Health Challenges in Africa
UN 1001 Perspectives on Inquiry
Michigan Technological University
Fall 2011
Instructor: Dr. Ida A Fonkoue
Email: iafonkou@mtu.edu
Office: 332 Walker
Office phone: (906) 487-3252
Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00 – 4:00 p.m or by appointment
Class days: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
Location: ROTC Building, Room 0101

Course overview

Africa will never climb out of poverty unless its devastating health challenges are tackled, says the World Health Organization's first African regional health report. The challenges are many, including: weak and fragmented health systems; inadequate resources for scaling up proven interventions; limited access to the health services and technologies that are available; poor management of human resources for health; recurrent natural and manmade disasters and emergencies; and extreme poverty.

"Every year millions of Africans are dying needlessly of diseases that are preventable and treatable"1. Up to 45% of deaths in Africa are thought to be due to an infectious disease. A handful of diseases, among which Tuberculosis, Malaria and AIDS, cause 90% of infectious disease related deaths. The AIDS epidemic in Sub-Saharan Africa continues to devastate communities, rolling back decades of development.

This course will examine the health care situation in Africa through contributions ranging from medicine, social sciences, political sciences and economics. It will explore the problems and their solutions, will look at what is working and what is not, and discuss some of the false assumptions about healthcare in the continent. Students are expected to engage in college level inquiry in this course. This includes writing clearly, conducting research using scholarly sources, and participating in class discussions.

Course Objectives:

1. Develop critical thinking skills and cite right.
2. Develop skills to research and investigate a topic using library resource or any other materials of academic quality.
4. Expand your knowledge of Africa.
5. Understand the diseases affecting Africa.
6. Understand the socioeconomic impact of those diseases on the continent.
**Required Material:**
The following material is available in the MTU Bookstore:

Lipson, Charles  
2006 *Cite Right: A Quick Reference to Citation Styles—MLA, APA, Chicago, the Sciences, Professions, and More.* Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

**Electronic Readings:**

Excerpts from the following books, selected for their relevance to the topic, will be made available to students:


-WHO. *The Health of The People.* Africa, 2006
Other materials
Materials from various sources will supplement the readings, and will include music, film and documentary, as well all youtube videos

Film/video clips

- **State of denial.** 83 minutes, 2003, south africa / usa
  executive producer: lovett productions, producer/director: elaine epstein
  in english, sotho and zulu with english subtitles.
- **Everyone’s child.** 90 minutes, 1996, zimbabwe
  producer: media for development trust in conjunction with development for self-reliance, director: tsitsi dangarembga.

Assignments and evaluation of grades:

**Attendance**
If you are more than 10 min late it will be considered as an absence.
If you have more than 4 unexcused absence, you will receive 0 for attendance

**Critical responses (24)**
Provide critiques and analyses of ideas in the class materials. These may include
Summarizing the readings, challenging the validity of something stated in the readings, asking questions of what the authors wrote, pointing out another issue that should have been considered, discussing a good point the authors made and explaining why, and/or comparing the readings to your experience or knowledge of the world. You must provide evidence for your argument and demonstrate your knowledge of the readings.

**Research paper (1)**

**Presentation (1)**

1500 total possible points for the course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.0 (a)</td>
<td>1500-1380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5 (a/b)</td>
<td>1379-1305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0 (b)</td>
<td>1305-1230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5 (b/c)</td>
<td>1229-1155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0 (c)</td>
<td>1154-1080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 (c/d)</td>
<td>1079-1005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0 (d)</td>
<td>1004-930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>under 930</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All written assignments must be typed (except for in-class work) and turned in as a hard copy at the beginning of class the day each assignment is due (unless other instructions are given). No electronic submissions will be accepted. Late papers will be marked down 10% of the total points for each day they are late. The only exception to this is if a student has an emergency excused absence. Special requirements for your oral presentations will be discussed later in the course.
The multiliteracies center:
All MTU students are welcome to use the Multiliteracies center if they would like to work with a coach on developing or revising a paper or oral presentation. Students can receive help with brainstorming ideas, organization, proof reading, citing sources properly, and other topics. The Multiliteracies center has walk-in hours and also weekly appointments for those wanting more regular coaching. There is no charge for using the Multiliteracies center. It is located in walker, room 107.

Integrity policy:
Students are expected to be familiar with the academic integrity policy at mtu found at: http://www.studentaffairs.mtu.edu/dean/judicial/policies/academic_integrity.html.

