

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code / Title : HA4040 Health, Disease Outbreaks and Politics

Pre-requisites : NIL

No. of AUs. : 4

Contact Hours : 52

Course Aims

This course aims to develop your understanding of key concepts, frameworks and theories of public health and politics that are essential for analyzing the causes and consequences of disease outbreaks, the performance of governments worldwide in handling disease outbreaks or combating pandemics, and other key issues related to disease outbreaks (e.g. inequality, stigma, injustice). In addition, it aims to develop your reflective capacity and enable you to link theory to practice through examining case studies in different countries. This course is for students who want to develop and strengthen their knowledge and skills for analyzing public health and related issues. It is also for students who want to pursue careers in the public sector or in the field of healthcare.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Identify and explain the causes and consequences of disease outbreaks by taking into account the political, economic, social, historical and cultural situation of a country or a city.
2. Compare policy responses of different countries to different disease outbreaks.
3. Identify how and why some leaders can successfully and skillfully handle disease outbreaks or pandemics while others fail disastrously.
4. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of linking theories to practice through examining different case studies.
5. Develop case study analysis and writing skills to help you think critically about real-life situations.

Course Content

- Health, disease outbreaks and politics
- The politics of bird flu
- Infectious injustice and Ebola crisis
- Pandemics and crisis leadership

- Outbreak communication and public trust
- Infodemic, fake news and social media
- Racism and discrimination in the time of COVID-19
- Disease-related stigma and hate crimes
- Gender inequality in the time of COVID-19
- Biopolitics, surveillance and privacy
- Protesting in pandemic times
- Global health diplomacy

Course Assessment

Class participation : 15%

Presentation : 20%

Essay proposal : 20%

Long essay : 45%

Total -----

100%