



Overview

In response to growing student interest in international health, the Organization for International Health (OIH) and SUMMIT (Stanford University Medical Media and Information Technologies) have partnered to build an internet-enhanced course that would help to address this gap in our curriculum.

Course Philosophy

Because it would be futile to try compressing into a 10-lecture format all the epidemiology, pathophysiology, and biochemistry of every relevant disease, the goal of this class is not simply to teach students facts about disease in an international context. Instead, this class aims to use in-depth analyses of specific cases to teach the critical thinking skills necessary to operate responsibly in the field of international health.

We have chosen the content and shape of the course with these goals in mind. The course is divided into two main sections: an introduction to “Basic Concepts and Issues in International Health” followed by a discussion of “Development and the Way Forward.” The first half of the course in particular is meant to walk students through the thought process behind an international health intervention. We begin by looking at how major challenges in international health are identified, analyzed, and prioritized; it follows that an understanding of the organizations intended to address these issues is also necessary. Such a basis would allow students to approach the more complex issues surrounding theories of interventions and discuss the intersection of ideas previously presented. The second half of the course focuses on understanding economic and social development, the consequences of that development, and concludes with a dialogue on philosophies of action in international health.

Implementation

Rather than recycle the existing Curriculum Web Project (CWP) course videotaping format, we intend to harness innovative technologies available through SUMMIT to create a truly unique online educational experience. We have invited experts in various aspects of international health to participate via a series of filmed interviews. To date our interviewees include: Ophelia Dahl, Mark Kane, Chris Elias, Bill Foege, David Fleming, Carol Bellamy, Donald Kennedy, Jeffrey Sachs, Joia Mukherjee, Lincoln Chen, Barry Bloom, Kul Gautam and Allan Rosenfield.

Course Innovations

- Lectures delivered using Flash video and annotated with links, images and resources
- Primary literature incorporated with the online course
- Sound/video clips and graphics with course notes available online
- Sleek webpage design that emphasizes functionality, organization and ease of access
- Online discussion boards and chats

We also plan to hold weekly TA-led discussion sections aimed at helping students consolidate the topics covered in lecture by encouraging critical thinking and an exchange of ideas. By combining technological innovations with a compelling subject matter, we intend to rethink the concept of online education at Stanford and thereby create a model for an interactive and engaging online experience.

Funding

PATH’s Children’s Vaccine Program
Lucile Packard Foundation for Children’s Health

Project Personnel

Erin McDonald and Pavan Bendapudi, Course Coordinators
Pauline Brutlag, Online Curriculum Project Manager
Parvati Dev, SUMMIT Director

Other Project Partners

Stanford University School of Medicine
Advanced Immunization Management e-Learning Project

For More Information

<http://ih.stanford.edu>