

## International Health Psychology

Mondays 13:30 to 16:30 Psychology 204-533A

Professor: Frances E. Aboud

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Required Text: Aboud, F. E. (1998). *Health Psychology in Global Perspective*. Sage.

Supplementary material: To be distributed free in class.

UNICEF's State of the World's Children & Progress of Nations 2000

### Lecture Schedule

Date of class	Topic of Discussion	To be Read Ahead
September 11	Slide presentation and introduction	Progress of Nations
September 18	What is international health psychology Facts and figures from reports Are you an activist or an adapter?  Qualitative and quantitative methods Focus groups and KAP questionnaires	Chapter 1  Chapter 2
September 25	Family Planning Guardian article, Video <i>Women of Kerala</i>	Chapters 3
October 2	HIV and AIDS Video <i>Women in Zimbabwe</i>	Chapter 4 & 7
October 9	Thanksgiving Holiday	
October 16	No class; instead, prepare a 1-pg synopsis of your term paper, along with abstracts of 3 empirical journal articles that you want to include in it. Bring to the next class.	
October 23	Malnutrition Small group presentations of journal articles	Chapter 6
October 30	Health Education and Promotion Bring a case study relevant to the topic of your term paper	Chapter 8
November 6	Community Participation	Chapter 5
November 13	MIDTERM EXAM	

November 22      Mental Health and Illness

Chapter 9

November 29      Presentation of Papers

December 4      Paper due

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### **Method of Evaluation**

Midterm test on readings	30%
Class work *	20%
Term paper**	50%

\* Class work for undergraduates includes, among others, a weekly 1-2 page summary of the readings for the week, brought to the class for which those readings have been assigned.

Class work for graduate students includes a weekly 1 page thought paper with your critical reflections on some key issue of the readings assigned for that week.

All students are expected to participate in class discussions, hand in a term paper synopsis, and make an oral presentation of key ideas from their term paper.

### **\*\*Term Paper Instructions**

Length 20 pages + references

Find, read, integrate and evaluate a minimum of 20 articles describing research on a particular health-related problem in developing countries (primary source articles which describe the collection and analysis of new data are most important; secondary source articles are fine but should be considered as extras).

Follow the framework used for the substantive chapters in the text:

1. Outline the problem (prevalence, severity, consequences) based on the literature
2. Examine the causes and risk factors based on the literature
3. Examine a select number of solutions, based on the literature

Although you will be describing solutions tried by others, you should do a heavy-duty evaluation of their assumptions about causes and their strategies for prevention/reduction. Some should have even evaluated the outcome of their program. You might find that certain solutions are strong in one area and other solutions are strong in other areas. In the end, a consultant reading this should be able to decide how to design a successful project to prevent or reduce the problem.

### **Criteria of evaluation:**

Identification of important issues  
use of primary sources

completeness  
accuracy  
organization of material  
integration of diverse findings  
clear and concise communication

**My goals for this course**

1. Learn concepts from disciplines relevant to international health and how they are applied to health problems in developing countries.
2. Learn facts about health problems and solutions around the world.
3. Acquire the skills to analyze and evaluate information about problems and attempted solutions.
4. Apply concepts, information seeking skills and analytic skills to existing health problems in developing countries.

What are your goals? What skills do you want to acquire?

Please let me know so we can include these aspects in our weekly seminars.