NYU ACCRA
UGPH-GU 9040
Health Policy in a Global World

Instructor Information

- Roger A. Atinga, Ph.D.
- Room GBL 1, Department of Public Administration and Health Services Management, University of Ghana Business School, College of Humanities, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana
- 0243260423
- Office Hours [Thursdays and Fridays: 10am – 3pm]
- raatinga@ug.edu.gh

Course Information

- Course Code: UGPH-GU 9040
- Course Title: Health Policy in a Global World
- Lecture hours: Wednesdays: 2:05pm-3:05pm
- Venue: Room 1, NYU Accra Campus

Course Overview and Goals

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the dynamics of health policy in the global context and the set of factors or mechanisms shaping the design and implementation of health policies globally. The course will draw on examples within and across countries and regions to explain issues around power, politics and policy interaction; the private sector and health policy; policy agenda setting; actors in global health policy and governance; health and epidemiological transitions and policy responses; health systems organization and service supply; comparative global health systems; health financing and how globalization presents both opportunities and risks to health policy. As global health policy is an emerging field that is constantly changing, viewed from multiple perspectives by academics, policy actors and practitioners, for example, and lacking universally agreed structure, this course will draw on tools and synthesis from public policy, public health policy, political science, economics and emerging global discourses. The overarching aim of this course is to enable students understand the fundamental ideas and discourses in the global health policy space. The course specific objectives are:

- To describe the role of the state, private sector and civil society in health policies development and implementation globally.
• To discuss how and why the health policy process is nonlinear as various actor power is used to shape and get an issue onto government agenda however non-essential the issue may be.
• To describe the functions of global health actors and their power to shape governance health policies especially in developing countries.
• To demonstrate how health systems differ in financing and organization of health service delivery.
• Discuss the changing pattern of the donor landscape and its effect on health systems financing and delivery in developing countries.
• Explain the role of globalization in global health policies and health security.

Course Overview and Goals
At the end of this course, students will be able to:
• Describe public policy and the framework of health policy analysis.
• Discuss the ways in which political systems influence policies and how public policy decisions affect health care and outcomes.
• Discuss the role of power in the policy process.
• Demonstrate an understanding of policy agenda setting and how and why some issues get onto the policy agenda while others do not.
• Explain the reasons behind the narrowing donor landscape and the implications of that on health systems financing and delivery of health services.
• Explain the epidemiologic transition from the historical and theoretical perspectives and global public health policies in response to the transition
• Describe how social, economic, and political factors shape health financing and payment systems, access to and use of health services as well as service supply.
• Describe the impact of globalization on global health security and cross border epidemiology

Course Requirements
At the end of taking this course, you will be evaluated and graded accordingly. The evaluation will take into account the following:

In class exercises/activities
The class requires active participation of each student. I have therefore reserved 10% of your final grade to be rewarded in recognition of your efforts and contributions in class discussions, exercises and activities designed to be completed during lecture periods, your enthusiasm to take questions as well as attendance.

Take home assignments
You will be given at least four (4) take home assignments. You will soon see that the assignments involve applications of what is learned in class. Mandatory dates for submissions of the assignments are indicated in the weekly lecture schedules section. Please take note of the dates and comply accordingly, as there will be no opportunity to submit your work at a later date. Unless
otherwise specified, take home assignments should not exceed five (5) pages in length (excluding title page and references), and formatted as follows: Times New Roman, Font size 12 and 1.5 spacing.

**Mid-term exam**

It is a requirement of NYU that each student take a mid-term exam as part of the final grading. For this course, the mid-term exam will take the form of providing theoretical and practice analysis of a particular health policy issue. Accordingly, you will be required to respond to a take home question to be provided by the Professor.

**Final exam**

The end of term exam will take the form of presenting a research paper. You must select a global/health policy issue of your choice and situate it to a particular country and population. Final papers drawing on global perspectives or two or more countries are strongly encouraged. Some examples of topics for the final paper include “The role of civil society in bridging the gap between health policy development and implementation in Africa or low- and- middle-income countries”; “the Ebola Virus outbreak and its implication for global health security”; “healthcare in conflict-ridden countries – from access, use and rights perspectives”. These topics are only guides to aid you frame your own. Your analysis should seek to draw on appropriate health policy literature for effective conceptualization, debates and discussion of thematic areas.

A bibliography of least 10 sources must accompany the paper. A one and half page concept note with a brief background, specific aims, methodology as well as the preliminary bibliography of the sources you plan to use is due by **November 14**. Your concept note should be structured as follows:

- Structure of concept notes
- Background/introduction
- Statement of problem/rationale
- Objectives
- Methodology

The final paper should not exceed 10 pages, excluding references, cover page and abstract. Required formatting include the following:

- Font: Times New Roman
- Font size: 12
- Spacing: 1.5 spacing

Pages must be numbered, cover page should include student’s name, number, and date. Papers are due via print and electronic email on **December 12**. Late papers will not be accepted, unless this has been discussed with me or the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs prior to due date.

