Zika, Ebola, MERS, and the One Health Model of Global Outbreaks

April 1-2 & 8-9, 2017
Hotung, Room 6006
Georgetown University Law Center
Professors Daniel Lucey & Daniel Hougendobler

SYLLABUS

One Health: “the collaborative effort of multiple disciplines—working locally, nationally, and globally—to attain optimal health for people, animals, and the environment”

-American Veterinary Medical Association, One Health: A New Professional Imperative (2008)

The 2014-2015 West African Ebola epidemic exposed significant shortcomings in global preparedness for infectious disease outbreaks. A largely preventable outbreak was allowed to spiral out of control, killing thousands, and global agreements and national and global institutions set up to prevent such outbreaks were inadequate to the task. In the aftermath, the global community is undergoing a period of self-reflection, attempting to identify what went wrong and how institutions and the global governance system can be re-structured to prevent future outbreaks of infectious disease. The World Health Organization has undertaken a wide-reaching reform of its emergency program. Meanwhile, outbreaks of Zika virus, yellow fever and Avian Influenza A (H7N9) are testing global preparedness for disease outbreaks. Will the global community come together to take concerted action to promote global health security, or will efforts at reform face insurmountable political resistance and institutional inertia?

Our course will focus on the legal, public health and medical challenges presented by emerging and ongoing infectious disease outbreaks within the "One Health" paradigm—a 3-part framework that considers the health of humans, animals, and the environment. For purposes of this course the One Health perspective will focus on zoonotic diseases that originate in animals and jump species to humans, such as Ebola, MERS, avian influenza, yellow fever, SARS, Zika, Nipah, and many others.

To better understand the dynamics of epidemic disease outbreaks, Prof. Lucey will provide his personal perspective based on on-the-ground work in responding to Ebola in Sierra Leone and Liberia in 2014, MERS in the Middle East in 2013 and in Korea in 2015, Zika in Brazil, yellow fever in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2016, and avian influenza in China in 2017.

The course will address the legal response to epidemic disease, focusing particularly on the World Health Organization's International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR) and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Framework. In addition, we will cover international panels that examined the WHO's response to the Ebola epidemic and the reform process that has taken place at the WHO and the UN.
We will also discuss the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) that was launched in February 2014, for which Prof. Lucey is a member of the Non-Governmental Sector (2014-2017). The GHSA now includes nearly 50 countries and the WHO, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and other international organizations.

The course will be discussion-based, consisting of interactive lectures, general discussion, and a classroom outbreak simulation ("tabletop") exercise. During this exercise, students will be given a fact pattern and assigned a role (e.g., the WHO Director-General, US Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC) officials, NGOs, etc.) and asked to negotiate with others and come to resolution. Grading will be determined based on a take-home exam along with class participation, including discussion and participation in simulation exercises.
I. Course Specifics

A. Time and Place. Saturdays and Sundays, April 1-2 and 8-9 from 1:00 to 4:30 pm in Hotung, Room 6006

B. Attendance. Because of the short duration of the course, attendance at all sessions is mandatory. Students who fail to attend will receive a grade of Administrative Fail (AF). Exceptions to this policy will be made only in exceptional circumstances and with prior written permission of the instructors (except for documented emergencies).

C. Class discussions. Demonstrating rigorous thought and an informed understanding of the subject matter will be an integral part of the learning process. All students will be expected to actively participate in class discussions as well as in small group discussions.

D. Communication Platform. Assignments, simulation materials, supplemental sources, course updates, the final exam, and other course materials will be published exclusively on Canvas (http://georgetownlaw.instructure.com). Please check the site regularly. Students may also wish to set up notifications, so that they are informed when changes are made to the site.

E. Readings. Readings will be listed on Canvas (http://georgetownlaw.instructure.com) at least one week before each class session. There is no required textbook. Students are expected to read the assigned materials before each class session.

F. Simulations. The final session will be devoted to a simulation (“tabletop exercise”). Each student will be assigned a role (e.g. WHO officials, government or NGO representatives) and asked to participate in an international meeting. Preparatory assignments may be given prior to each simulation (these will be posted at least 1 week in advance of the simulation). Students will be evaluated on evidence of preparation and understanding of the key concepts, the quality of any assigned work, and how well they advocate for their assigned position.

G. Final exam. Students will be assigned a final, take home exam, due by Monday, May 15. Detailed instructions will be provided by the last class.

H. Grading. Students will be evaluated on class participation, including simulation preparation and participation (10%) and a final take-home exam (90%). The class participation grade is based on quality, not merely quantity, of participation.

II. Consultation with Instructors

A. [Redacted]

B. Office hours. By appointment.

III. Academic Ethics. We take academic ethics very seriously. Plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic misconduct are governed by the law center’s student disciplinary code, as detailed in the Student Handbook (http://www.law.georgetown.edu/campus-services/registrar/handbook/index.cfm). All academic misconduct will be referred to the law center’s ethics counsel and may face penalties including a failing grade in this class. If you have any questions about what constitutes academic misconduct, do not hesitate to contact us.
### Topical Outline:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat., April 1</td>
<td>Key Concepts in One Health &amp; Infectious Disease Outbreaks: Ebola, MERS, Zika, yellow fever and avian influenza.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., April 8</td>
<td>The future of infectious disease outbreaks: Post-Ebola reviews and reforms</td>
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<td>Sun., April 9</td>
<td>Simulation Exercise: Influenza with human pandemic potential</td>
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<td>Mon., May 15</td>
<td>Take-home exam due</td>
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*Note: See Canvas (http://georgetownlaw.instructure.com) for readings and other course materials.*