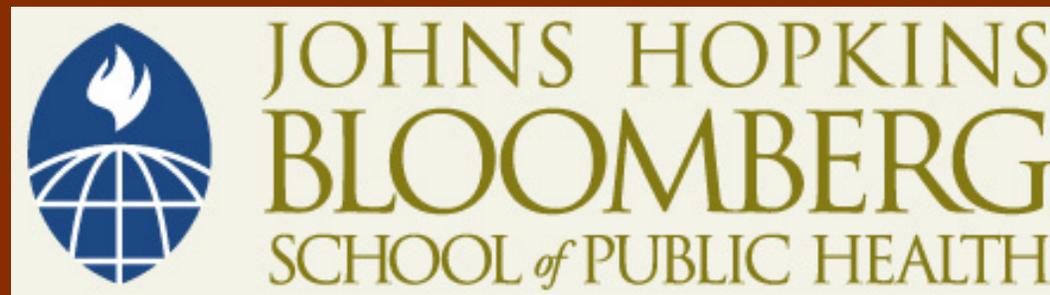


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JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG
SCHOOL *of* PUBLIC HEALTH

Issues in Global Mental Health Research

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Overview and Introduction

- Section A: Course Information
 - Course teaching faculty, description, and objectives
 - Course topics and format
 - Group exercises, research proposal, and grading
 - Course materials
- Section B: Introduction to Field of Global Mental Health
- Section C: Current Knowledge Overview



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Section A

Course Information

Course Description

- The purpose of this course is to introduce mental health as an integral part of global health research and program development
- The students will be provided with the knowledge and skills to assess the mental health needs of a target population and to critically analyze past and current strategies
- An introduction will also be given on methods of adapting and developing intervention approaches in low-resource countries

Course Objectives

- Describe prevalent mental health problems in developing countries and discuss the issues unique to understanding mental health in these contexts
- Illustrate ways that culture can affect mental health conceptualization, identification, and assessment
- Define and compare methods of cross-cultural assessment of mental health problems
- Recognize issues and challenges inherent in adapting strategies for research and programming in developing countries

Course Format

- This is a three-credit course that runs for eight weeks
- Introduction lectures: overview classes on defining mental health and understanding the epidemiology of disorders and risk and resiliency issues
- Methods lectures: a series of classes on cross-cultural research methods, including an introduction to qualitative methods, a review of issues related to assessment validity and a critical review of different prevention and intervention strategies
- Concluding lectures: topical classes that bring together the different research issues raised in earlier classes

Group Activities

- LiveTalks
 - Each LiveTalk session will be offered once. If you are not able to attend a LiveTalk session, to receive credit for the LiveTalk you must read/listen to the archive of the LiveTalk session and post a response to the BBS under the appropriate category, “LiveTalk Makeup.”

- BBS Discussions

Research Proposal (10 pages)

- Statement of problem and literature review (3-4 pages)
 - Basic background information
 - Both developed and developing country literature
 - But focus on issue as it may present in a low-resource area

- Assessment and study protocol (4-5 pages)
 - Choose assessment instrument
 - Discuss choice and modification
 - Brief study protocol, include working in different culture

- Description of intervention strategy (1.5-2 pages)
 - Briefly suggest an intervention strategy
 - Discuss a few of the major limitations of overall study
 - Ethical issues

Examples of Topics

- Depression and anxiety in an urban adolescent population in El Alto, Bolivia
- Depression in nomadic Southern Saharan (Touareg) women of child-bearing age (15-45)
- Trauma and aggression in children and adolescents who are exposed to landmines and not enrolled in formal education in rural Angola
- The impact of HIV/AIDS and orphaning on teacher burnout and engagement in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Citations and References

- At least five peer-reviewed journal articles
 - It's fine to also use NGO/UN/government reports in addition
- Use standard AMA reference format
- If citing or quoting information from a Web site, include full Web site in reference and date accessed

Proposal Pitch

- At the end of the course, students will be required to record a short presentation of their proposal, outlining the major points and pitching the idea to the class to be funded. Students will be given 5 minutes to present 3-4 slides.
- Students will be asked to provide questions for three proposal pitches via the BBS for discussion during the last LiveTalk

Assignments Weights

- Research proposal (60 points)
 - Research proposal topics
 - ▶ Information on what mental health problem will be investigated, and which country and population (e.g., adults, children) will be targeted
 - Statement of problem and literature review
 - Assessment and study protocol
 - Description of intervention strategy

- Proposal pitch (15 points)

- Participation in LiveTalks (15 points)

- BBS (10 points)

Grading

- This course is graded on a strict point system
 - 90-100: A
 - 80-89: B
 - 70-79: C (C or above needed for pass)
 - 60-69: D
 - Below 59: F
- Late policy: We will penalize unapproved late submissions incrementally per day. If illness or special circumstances impact completing an assignment on time, students are required to contact the instructor or TA prior to the due date to discuss options.

Course Materials

- Introductory text: World Health Organization. *The World Health Report 2001: Mental Health—New Understanding, New Hope*. Available at <http://www.who.int/whr/2001/en/>
- Reading materials: view and download online via the Welch Library's E-Reserve system. E-Reserve links will be provided on individual lecture pages. For international students who have difficulty downloading the files, contact the TA.

Course Evaluation

- Feedback from students each year has greatly enhanced the course
 - An individual lecture evaluation is located on each lecture main page. Please complete it as you complete each lecture.
 - An online evaluation form is available during the last week of the course
- We do listen. Student feedback has greatly shaped revisions to this course. Please take the time to give us yours.