# Health Policy in a Global World

## SPRING 2018

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<th>Class code</th>
<th>UGPH-GU 9040-001</th>
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| Instructor Details | Martin Langsam, MSc PhD candidate  
Tel: 15 6 505 1202  
Email: mlangsam@nyu.edu.ar  
Office hours: By appointment |

| Class Details | Health Policy in a Global World  
Day/Time: Thursdays 1.45pm –5pm  
Venue: P. Herrera Room, ICAPA, NYU BA |

| Prerequisites | N/A |

## Class Description

This course introduces students to key concepts in health policy formation, implementation and evaluation in a global context. Using a comparative lens, students explore organization, financing and delivery of health care services and health systems around the world and examine the role of governmental, private, and non-profit agencies in delivering health care and other services. The course is multidisciplinary, employing public policy, sociological, political science, economic, and ethical perspectives. The overall goal is to build an understanding of the fundamental ideas, issues, and problems currently debated in global health policy and management and to provide a foundation for future studies and careers in the global health field. Epidemiology in a Global World and Health and Society in a Global Context are recommended but not required pre-requisites for the course.

## Desired Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Discuss the ways in which public policy decisions affect health care and health outcomes;
- Understand the fundamentals of evidence-based public health;
- Develop health information search strategies;
- Identify the major components of health care systems;
- Describe how social, economic, and political factors affect health insurance and payment systems, access to and utilization of healthcare, and the supply, training, and remuneration of health care providers;
- Discuss frameworks and ethical and quality issues that arise in assessing health care provision and system performance;
- Explore the interactions between global health policies and global burden of disease;
- Use publicly available data sources to describe and discuss outcomes and features of health care systems across the world; and
- Compare the health system features (OECD countries and developing countries) and discuss their implications.
Assessment Components

GRADING

- Short Assignments (4)  40%
- Paper Outline  15%
- Final Paper  35%
- Class participation  10%

CLASS EXERCISES AND SHORT HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

This class includes many class exercises that are designed to be completed in class, within groups. Some class exercises or activities may include asking students to summarize some key points of the readings, or participate in a policy debate where one group has to argue in favor or against a particular policy or relevant health issue, so students should be prepared. In addition, several class exercises include homework assignments that must be completed after the class and that will make use of the previous class discussion.

FINAL PAPER

This course requires a final paper. You may select a health policy and management issue of your choice (for instance, infectious diseases, maternal mortality, malnutrition, NCDs burden, behavioral and lifestyle risks, diabetes, health system reform), a country, and a population for your paper. Some examples of possible topics are “Challenges and Strategies for improving emergency care for reducing maternal mortality in selected LA countries”, “The HIV/AIDS Outbreak and Epidemic in Argentina and the United States”, or “Challenges and Strategies for reducing domestic violence in Argentina”.

Your paper should use articles we reviewed in class in addition to the additional sources you find. A bibliography of at least 10 sources identified by you (not assigned in class) must accompany the paper. Additional sources that appear on this syllabus may also be included. A one-page concept idea with a brief background and the specific aims, as well as the preliminary bibliography of the sources you plan to use, is due by May 17th and is worth 15% of your grade.

The final paper should be 8-10 double-spaced pages in length, with formatted references and a bibliography that makes use of Endnote, Refworks or other bibliographic softwares available from the library website. IF YOU HAVE NOT USED THESE BEFORE, PLEASE FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE SOFTWARE EARLY IN THE SEMESTER. Bibliography and references are not included in the page limit. Papers must use 12 point font, include one inch margins on top and bottom, half-inch on the side. Pages must be numbered, cover page should include student's name, N number, and date. Papers are due via email on Tuesday December 12th, before 2pm. Late papers will not be accepted, unless you have prior approval from your instructor. No exceptions. On December 7th session, students will present their project to the class (ppt suggested). Each presentation should take 10’ with 5’ for Q&A.
Assessment Expectations

**Grade A:** The student makes excellent use of empirical and theoretical material and offers well structured arguments in his/her work. The student writes comprehensive essays / exam questions and his/her work shows strong evidence of critical thought and extensive reading.

**Grade B:** The candidate shows a good understanding of the problem and has demonstrated the ability to formulate and execute a coherent research strategy.

**Grade C:** Work is acceptable and shows a basic grasp of the research problem. However, the work fails to organize findings coherently and is in need of improvement.

**Grade D:** The work passes because some relevant points are made. However, there may be a problem of poor definition, lack of critical awareness, poor research.

**Grade F:** The work shows that the research problem is not understood; there is little or no critical awareness and the research is clearly negligible.

