

SYLLABUS
Issues in Population and Health

Name: Issues in Population and Health

Instructor: LIANG Xiaoyun, SA Zhihong,

Class Hours: 36

Credits: 2

Open for Registration to: Master student in development studies

Course Prerequisites: No

Course Description

The first part of the course provides an overview of health profiles and health care system in China, explores social determinants of health and disease, and discusses current healthcare reforms and health-related policies. The second part of the course explores patterns of health disparities and social determinants of health in both developed and developing countries. We will try to locate distributions of health outcomes within the socio-economic, institutional and cultural contexts of the region, focus on class, gender, rural-urban segregation underlying the epidemiological phenomena of interest, and critically evaluate these trends from a public policy perspective. The course will incorporate knowledge and perspectives from multiple academic disciplines (public health, economics, political science, management, sociology, etc) and does not require background knowledge.

Learning Objective

- 1 Describe the distribution of health in China and to understand individual, social, and institutional factors that related to burden of disease and health-related behaviors;
- 2 Identify and describe the role of key players in the Chinese health system and the historical foundations of these institutions;
- 3 Understand the concept of health system and describe the factors that influence the productivity of Chinese health system;

- 4 Describe current methods of health financing in use and articulate the strengths and weaknesses of these various modes of financing;
- 5 Identify key barriers to health service delivery in China and develop policy recommendations to address these challenges.
- 6 Have a general overview of the literature on social inequalities in health and the underlying mechanisms;
- 7 Enhance your ability to critically review issues related to social inequalities in health and their implications for policy and health interventions;
- 8 Formulate a research question and write a research proposal on the problem of your choice.

Readings

Readings include journal articles and book chapters which will be available at least one week ahead of the class. ** Indicates optional readings.

Grading: Attendance (10%), class participation (30%), term paper (60%)

Course Schedule

Week 1 (Sep. 7) Introduction of Public Health

Yang G, Wang Y, Zeng Y, et al. Rapid health transition in China, 1990–2010: findings from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2010. *The Lancet*. 2013;381:1987-2015.

Zhang D, Unschuld PU. China's barefoot doctor: past, present, and future. *The Lancet*. 2008;1865-1867.

Week 2 (Sep. 14) Social determinants of health

Puska P. Health in all policies. *Eur J Public Health*. 2007;**18**:357.

Gao J, Qian J, Tang S, Eriksson BO, Blas E. Health equity in transition from planned to market economy in China. *Health Policy Plan*. 2002;**17** Suppl:20-29.

Week 3 (Sep. 21) Health system and health reforms

Green LA, Fryer GE, Jr., Yawn BP, Lanier D, Dovey SM. The ecology of medical care revisited. *N Engl J Med*. 2001;**344**:2021-2025.

Blumenthal D, Hsiao W. Privatization and its discontents - The evolving Chinese health care system. *N Engl J Med*. 2005;**353**:1165-1170.

Yip W, Hsiao WC. What drove the cycles of Chinese health system reforms? *Health Systems & Reform*. 2015;**1**:52-61.

Week 4 (Sep. 28) Health financing & Pricing, Health insurance

Meng Q, Xu L, Zhang Y, et al. Trends in access to health services and financial protection in China between 2003 and 2011: a cross-sectional study. *Lancet*.**379**:805-814.

Week 6 (Oct. 12) Primary care

Bhattacharyya O, Yin D, Wong ST, Chen B. Evolution of primary care in China 1997-2009. *Health Policy*. 2011;**100**:174-180.

Week 7 (Oct. 19) Pharmaceutical Policy

Sun Q, Santoro MA, Meng Q, Liu C, Eggleston K. Pharmaceutical policy in China. *Health Aff (Millwood)*. 2008;**27**:1042-1050.

Liang X, Jin C, Wang L, et al. Unnecessary use of antibiotics for inpatient children with pneumonia in two counties of rural China. *Int J Clin Pharm*. 2011;**33**:750-754.

Week 8 (Oct. 26) Tobacco Control

Gu D, Kelly TN, Wu X, et al. Mortality attributable to smoking in China. *The New England journal of medicine*. 2009;**360**:150-159.

Hu T-W, Mao Z, Ong M, et al. China at the crossroads: the economics of tobacco and health. *Tobacco Control*. 2006;**15**:i37-i41.