**Important:** your grade for the final paper will depend on how relevant the topic is to practice, and how informative or how well articulate the content is, and capable of drawing health policy makers’ attention to the issue being discussed. In addition, content clarity and organization, and orderly presentation of thoughts will be considered in awarding grades. The final paper should be structured as follows:

- Background
- Problem statement/rationale
• Objectives
• Methodology
• Findings (each objective should be a sub-title under the findings)
• Discussion
• Conclusion
• Recommendations for global health policy

Assessment expectations

You are expected to take active participation in class discussions, and submit short take home assignments numbering about four (4), mid-term exam paper and final examinations paper. All these add up to the final grading. In addition, class exercises and debates, group work and presentations and field reports should be taken seriously.

Grading of Assignments

The final grading for the course will be based on these components:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments/Activities</th>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Four take home assignments</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term paper</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>October 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class exercises/activities</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>December 12</td>
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View Grades

All assignments will be graded and handed over in class. However, midterm grades and final grades will be uploaded unto NYU Albert.

Letter Grades

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>94%-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>90%-93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter Grade</td>
<td>Points</td>
<td>Percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>87%-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>84%-86%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>80%-83%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>77%-79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>74%-76%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>70%-73%</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>65% -69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>Below 65 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Reading</td>
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<tr>
<td>29-Aug-18</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-Sep-18</td>
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| Week 3     | Guest Lecture                              | Koduah, A., van Dijk, H and Akua Agyepong, I.A (2016) Technical analysis, contestation and politics in policy agenda setting and implementation: the rise and fall of primary care maternal services from Ghana’s capitation policy, BMC Health Services Research, 16:323.  
Lehmann, Uta and Gilson, Lucy (2013) Actor interfaces and practices of power in a community health worker programme: A South African study |                                                                                   |
<p>| 12-Sep-18  |                                            |                                                                      |                                                                                 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignment due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 4 [19-Sep-18]</td>
<td>Policy agenda setting: global perspectives</td>
<td>Kent Buse, Nicholas Mays &amp; Gill Walt (2012) Making Health Policy. Understanding Public Health. Open University Press, McGraw-Hill Education. (Read Chapter 4)</td>
<td><strong>Cass activity:</strong> Apply Hall and Kingdon models of agenda setting to explain the events that took place in the AUGE Health Reform in Chile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6 [3-Oct-18]</td>
<td>Field Trip – Community-Based Health Planning and Service (CHPS)</td>
<td>Atinga, R.A., Agyepong, I. A. &amp; Esena, R.K. (2018). Ghana’s community-based primary health care: Why women and children are ‘disadvantaged’ by its implementation. Social Science and Medicine, 201, 27-34.</td>
<td><strong>Important:</strong> Field report documenting your experiences of the program and lessons learnt from the trip is due by three days after the trip. <strong>Format:</strong> Times New Roman; 1.5 spacing; not more than 4 pages excluding cover page and bibliography.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7 [10-Oct-18]</td>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
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<td>Week 8 [17-Oct-18]</td>
<td>Mid-term break</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Szlezák, N. A., Bloom, B. R., Jamison, D. T., et al. (2010), The global health system: actors, norms, and expectations in transition. PLoS Medicine, 7(1), e1000183. | **Class activity:** To what extent would you say that global health actors limit sovereign implementation of health policies in Africa? **Assignment 3:** What accounts for the less successful implementation outcomes of donor funded health |


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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignment due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 12 [14-Nov-18]</td>
<td>Individual PowerPoint presentations of final paper concept notes</td>
<td>Hand-in final paper concept notes structured as follows: - Introduction/background - Rationale/Problem statement - Objectives - Methodology - Expected results - About 10 bibliography relevant literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Assignment due</td>
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<td>Week 14 [28-Nov-18]</td>
<td>Field trip – National Health Insurance Authority (Please note that the site could change). Please note that the date is subject to change</td>
<td><strong>Important:</strong> Field report documenting your experiences of the program and lessons learnt from the trip is due by three days after the trip. <strong>Format:</strong> Times New Roman; 1.5 spacing; not more than 4 pages excluding cover page and bibliography.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 16 [12-Dec-18]</td>
<td>Hand-in final paper (must be submitted to the Professor in print and electronic)</td>
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Course Materials
Texts not listed here will be available in PDF on NYU Classes (accessible through the “Academics” tab on NYU Home).

