate un/-intended outcomes of health interventions and policies
- Develop balanced and theoretically grounded arguments on the potential and limitations of technical solutions for health problems
- Critically analyse the ways in which development processes and contextual change affect people's health
- Apply interdisciplinary frameworks to global health
- Acquire theoretical and practical tools to become an active change-maker in the field of global health

Indicative reading list

A module reader will be collated and its readings published on Moodle. A sample of the reading is provided below:

Randall, M. P. (2016). A history of global health: interventions into the lives of other peoples. Baltimore, MA: Johns
Hopkins University Press.

Birn, A.-E., Pillay, Y., & Holtz, T. H. (2018). Textbook of global health (4th ed.). New York: Oxford University Press.Hanefeld, J. (Ed.). (2015).
Globalization and health (2nd ed.). Maidenhead: Open University Press.
O'Manique, C., & Fourie, P. (Eds.). (2018). Global health and security: critical feminist perspectives. Abingdon:
Routledge.

McElroy, A., & Townsend, P. K. (2015). Medical anthropology in ecological perspective (6th ed.).

Boulder, CO:
Westview.

Abrams Press. Parker, R., & García, J. (Eds.). (2019). Routledge handbook on the politics of global health.

Abingdon: Routledge. Lee, K., & Collin, J. (Eds.). (2005). Global change and health. Maidenhead: Open University
Press.

Ong'era FM, Stewart J, Bukusi E. Why and for whom are we decolonising global health? Lancet Glob Health.
2021;9(10):e1359–60.

The history of US healthcare in 7 minutes - Audio visual document. Healthcare Triage is a series about healthcare
hosted by Dr. Aaron Carroll who explains healthcare policy, medical research, and answers a lot of other questions
you may have about medicine, health, and healthcare.

Pearson M, Chandler C. Knowing antmicrobial resistance in practice: a multi-country qualitative study with human and
animal healthcare professionals. Glob Health Action. 2019;12(1):1599560. doi:
10.1080/16549716.2019.1599560.
PMID: 31294679; PMCID: PMC6703149.

Gorsky, M. and Nelson, E (2022) 'SDG 3 – Historical Perspectives on Health and Well-Being as International Policy
Goals', in M. Gutmann and D. Gorman (eds) Before the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Oxford University Press,
DOI: 10.1093/oso/9780192848758.003.0004

Shulla K, Voigt BF, Cibian S, Scandone G, Martinez E, Nelkovski F, Salehi P. Effects of COVID-19 on the Sustainable
Development Goals (SDGs). Discov Sustain. 2021;2(1):15. doi: 10.1007/s43621-021-00026-x. Epub 2021 Mar 17.
PMID: 35425922; PMCID: PMC7967781.

IPCC, 2022: Summary for Policymakers [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, E.S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, M. Tignor, A.

Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Löschke, V. Möller, A. Okem (eds.)]. In: Climate Change 2022: Impacts,
Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, M. Tignor, E.S. Poloczanska, K.
Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Löschke, V. Möller, A. Okem, B. Rama (eds.)]. Cambridge
University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, pp. 3–33,
doi:10.1017/9781009325844.001.

https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/12/17/world/asia/india-pollution-inequality.html

Cristiano, S. and Zilio, S., 2021. Whose Health in Whose City? A Systems Thinking Approach to Support and
Evaluate Plans, Policies, and Strategies for Lasting Urban Health. Sustainability, [online] 13(21), p.12225.
https://doi.org/10.3390/su132112

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

Research element

Research skills are embedded into the teaching strategy of the module. By the end of the module student will be
enabled to apply cross-disciplinary research methods to global health issues.

Interdisciplinary

This is an optional core module on the Global Sustainable Development course which adopts an interdisciplinary
approach spanning the arts, humanities, social and natural sciences fields in order to engage with the major global
challenges facing contemporary society, explore these 'big problems,' from a variety of perspectives and consider a
range of possible solutions. Specifically, for this module, teaching and case studies are interdisciplinary, drawing on
medical as well as social science research.

International

This is an optional core module on the Global Sustainable Development course which offers a unique trans-disciplinary and international learning experience that allows students to achieve breadth and depth of knowledge.

