

NYU – ACCRA

UGPH-GU 9010

HEALTH AND SOCIETY IN A GLOBAL WORLD

Instructor Information

- PROF. KODJO SENAH (PHD)
- DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, LEGON
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Course Information

- Course code: UGPH 9010
- Course title: HEALTH AND SOCIETY IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD
- Lecture hours: Thursdays, 2pm - 5pm.
- Venue: NYU Accra Academic Centre, Lecture Room 1

Course Description

THE COURSE IS OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS INTERESTED IN PUBLIC HEALTH. BASICALLY, THE COURSE EMPHASIZES THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN GLOBALIZATION, SOCIO-CULTURAL BELIEFS AND PRACTICES AND THEIR IMPACT ON HEALTH CARE DELIVERY IN GHANA. THE COURSE PROVIDES A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE OF HEALTH ISSUES IN THE CONTEXT OF DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. STUDENTS WHO ASPIRE TO PURSUE HEALTH-RELATED PROFESSIONS IN THE FUTURE WILL FIND THE COURSE BENEFICIAL. SIMILARLY, THE COURSE MAY BE USEFUL FOR STUDENTS WHO ASPIRE TO WORK WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL AND CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS WITH INTEREST IN HEALTH ADVOCACY AND HEALTH PROMOTION, ESPECIALLY IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

Course Overview and Goals

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the multifaceted nature of health;

- Appreciated some of the cultural, political and economic forces that shape the character of health issues in Ghana;
- Explain the rationale for the existence and use of plural medical systems in Ghana;
- Appreciated the official ‘inattention’ given to mental health care in Ghana.
- Appreciated the impact of the pharmaceutical industry on health care delivery in Ghana.

Course Requirements

- **Active Participation/class attendance: 10 %**
- **Mid-semester examination: 25 %**
- **Final Semester Exams: 35 %**
- **A reflection paper based on a selected topic on any of the field trips: 15 %**
- **A critique of an article on a health problem in West Africa: 15%**
- **MAXIMUM TOTAL MARK OBTAINABLE: 100 %**

Grading of Assignments

The grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:

Assignments/Activities	% of Final Grade
Active Class participation]	10%
Mid-semester examination	25%
Final semester examination	35%
Reflection paper on field trips	15%
A critique of a health journal article	15%

Letter Grades

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

Letter Grade	Points	Percent
A	4.00	94%-100%
A-	3.67	90%-93%

Letter Grade	Points	Percent
B+	3.33	87%-89%
B	3.00	84%-86%
B-	2.67	80%-83%
C+	2.33	77%-79%
C	2.00	74%-76%
C-	2.00	70%-73%
D	1.00	65% -69%
F	.00	Below 65 %

View Grades

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

Course Schedule

Topics and Assignments

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
WEEK 1 30-AUG-18	An overview of global and local influences on Ghana's health care delivery system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addai, S. (1996) <i>Evolution of Modern Medicine in a Developing Country, Ghana (1880-1960)</i>. London Durham (Chaps 1-4). • Agyei-Mensah & A. de Graft-Aikins 	

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
		<p>(2010). Epidemiological Transition and the Double Burden of Disease in Accra, Ghana. <i>Journal of Urban Health</i>, 87(5): 879-897.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The health sector in Ghana: Facts and figures. (MoH) 	
<p>WEEK 2 SEPT 6-18</p>	<p>Ghanaian cultural beliefs and practices and their health implications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M.J. Assimeng (1999). <i>Social Structure of Ghana</i>: Tema: Ghana Publishing Corp. (Chapters 2,3&4). • G.K. Nukunya (2001). <i>Tradition and Change in Ghana</i>. Accra: Ghana Universities Press. (Chapters 2,3, 4&8). 	<p>A critique of the management of Ebola outbreak in Liberia. Submission date: 27 Sept</p>
<p>WEEK 3 13-SEPT-18</p>	<p>Ghana's urbanization and sanitation policies and health implications.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G.K. Nukunya (2001). <i>Tradition and Change in Ghana</i>. Accra: Ghana Universities Press. (Chapter 9). • Ghana Sanitation Policy document will be provided. 	

