

GLOBAL HEALTH



SYLLABUS

VU Amsterdam Summer School

20 July – 31 July 2026

Any general questions for the Summer
School support team? Contact
amsterdamsummerschool@vu.nl.



Course Details

Title	Global Health
Coordinator(s)	dr Mitzi Waltz
Other lecturers	Dr Nasratullah Ansari, MD + more to be announced
Form(s) of tuition	On campus: lectures, workshops and interactive sessions
Approximate contact hours	45
Approximate self-study hours	39

Teaching staff (in order of appearance)

Dr Mitzi Waltz

Dr Nasratullah Ansari, MD

+ more to be announced

Course description

Global Health is a discipline that tackles health issues affecting low- and middle-income countries and high-income countries (LMICs and HICs): problems that transcend national boundaries. In a globalizing world, health issues become increasingly complex and challenging. A two-way flow between countries with regards to sources, expertise and knowledge, involving stakeholders from different disciplines as well as patients and citizens, can potentially generate effective and innovative solutions to deal with the health issues at hand and to create equitable global health systems.

The Global Health summer school course is designed for (advanced) BSc students who are motivated to gain in-depth insights into complex health issues in a global context. The course consists of lectures, workshops, interactive sessions and assignments. The lectures provide insight into the growing complexity of the burden of disease, the social determinants of health, healthcare systems and the challenges they face, disability and development, maternal and reproductive health, and working with underserved populations, all approached in a global context.

Course assignments aim to provide students with the opportunity to acquire and practice key research skills, gain insight into career opportunities, broaden their knowledge of issues in Global Health, and communicate what they have learned.

Learning objectives

By the end of this course, students will:

1. Gain critical knowledge of major global health issues
2. Demonstrate taking an interdisciplinary approach to health, disease, disability and related problems in a global health context
3. Demonstrate the necessary skills to collaborate with peers from different disciplines
4. Know how to obtain reliable and critical data to develop a topic of discussion
5. Demonstrate the skills needed to bring into debate topics and perspectives related to global health
6. Gain an understanding of the skill profiles needed in diverse global health careers.

Assignments and Assessment

Career poster: pass/fail [individual, LO 6]

Interview and profile: 15% [individual, LO 4, 5, 6]

Debate: 30% [individual, LO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

Presentation: 15% [individual, LO 1, 2, 3, 4]

Global public health portfolio: 40% [group, LO 1, 2, 3, 4]

Attendance at all timetabled course sessions is mandatory. Only the VU social programme and KIT tour are optional.

A minimum score of 5.5 must be achieved to pass all marked assignments. All assignments must be passed to pass the course.

Provisional reading list

Skolnik, R. (2021) Global Health 101, 4th Ed. Burlington, MA: Jones and Bartlett Publishers. You can buy a copy before the first day of class (recommended: cost approximately €56/\$59), or contact the course coordinator on day 1. An eBook version is available (see 135-day eBook at: <https://www.jblearning.com/catalog/productdetails/9781284375923>) for \$39; used copies can be purchased online for a much lower price. A printed copy is also available in the VU library.

Before Day 1, please read Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Global Health 101. In addition, relevant additional readings (academic journal articles, NGO reports) keyed to lectures and assignments will be posted to Canvas.

Draft Course Schedule

Monday 20 July		Tuesday 21 July	Wednesday 22 July	Thursday 23 July	Friday 24 July
9.00-10.00: VU campus tour	9.30 – 12.00 Health Systems Asst. Prof. Maarten Kok (t.b.c.) Athena Institute, VU Amsterdam	9.30 – 11.00 Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health Dr Nasratullah Ansari, MD VU Amsterdam/UNICEF	9.30 – 11.00 Disability and Development dr Mitzi Waltz	09.30 – 12.00 Preparation for debate (self-study group work)	
10.15– 11.45 Welcome and introduction to course and assignments dr Mitzi Waltz (programme coordinator) Athena Institute, VU Amsterdam	11.30-12.30 Communicable Diseases: Epidemics, Pandemics and Managing Global Health Responses Shaun Palmer, IAVI (t.b.c.) Athena Institute, VU Amsterdam	11:30-12:30 VU social program	14:00-17:00 Preparation for debate (self-study group work)	14.00-17.00 Tour and meeting with staff of KIT (Royal Tropical Institute, https://www.kit.nl/) We leave the VU together at 13.00 (or meet us in front of Mauritskade 64 at 13:45)	
12.00-13.15 Measures of Health and Disease dr Mitzi Waltz	13.30-16.30 Careers in Global Health Dr Mitzi Waltz & learning coach				
13.30-14.30 Interview skills training Dr Mitzi Waltz & learning coach					
15:00 VU Welcome and pub quiz					
Monday 27 July		Tuesday 28 July	Wednesday 29 July	Thursday 30 July	Friday 31 July
9.30 – 10.30 Globalisation and Human Rights dr Mitzi Waltz	9.30 – 11.00 Social Determinants of Health Interactive game session!	9.00-12:00 Portfolio (self-study group work)	9.00-18.00 Portfolio (self-study group work)	12.30-14.30 Portfolio presentations Dr Mitzi Waltz & learning coach	
11:00 – 12:00 Non-communicable Diseases & Mental Health Dr Mitzi Waltz	11.30-12.30 Supporting the mental health of trans human rights defenders in Colombia Drs Laura Martinez Aguirre (t.b.c.)	12:30 VU social programme	Assignment 4: Portfolio due on Canvas before 23:59	Afternoon: Closing session 15:00, VU summer school	
13.00-17.00 Debate Dr Mitzi Waltz & learning coach + Preparation for interview	13.30-17.00 Careers in Global Health – Interviews + meetings regarding Portfolio Dr Mitzi Waltz & learning coach Assignment 3: Careers profile, due on Canvas before 23:59				

Location t.b.o. For the building location, please consult the campus map at: <https://vu.nl/en/about-vu/more-about/vu-campus-map>