Week 9 (Nov. 2) Mental Health

Xiang Y-T, Yu X, Ungvari GS, Lee EHM, Chiu HFK. China's National Mental Health Law: a 26-year work in progress. *Lancet*. 2012;**379**:780-782.

Li K, Sun X, Zhang Y, Kolstad A. Mental health care in China: review on the delivery and policy issues in 1949-2009 and the outlook for the next decade. *Acta neuropsychiatrica*. 2014;**26**:134-145.

Week 10 (Nov. 9) Patterns of health inequality

Marmot, Michael. 2006. "Health in an unequal world." *Lancet* 368: 2081-94.

Tang, Shenglan, Qingyue Meng, Lincoln Chen, Henk Bekedam, Tim Evans, and

Margaret Whitehead. 2008. "Tackling the Challenges to Health Equity in China." *Lancet* 372:1493-1501.

Week 11 (Nov. 16) Theoretical frameworks

Krieger, Nancy. 2001. "Theories for Social Epidemiology in the 21st Century: An Eco-social Perspective." *International Journal of Epidemiology* 30:668-77.

Glass, Thomas A. and Matthew J. McAtee. 2006. "Behavioral Science At the Crossroads in public health: Extending Horizons, Envisioning the Future." *Social Science & Medicine* 62:1650-71.

Week 12 (Nov. 23) Socioeconomic Status (SES) and Health

Link, Bruce G. and Jo Phelan. 1995. "Social Conditions as fundamental causes of disease." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* (Extra Issue): 80-94.

Wen, Ming and Danan Gu. 2011. "The effects of childhood, adult, and community socioeconomic conditions on health and mortality among older adults in China." *Demography* 48(1):153-81.

**Adler, Nancy E. and Katherine Newman. 2002. "Socioeconomic Disparities in Health: Pathways and Policies." *Health Affairs* 21(2):60-76.

Week 13 (Nov. 30) Health Behaviors in a Social Context

Emmons, Karen M. 2000. "Health Behaviors in a Social Context." Pp. 242-66 in *Social Epidemiology*, edited by Berkman, L.F. and I. Kawachi. New York: Oxford University Press.

Chen, Xinguang, et al. 2006. "Perceived smoking norms, socioenvironmental factors, personal attitudes and adolescent smoking in China: a mediation analysis with longitudinal data." *Journal of Adolescent Health* 38: 359-68.

Week 14 (Dec. 7) Rural-Urban Migration and Health

Gong, Peng, Song Liang, Elizabeth Carlton, Qingwu Jiang, Jianyong Wu, Lei Wang, Justin V Remais. 2012. "Urbanisation and health in China." *Lancet* 379 (9818):843-852.

Xiang, Biao. Migration and Health in China: Problems, Obstacles and Solutions. Asian Metacenter Research Paper Series, No. 17.

Week 15 (Dec. 14) Gender and Health

Krieger, Nancy. 2003. "Genders, Sexes, and Health: What Are the Connections – and Why Does It Matter?" *International Journal of Epidemiology* 32:652-7.

Doyal, Lesley. 2000. "Gender equity in health: debates and dilemmas." *Social Science*

& *Medicine* 51:931-939

Mei-Yu Yu, Rosemary Sarri. 1997. "Women's health status and gender inequality in China." *Social Science & Medicine* 45(12): 1885-98.

Week 16 (Dec. 21) Intimate partner violence in China (Guest speaker)

Why do some men use violence against women and how we prevent it? Quantitative Findings from the UN Multi-Country Study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific summary report. 2013.

**Emma Fulu, Rachel Jewkes, Tim Roselli, Claudia Garcia-Moreno, on behalf of the UN Multi-country Cross-sectional Study on Men and Violence research team. "Prevalence of and factors associated with male perpetration of intimate partner violence: findings from the UN Multi-country Cross-sectional Study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific." *Lancet Glob Health* 2013; 1: e187 – 207.

Week 17 (Dec. 28) Sex ratio at birth in China

Zhu, Weixing, Li Lu, Therese Hesketh. 2009. "China's excess males, sex selective abortion, and one child policy: analysis of data from 2005 national intercensus survey." *BMJ* 338:b1211 doi:10.1136/bmj.b1211

Shuzhuo, Li. 2007. Imbalanced Sex Ratio at Birth and Comprehensive Intervention in China. Paper presented at the 4th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights, Hyderabad, India.

**Week 18 (Jan. 4) Class presentation
Term paper is due (7-10 pages)**