Subject specific skills

Ability to:

- critically assess and analyse global health issues that need to be addressed, including real-life examples;
- use and apply established frameworks and methodologies for analysing the impact(s) of a process;
- generate and evaluate different models of health to assess their likely impact;
- engage with real-life problems relevant to sustainable development and health;
  use historical knowledge and an understanding of the consequences of past actions to envision how futures
  may be shaped;
- identify the importance of empowering individuals and organisations to work together to

create new knowledge;
employ leadership for global health by challenging assumptions and negotiating alternatives to unsustainable
current practices.

Transferable skills

Intellectual skills: students will possess the knowledge and vocabulary to converse about theories and methods for
approaching global health issues from different biomedical, social, political and historical perspectives; they will be
able to critically interrogate statements about global health as part of sustainable development; understand how global
health differs in policy and practice, what it may look like locally and interpret potential implications.
Practical skills: students will develop written communication skills, including how to write a research paper; teamwork
skills in the preparation of games and activities; content analysis skills in critically reading, listening to, watching and
interpreting various materials.
Employability Skills: students will refine project management skills in developing ideas on how to assimilate different
readings and assignments into original, informed discussion on the topic; research skills in using databases, wider
readings and visuals to inform research for case-study, essay and paper writing; oral and written communications.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	19 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Seminars	19 sessions of 1 hour 30 minutes (9%)
Private study	251 hours (84%)
Total	298.5 hours

Private study description

Reading and research in preparation for active engagement in lectures and seminars.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A4

	Weighting	Study time
Case Study Analysis Outline (500 words)	10%	

This is a formative assessment. Students are asked to pick a topic and prepare an outline of a case-study analysis that they will complete later in the term. This will be in preparation for the case-study analysis assessment. Collective feedback will be provided. Students can book office hours for individual feedback.

Case Study Analysis (2000 words)	20%	

Students will choose independently a case-study to illustrate a broader issue in global health and sustainable development. They will build on the formative assessment and formalise their written work in this analysis.

Reflection	20%	

During some seminars, students will be required to work in small groups. This assessment requires
to keep track of learning and critically analyse their contribution to the group work and chosen topic,
reflect on group dynamics and how their work impacted on the subject matter. The assignment is split into three pieces, due in different weeks: 1 (500 words) on choice of topic and different materials, 1 (500 words) on working as part of a group as well as independently and 1 (500 words)
on reflective writing.

Research Paper	50%	

Students will be asked to conduct some research on secondary data. They will learn how
to formulate a research question, argument and select and use data to support it.

Feedback on assessment

All feedback will be provided via tabula; individual face-to-face feedback sessions will be offered to each student. The
formative assessment will be assessed individually but feedback will be provided collectively; students will be offered
individual feedback sessions.

Availability

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 2 of UIPA-L8N1 Undergraduate Global Sustainable Development and Business
- Year 2 of UIPA-R4L8 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and Global Sustainable Development

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 2 of UIPA-L1L8 Undergraduate Economic Studies and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 2 of UIPA-XL38 Undergraduate Education Studies and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 2 of UIPA-L8A1 Undergraduate Global Sustainable Development
- Year 2 of UIPA-L8N1 Undergraduate Global Sustainable Development and Business
- Year 2 of UIPA-R4L8 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 2 of UIPA-V1L8 Undergraduate History and Global Sustainable Development
- UIPA-C1L8 Undergraduate Life Sciences and Global Sustainable Development
  - Year 2 of C1L8 Life Sciences and Global Sustainable Development
  - Year 2 of C1LA Life Sciences and Global Sustainable Development: Biological Sciences
  - Year 2 of C1LB Life Sciences and Global Sustainable Development: Ecology
- UIPA-V5L8 Undergraduate Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development
  - Year 2 of V5L8 Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development
  - Year 2 of V5L8 Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 2 of UIPA-L2L8 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 2 of UIPA-C8L8 Undergraduate Psychology and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 2 of UIPA-L3L8 Undergraduate Sociology and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 2 of UIPA-W4L8 Undergraduate Theatre and Performance Studies and Global Sustainable Development

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of UIPA-L8A1 Undergraduate Global Sustainable Development