It begins, “academic integrity and honesty are central components of a student’s education, and the ethical conduct maintained in an academic context will be taken eventually into a student’s professional career. Academic honesty is essential in a community of scholars searching and learning to search for truth. Anything less than total commitment to honesty undermines the efforts of the entire academic community. Both students and faculty are responsible for insuring the academic integrity of the university…”

Disabilities:
MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the americans with disabilities act (ada) of 1990. If you have a disability and need reasonable accommodation for equal access to education and services at mtu, the dean of students office/coordinator of student disability services for assistance (phone 487-2212). For other concerns about discrimination, you may talk with your teacher, your advisor, a department chair, or the affirmative action officer (phone 487-3310).

Respect and tolerance:
Students are expected to share their opinions and experiences in class through discussion and writing. Yet these should always be communicated with respect and tolerance for those who see things another way. Listening and considering other points of view are critical to the learning process and one’s professional development.

Cell phones and other distractions must be turned off and put away during class so that everyone can give their full attention to the tasks at hand.
Attendance policy:
Students are expected to attend all classes beginning on the first day of regular instruction as stated in the university academic calendar.

Students having excused absences (note conditions below) are permitted to make up graded work. Whenever possible, students should contact the instructor prior to the absence and arrange a mutually acceptable make-up procedure. Otherwise, students should account for the absence at the first opportunity.

Students who are unable to notify instructors concerning their absence from class or who must notify several instructors on short notice should contact the office of student affairs for assistance.

An absence is excused under the following conditions:
• A student is participating in off-campus, university-sponsored activities, such as field trips, fine arts performances, intercollegiate athletics, judging teams, job fairs, etc. The faculty or staff members supervising the off-campus activity will send a notice to all academic departments and the office of student affairs before the activity takes place. The notice will include the name and date of the activity, the name of the supervising person, a list of all participating students, and their classes.
• The instructor is assured that a student's absence from class was due to circumstances beyond the student's control. The student must provide verification of the special circumstance. Excuses are usually given in the following circumstances: illness, funeral of any relative or close friend, military duty, court appearance, and personal emergencies.

Michigan tech permits students to be excused from class on holidays observed by their religious faith. Students who wish to be absent for a religious holiday are responsible for making arrangements in advance with their instructors to make up class work. There is a reasonable limit to the number of absences requested.

Students with more than two unexcused absences will lose points for the course. In-class work cannot be made up, although students with legitimate excused absences will not be penalized for missing such an assignment on the day that they are gone.
Course schedule:

Week one

Monday, August 29: Introduction to the Course

Wednesday, August 31 Africa

Friday, September 2 Africa

Week two

Monday, September 5 Labor Day recess

Wednesday, September 7 Critical thinking

Friday, September 9 K-day recess

Week three

Monday, September 12 Critical thinking

Wednesday, September 14 Africa and public health

Friday, September 16 Africa and public health

Week four

Monday, September 19 Health and the environment in Africa

Wednesday, September 21 Health and the environment in Africa

Friday, September 23 Health and the environment in Africa

Week five

Monday, September 26 Maternal, newborn and child health

Wednesday, September 28 Maternal, newborn and child health

Friday, September 30 Maternal, newborn and child health
Week six

Monday, October 3  Infectious diseases in Africa

Wednesday, October 5  Malaria

Friday, October 7  Malaria

Week seven

Monday, October 10  Waterborne diseases

Wednesday, October 12  Tuberculosis

Friday, October 14  Tuberculosis

Week eighth

Monday, October 17  Introduction to Research

Wednesday, October 19  Library research process

Friday, October 21  How to write a Research Proposal

Week nine

Monday, October 24  AIDS: The disease

Wednesday, October 26  AIDS: Statistics

Friday, October 28  AIDS

Week ten

Monday, October 31  AIDS: The Human side of AIDS

Wednesday, November 2  AIDS: The Human side of AIDS

Friday, November 4  The socioeconomic impact of AIDS in Africa
Week eleven

Monday, November 7  The socioeconomic impact of AIDS in Africa

Wednesday, November 9  AIDS and Education in the continent

Friday, November 11  What is being done to solve the AIDS crisis?

Week twelve

Monday, November 14  What is being done to solve the AIDS crisis?

Wednesday, November 16  Treating ourselves to trouble? The impact of HIV/AIDS treatment in Africa: Lessons from the industrial world.

Friday, November 18  Thanksgiving recess

Week thirteen

Monday, November 28  Movie and discussion: “State of denial” (part 1)

Wednesday, November 30  Movie and discussion: “State of denial “(part 2)

Friday, December 2  Summary: What is being done to tackle health problems in Africa?

Week fourteen

Monday, December 5  What have we learned?

Wednesday, December 7  Presentations

Friday, December 9  Presentations

NB: This syllabus is subject to change