

**Course Title:** **The Legal Foundations of Global Health and Development (MMPH6216)**

**Department offering the course:** Department of Law/ School of Public Health

**Objective:** This course aims to:

- offer an introduction to global health law and related issues.

**Content:** Topics include:

- Global health law, international moves towards a right to global health, the fundamental human right of access to basic medical services, national and coordinated international responses to and the management of global health hazards, and the socio-legal management of and response to risky behaviours;
- The role of international law, treaties and instruments touching on global health concerns;
- The International Health Regulations;
- The constitution, function, role and effectiveness of key international global health organizations;
- Argument for basic medical services as a fundamental human right;
- Equitable access to drugs and fair pricing as well as the role of intellectual property claims in the context of access to pharmaceuticals;
- Current moves for a coordinated public health response to noncommunicable diseases and the role that national and international law can play.

**Learning Outcomes:** On completion of the module, the students are expected to:

- acquaint themselves with basic concepts of global health law, international moves towards a right to global health, the fundamental human right of access to basic medical services, national and coordinated international responses to and the management of global health hazards (including responses to emergent infections, epidemics, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), addiction and substance abuse), the socio-legal management of and legal responses to risky behaviours (including STDs, addiction and substance abuse);
- understand the role of international law, treaties and instruments touching on global health concerns, and how international law operates, and how it is different from national law;
- understand the constitution, function, role and effectiveness of key international global health organizations such as the United Nations, World Health Organization, UNICEF and the FAO. Through case studies of selected examples on key pressing current issues such as national and

international responses to SARS, MERS, Ebola, Zika and AMR, as well as an assessment of the state of national and international preparedness for highly-pathogenic future pandemics and the effectiveness of public health measures such as that for tobacco control, understand what role national and international law can play, as well as of the limitations of both national and international law;

- familiarize themselves with International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), as well as of their impact through examining responses of the various IHR Emergency Committees on Ebola, MERS-CoV, Zika virus, etc, as well as through an assessment of the relationships between international health organisations such as the WHO and national agencies;
- make a case for the argument for basic medical services as a fundamental human right, particularly in the context of the links between health access on the one hand and economic and social development and social stability of developing countries on the other.

**Prerequisite:**

None

**Duration:**

1 semester; 30-36 class hours

**Continuous Assessment:**

Class participation (30%)

**Examination method/  
duration:**

Take-home final examination (70%)

