Global Health Ethics in Historical Perspectives—Case Studies from Africa Mini-Elective
Fall 2016

Course Dates: October 20, 27, November 10, 17
Thursday evenings, 2:30-3:45 PM

Maximum Students: 15

Class Year: MS1 and MS2

Course Directors: Thuy Bui, MD
Peter J. Veldkamp, MD
Mari Webel, PhD

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Description:
This mini-elective is a unique collaboration between the Department of Medicine and the Department of History. Four special sessions of the University Honors College's seminar, Disease and Health in Modern Africa, will be designed specifically to incorporate medical students in an interdisciplinary exploration of the history of health and healing in sub-Saharan Africa from the battles against polio, to the international multi-sectoral Mectizan Donation Program to eliminate river blindness, to present day global strategies for maternal child health, and finally the evolving response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Students will gain a deeper understanding of diseases as social and political constructs through readings and analysis from multiple perspectives—public health, history, health policy, law, and ethics. Students will also appreciate the bureaucratic legacy of the postwar and postcolonial era on contemporary public and private interests in the new global health. The seminar will include didactic, regular discussion of texts and group work focused on source analysis and scholarly debate.

Course objectives:
1. Recognize the socio-cultural and economic factors affecting health and medicine through the lenses of African history
2. Describe key determinants of the inequitable distribution of health across the globe and how and why these have changed over time
3. Evaluate the ethical responsibilities of high-income countries for the health problems of low-income countries
4. Critically analyze primary sources and evaluate the argument and methodological approach of secondary sources

Requirements:
- Attend and participate in class discussion
- Complete require reading
- Complete OPTIONAL 1-page reflective/critical note for each session
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Location:
Posvar Hall —Room 3700

Course Outline:
Session 1: Polio eradication – lessons learned and challenges for vaccination campaigns and disease eradication programs

Session 2: River blindness and Mectizan donation – successful public-private partnership
Film: *Dark Forest, Black Fly* (2013)

Session 3: ART for HIV/AIDS – the politics of humanitarian crisis

Session 4: Maternal child health – struggle and progress from MDG to SDGs


Note: Please check your email regularly as readings to prepare for each section will be updated/changed.

Optional reading: (all books listed below will be available at the University Store and on reserve at Hillman Library)