Grade conversion

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<th>GRADE CONVERSION</th>
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<td>93-100</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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Exams and Submission of work

Final Exam dates cannot be changed under any circumstance.

Mid term exam dates will be scheduled with each professor and it must be before the break.

Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from examination (with authorization, as above), your lecturer will decide how you will make-up the assessment component, if at all (by make-up examination, extra coursework, or an increased weighting on an alternate assessment component, etc.).

Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.

**Final essays must be submitted to the professor in print and electronic copy.** If the student is not in Bs As, he / she must send a printed copy via express postal mail (i.e. FeDEX, DHL, UPS, etc) to the NYU Center in Buenos Aires, Anchorena 1314 (C1425ELF) Argentina. This copy must arrive before or on the date of established deadline.
• NYU’s Global Programs (including NYU Buenos Aires) must adhere to a strict policy regarding course attendance. No unexcused absences are permitted.

• Each unexcused absence will be penalized by deducting 2% from the student’s final course grade.

• Absences are only excused if they are due to illness, religious observance or emergencies.

• Absences due to illness or mental health issues must be discussed with the Assistant Director for Academics Programs, Moira Perez within one week of your return to class.

• A doctor’s note excusing your absence is mandatory.

• The date on the doctor’s note must be the date of the missed class or exam

• Being absent to any kind of examination must be informed at or before the time of said examination via email to the Assistant Director for Academic Programs, Julia Tomasini (jt145@nyu.edu).

• Requests to be excused for non-illness purposes must be discussed with your professors prior to the date(s) in question. (If you want the reasons of your absence to be treated confidentially and not shared with your professor, please contact the Assistant Director for Academic Programs, Julia Tomasini (jt145@nyu.edu)

• If students have more than four unexcused absences, they will fail the course.

• Each class lasts one hour and half or two hours. Missing one class represents one absence. For those courses that meet once a week (three-hour block), missing one class represents two absences.

• Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.

• NYU BA also expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. Three late arrivals or early departures (10 minutes after the starting time or before the ending time) will be considered one absence. Missing more than 20 minutes of a class will count as a full absence.

• Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

• Make-up classes for Holidays are mandatory as regular scheduled classes.

• 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 Office of Academic Support in writing via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose.
**Academic Accommodations**

Academic accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980 or see their website [http://www.nyu.edu/life/safety-health-andwellness/students-with-disabilities.html](http://www.nyu.edu/life/safety-health-andwellness/students-with-disabilities.html) for further information. Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in a class are encouraged to contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at (212) 998-4980 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. For more information, see Study Away and Disability.

**Late Submission of Work**

Late work should be submitted in person to the Assistant Director for Academics Programs during office hours (Mon – Fri, 9.30 am to 5 pm), who will write on the essay or other work the date and time of submission, in the presence of the student. Another member of the administrative staff can accept the work, in person, in the absence of the Assistant Director for Academics Affairs and will write the date and time of submission on the work, as above.

Work submitted within 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 10 points on the 100 point scale.

Written work submitted after 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

**Please note** end of semester essays must be submitted on time.

**Academic Integrity**

Academic Integrity is intimately related to the teaching and learning process. When writing research papers, you need to keep in mind that plagiarism includes the use of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally. It also includes presenting and/or paraphrasing discourse or ideas from a published work (in print or on internet) without quotation marks and clear without acknowledgment of the original source.

For formatting in your papers, refer to MLA guidelines. On matters regarding academic integrity, refer to the section “Academic Standards and Discipline” in the College of Arts and Science Bulletin [http://bulletin.cas.nyu.edu/page/academic.policies#STANDARDS](http://bulletin.cas.nyu.edu/page/academic.policies#STANDARDS) and to “Statement on Academic Integrity” in NYU Expository Writing Program: Policies and Procedures: [http://www.nyu.edu/cas/ewp/html/policies_procedures.html#statementacademicintegrity](http://www.nyu.edu/cas/ewp/html/policies_procedures.html#statementacademicintegrity)