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
WEEK 4 20-SEPT-18	HIV/AIDS in Ghana	Ghana Social Development Outlook 2016.	
WEEK 5 27-SEPT-18	FIELD TRIP TO KORLE-BU TEACHING HOSPITAL AND ACCRA'S SLUMS	STUDENTS TO OBSERVE ISSUES OF PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE AND PRESENT A BRIEF REPORT	TO BE SUBMITTED ON 11/10
WEEK 6 4-OCT-18	Health challenges in rural communities (focus will be on Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) and other chronic diseases in rural communities in Ghana).	Students will be supplied with a reading material on Ghana's policy on NTDs and chronic diseases	
WEEK 7 11-OCT-18	MID-SEMESTER EXAMINATION	Students will be examined on topics discussed from weeks 1 to 6	
WEEK 8 18-OCT-18	FALL BREAK		
WEEK 9 25-OCT-18	Maternal health care in Ghana.	Senah, K. (2003). Maternal Mortality: The Other Side. <i>Institute of African Studies Research Review</i> . NS 19 (1): 47-55.	
WEEK 10 1 NOV-18	The social epidemiology of malaria in Ghana.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C.S. Ahorlu (2009) <i>Cultural epidemiology for malaria control in Ghana</i>. Basel: University of Basel. (Chaps. 3, 4, 6 and 7). • Adjepong, Irene (1992) Malaria: ethnomedical perceptions and practice. <i>Social Science and Medicine</i> Vol. 35 (2): 131-137. 	

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
WEEK 11 8-NOV-18	Infant and child health in Ghana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ghana Demographic and Health Survey (2014) • Articles on infant and child health will be supplied: 	
WEEK 12 15-NOV-18	The dynamics of Traditional Medicine in Ghana.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P.A. Twumasi (1974) <i>Medical Systems in Ghana</i> • K.A. Senah et al. (2001) <i>A Baseline Study into Traditional Medicine Practice in Ghana.</i> 	
WEEK 13 22-NOV-18	Challenges of Mental Health care in Ghana.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ghana International Journal of Mental Health</i> (2011) • Ama de-Graft-Aikins; S. Agyei-Mensah; C. Agyemang (2013). <i>Chronic Non-communicable Diseases in Ghana. Social Science Series (Vol.1) RIPS.</i> 	
WEEK 14 29-NOV-18	Pharmaceuticals/medicines in the health care delivery of Ghana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K. A. Senah (1994) Blofo Tshofa. Local perception of medicines in a Ghanaian coastal community. In: M.L. Tan and Nina Etkin (eds) <i>Medicines: Meanings and Contexts.</i> Quezon City: Health Action International.]

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Igun, U. A. Why we seek treatment here: retail pharmacy and clinical practice in Maiduguri, Nigeria. <i>Social Science and Medicine</i> Vol.24 (8):689-695. 	
WEEK 15 6-DEC-18	REVISION WEEK		
WEEK 16 13-DEC-18	FINAL EXAMINATION	Questions will be derived from topics discussed from weeks 9 to 14	

Course Materials

The NYU library has some of the texts indicated in the course outline.

Required Textbooks & Materials

- Helman, C. G. (1990) *Culture Health and Illness*. London: John Wright.
- GSS (2014) *Ghana Demographic and Health Survey*.

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. Students are to contact the manager of student services if they have to absent themselves from class.

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 other tenable reason you will be 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 .You are also required to email your professor directly to notify them before the day of the class. **You will not be penalized only when this request for Nonattendance has been formally granted and communicated to you.**

Late Assignment

Late submission or work will be accepted only with justifiable reasons of health or family emergency.

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.

See NYU [academic integrity policy](#)

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

Kodjo Senah is an Associate Professor of medical anthropology at the Department of Sociology, University of Ghana. He has lectured in the University of Ghana since 1985. His teaching and research interest focus on interplay between health and culture on one hand and local and global political-economy on the other. Some of his publications include:

Senah, K. (2004). The Fight Against Onchocerciasis: Lessons From The Pru Basin. ***Legon Journal of Sociology*** 1(2): 97-116

Senah, K., Awunyo-Akaba, Y. et al. (2016) Sanitation Investments in Ghana: An ethnographic investigation of the role of tenure security, land ownership and livelihoods. ***BMC Public Health*** (2016) 16:594

Senak, K., Afari-Asiedu, S et al. (2018) Volunteering for Health Services in the Middle Part of Ghana: In whose interest? ***International Journal of Health Policy Management X(x)1-11***.