Required Textbooks & Materials
As noted earlier, health policy in a global world is an emerging discipline without a universally prescribed textbook. For the purpose of this class, I recommend:


Resources
- Course materials (https://nyu.edu/its/classes)
- Databases, journal articles, and more (https://library.nyu.edu)
- Assistance with strengthening your writing (https://nyu.mywconline.com)
- Obtain 24/7 technology assistance (https://nyu.edu/it/servicedesk)

Course Policies

Attendance and Tardiness
- Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade for every week’s worth of classes missed. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in harsher penalties including failure.
• Unexcused absences affect students' grades: In classes meeting once a week, a 2% deduction from the student’s final course grade occurs on the occasion of the first unexcused absence.

• Absences are excused only for illness, religious observance, and emergencies.

**Illness**: For a single absence, students may be required to provide a doctor’s note, at the discretion of the Assistant Directors of Academics. In the case of two consecutive absences, students must provide a doctor’s note. Exams, quizzes, and presentations will not be made up without a doctor’s note.

**Religious Observance**: Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. Students must notify their instructor and the Academic Office in writing via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose. If exams, quizzes, and presentations are scheduled on a holiday a student will observe, the Assistant Directors, in coordination with the instructor, will reschedule them.

**Note**: If for any reason you are unable to attend class, you are FIRST required to contact and inform the NYU Accra Manager of Student Services directly at the Academic Centre or email mao9@nyu.edu

**Late Assignment**
Late submission or work will be accepted only with justifiable reasons of health or family emergency. In cases where the reasons adduced for the late submissions are not tenable, appropriate marks will be deducted.

**Classroom etiquette**
The use of Blackberrys, phones and iPods in class are forbidden. Laptop use is permissible only for taking notes.

**Academic Honesty/Plagiarism**
At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community.

**Plagiarism**: presenting others' work without adequate acknowledgement of its source, as though it were one’s own. Plagiarism is a form of fraud. We all stand on the shoulders of others, and we must give credit to the creators of the works that we incorporate into products that we call our own. Some examples of plagiarism:

- a sequence of words incorporated without quotation marks
- an unacknowledged passage paraphrased from another's work
- the use of ideas, sound recordings, computer data or images created by
others as though it were one’s own

- submitting evaluations of group members’ work for an assigned group project which misrepresent the work that was performed by another group member
- Altering or forging academic documents, including but not limited to admissions materials, academic records, grade reports, add/drop forms, course registration forms, etc.

Disability Disclosure Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

Note: Aspects of this syllabus could change in the course of the semester

Instructor Bio

Dr. Roger Atinga holds a BA (Honors) in Political Science, Master of Philosophy in Health Services Administration and PhD in Public Health (Health Policy, Planning and Management Option) from the University of Ghana, Legon. His research is mainly evidence driven toward improving quality, responsiveness and management practices in health systems and institutions. His research is at the intersection of health policy and management, implementation and quality, drawing data from health providers, users and communities. Dr. Atinga has a wealth of teaching and research experience spanning over half a decade. In addition to being a Lecturer in the University of Ghana, he has taught in the University for Development Studies, Ghana as a visiting Lecturer; New York University, Accra Campus as a Guest Lecturer; and various capacity building programs in the University of Ghana Business School, Tamale Teaching Hospital among others. Dr. Atinga has consulted widely in a number of health research projects for the Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition, Ghana Integrity Initiative (a branch of transparency International), National Health Insurance Authority, Ghana and Ghana Coalition of Health NGOs among others. He has been part of expert invitations for a number of institutions, including the WHO Technical Meetings on Building Resilient System for Health in the Ebola Affected countries (Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea), Ghana’s Ministry of Health Stakeholder fora for reviewing the country’s primary health care policy and the National Health Insurance Authority Annual Stakeholders engagements among others.

Dr. Atinga was selected on competitive basis for the African Population and Health Research Centre (Nairobi, Kenya) grant to conduct his doctoral research on the implementation side of Ghana’s closed-to-community primary health care policy. He was also selected competitively as a member of the Emerging Voices for Global Health based in the Institute of Tropical Medicine,
Belgium, where he has since played various roles including co-founder of an initiative to find funding opportunities to support Ebola affected countries. He is a member of the West Africa Network of Emerging Leaders (WANEL) for Health Policy, Systems and Practice; Health Systems Global and African Health Economics and Policy Association. He is a fellow of the African Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellowship program, a collaborative program of Nairobi-based African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC) and International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and a research fellow of the Institute of Development Research, a research and social policy think tank based in Accra, Ghana. He has attended several peer reviewed international conferences and presented papers. He is an author and co-author of a number of book chapters and Journal Articles published in peer reviewed international journals. He is currently an Editorial Advisory Board Member for International Journal of Quality and Reliability Management and African Journal of Management Research.