All your written work must be submitted as a hard copy AND in electronic form to the instructor. It is expected that the student follow the rules on academic honesty and intellectual integrity established by NYU University.
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<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Introduction to the Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[Feb 8\textsuperscript{th}]</td>
<td>Overview: Public policy, Health Policy, Politics, Systems and Services</td>
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<td>Required reading:</td>
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<td>Give out Assignment #1: Discuss Jamison et al paper</td>
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<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Social determinants of health: inequalities and equity</th>
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<tr>
<td>[Feb 15\textsuperscript{th}]</td>
<td>Required reading:</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th>The politics of public health policy</th>
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<tr>
<td>[Feb 22\textsuperscript{th}]</td>
<td>Public Health services and evidence based interventions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Required readings:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Rabadán-Diehl, C. Linking Evidence to Policy in Latin America. Science and diplomacy, 6(2). 2017</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 4</th>
<th>Health policy data sources and information search strategies</th>
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<tr>
<td>[March 1\textsuperscript{st}]</td>
<td>Guest Lecturer: Mg Martín di Marco (UNLa)</td>
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<td>Exercise: Health information search strategies</td>
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<td>Give out Assignment #2: Health information search and use</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Lecture on social situation in Argentina</td>
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<td>[March 6th]</td>
<td>Padre Carrara, &quot;Quality of Life in Bs As shantytowns” TBC</td>
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<td>[March 8th]</td>
<td>Access to health care</td>
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<td>Required readings:</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 6</th>
<th>Health care services: levels of care</th>
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<tr>
<td>[March 15th]</td>
<td>Required readings:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Exercise: Primary care vs. Secondary care</td>
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<td>Assignment #2 due</td>
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<td>Give out Assignment# 3: Concept note and outline of the final paper</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 7</th>
<th>Global Health institutions and governance:</th>
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<tr>
<td>[March 22nd]</td>
<td>Institutional framework of PAHO cooperation in Latin America, its historical perspective and its current and future challenges</td>
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<td>Visit to PAHO Headquarters in Argentina</td>
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<td>Required readings:</td>
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### Week 8

**Semester Break**

[March 26th - April 2nd]

### Week 9

**Health care financing**

(health markets, insurance schemes, health systems- reimbursement of physicians and other health professionals and financial incentives)

**Required readings:**


**Assignment# 3: due**

Exercise on Health care financing

### Week 10

**Health care systems in developed and developing countries: comparisons and performance indicators**

**Required readings:**


**Give out Assignment# 4 Exercise on health system comparisons Schoen et al., 2013**

### Week 11

**Global Health Policy and infectious diseases**

**Guest Lecturer: Leonor Nusblat (ANLIS-UBA)**

**Required readings:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 12</th>
<th><strong>Ethical Issues on health and health care</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>[April 26th]</td>
<td>Guest Lecturer: Laura Belli (FFyL-UBA)</td>
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<td><strong>Required readings:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 13</th>
<th><strong>Global Health Policy and non-communicable diseases</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>[May 3rd]</td>
<td><strong>Required reading:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Block J. A substantial tax on sugar sweetened drinks could help reduce obesity. BMJ 2013;347</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Exercise:</strong> Policy debates on sweetened sugary beverages</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Give out Assignment# 5: Global health policies and NCDs</strong></td>
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<th>Week 14</th>
<th>Discussion of final papers</th>
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<tr>
<td>[May 10th]</td>
<td><strong>Assignment# 5: due</strong></td>
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<th>Week 15</th>
<th><strong>Oral presentation of final papers</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>[May 17th]</td>
<td><strong>EXAM WEEK</strong></td>
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**Notes:**

Hand in of final presentations (must be submitted to the instructor in print and also as electronic copy to mlangsam@nyu.edu) by Friday May 18th noon.

**Classroom**
Etiquette

The class requires students to be up-to-date with global health policies. Therefore, as global policies emerge, students will be requested to review these for discussions in class, in addition to assignments given.

Suggested Co-curricular Activities

The use of Blackberrys, phones and IPods in class is forbidden.

If there’s a global, regional or local meeting, seminar on public health policy, students will be encouraged to attend.

Your Instructor

Martin Langsam, MSc, PhD candidate

Martin Langsam holds a degree in Sociology; with a minor in Economic Sociology from the University of Buenos Aires (UBA). He then did postgraduate studies in Economics and Public Policy (Torcuato di Tella University, Argentina). In 2002 he obtained his MSc in Public Policy in Latin America at Oxford University, United Kingdom. He then continued his studies for the PhD in Political Science at Oxford University until 2007 (dissertation pending).

He has been a consultant for several international organizations (WB, IDB, UNDP, ECLAC), developing his tasks in the national public sphere (National Institute of Public Administration, Ministry of Economy and Public Finance and Ministry of Health). He has also participated in several research projects in the United Kingdom (Oxford University-European Commission and Fischer Family Trust) and in Argentina (Fundación YPF-Universidad de San Andrés).

Since 2010 he is a full time researcher, professor and Secretary of Science and Technology at Isalud University. From this institution he has developed research and consulting projects on public health issues in collaboration with different agencies and programs in Argentina (Plan Nacer, Programa Remediar, Health Economics Office at the Ministry of Health, Health Promotion and Prevention of Non-communicable diseases at the Ministry of Health, the Mercosur Health Policy Observatory, the National Health Research Commission and the National Cancer Institute.)