

**COURSE TITLE:** IDH2930 - UnCommon Reads: *Exploring Global Health Through Stories*

## **COURSE INSTRUCTORS**

This is a team-taught course for Honors students. If contacting us, please include both instructors using the contact information below or through Canvas. Please use your “.ufl” account and include your name in the body of the email if emailing directly. We are happy to meet with you individually upon request.

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Office: C2-226A (Suite)

## **CLASS MEETINGS**

Every Tuesday, period 8, 3:00 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. ET  
Little Hall 117

## **OFFICE HOURS**

Ms. Courtney Pyche: Thursdays, 9:35 a.m. - 10:25 a.m. via Zoom and in C2-226D  
Ms. Jennie Crumpton: Mondays, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. via Zoom and in C2-226A

## **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

Kidder, T. (2003). *Mountains Beyond Mountains* (1<sup>st</sup> ed.). RandomHouse. The book is available freely for checkout through the UF Libraries. All editions of the book are acceptable.

## **COURSE WEBSITE:**

Course website: E-Learning in Canvas website, <http://elearning.ufl.edu>

The E-Learning (Canvas) website is where the class syllabus, handouts, notes and assignments will be posted, along with any announcements. This site is also where you will find basic course related information. Please remember that you are responsible for all announcements made in lecture and/or posted on the course website for this class.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

This course will explore narratives in global health, including the collaborations of scientists, activists, governments, and international organizations to address global health issues. Students will read *"Mountains Beyond Mountains"* by Tracy Kidder, which explores the work of Dr. Paul Farmer, a renowned physician and activist, who dedicated his life and career to battling infectious diseases in impoverished countries. The course will utilize supplemental readings and guest speakers to critically analyze challenges in global health including global health disparities, the prevalence of noncommunicable diseases, ethics of medicine in developing nations, and the impact of narrative in healthcare. Students will discuss: How do different cultures respond to, understand, and talk about disease? What role do social determinants of health play in global health narratives? How do definitions of wellness and wellbeing vary globally?

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

- 1) Analyze and interpret global health narratives through discussing key themes, cultural contexts, and the value of storytelling in global public health.
- 2) Compare global health care models within the context of ethics, health disparities, and treatment of disease Identify strategies for including ethical considerations in designing projects

## LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

Class Date	General Topics	Assigned reading	Assignment
Aug 26	Introduction to course, the book and course expectations	No reading	None
Sept 2	Part 1: Doktè Paul  Culture Shock, Medical Inequality, The First World vs the Third World	Chapters 1-3	Journal Entry #1 due by 12pm on day of class
Sept 9	Part 1: Doktè Paul; begin Part 2: The Tin Roofs of Change  Service, Resistance, Education Fueling Future Goals	Chapter 4-6	Journal Entry #2 due by 12pm on day of class
Sept 16	Part 2: The Tin Roofs of Change  Indecision, Complexity, Idealism	Chapter 7-9	Journal Entry #3 due by 12pm on day of class
Sept 23	Part 2: The Tin Roofs of Change  Partnership and Collaboration,	Chapter 10-12	Journal Entry #4 due by 12pm on day of class

	Moral Clarity, Persistence		
Sept 30	Part 3: <i>Médicos Aventureros</i> Income and Access to Healthcare, Role of Individuals	Chapter 13-15	Journal Entry #5 due by 12pm on day of class
Oct 7	Part 3: <i>Médicos Aventureros</i>  Self-care for Providers, The First World vs the Third World	Chapter 16-18	Journal Entry #6 due by 12pm on day of class.
Oct 14	Part 3: <i>Médicos Aventureros</i> ; begin Part 4: A Light Month for Travel  Cost-Effectiveness vs Saving Lives, Role of Large Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations, Patient Care vs Policy	Chapter 19-21	Journal Entry #7 due by 12pm on day of class
Oct 21	Part 4: A Light Month for Travel  Varieties of Human Suffering, Interconnectedness	Chapter 22-23	Journal Entry #8 due by 12pm on day of class; <b>Note: Final Project topics due in Canvas by end of class.</b>
Oct 28	Part 5: O for the P  Work-Life Balance, Population vs Individual Health	Chapter 24-25	Journal Entry #9 due by 12pm on day of class
Nov 4	Part 5: O for the P  Theory vs Practice, Medicine and religion	Chapter 26, Afterword, Acknowledgements	Journal Entry #10 due by 12pm on day of class.
Nov 11	<b>No Class (Holiday)</b>	<b>No Class (Holiday)</b>	<b>No Class (Holiday)</b>
Nov 18	Final project presentations #1	No reading	Final projects due by 12pm on day of class

Nov 25	<b>No Class (Holiday)</b>	<b>No Class (Holiday)</b>	<b>No Class (Holiday)</b>
Dec 2	Final project presentations #2, wrap-up	No reading	No assignments due

## **GRADED ASSIGNMENTS:**

### **1) Weekly Class Participation**

- a) 0 points will be given for an unexcused absence
- b) 3 points will be given for partial participation
- c) 5 points will be given for meaningful participation that continues the discussion

### **2) Weekly Journal Entries**

- a) A weekly journal entry prompt will be posted in Canvas each week. Each journal entry is a paragraph personal reflection on the themes from the reading that week, including at least 2 specific page references in the chapter where you see the theme.

### **3) Final Project**

- a) The final project will be an independent presentation on the selected global health organization and/or individual of your choice. Alternative topics may be proposed via email or Canvas message to instructors by the end of class on Tuesday, October 21.

## **MINIMUM GRADE CUTOFFS**

Minimum grade cutoffs are listed below. Importantly, final grades will be curved at the end of the semester.

A minimum grade of B is required to earn Academic points towards your Honors Completion Requirements. (Exception: Honors Quest I and II sections require a C). Once you have earned your final grade in this course, please upload the course information and final grade from your Unofficial Transcript into your Honors Canvas Cohort: Honors Completion module to earn Honors Milestone / Completion credit.

### **Point Range (%) Letter Grade**

<b>&gt;90%</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>&gt;87%</b>	<b>A-</b>
<b>&gt;83%</b>	<b>B+</b>
<b>&gt;80%</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>&gt;77%</b>	<b>B-</b>
<b>&gt;73%</b>	<b>C+</b>
<b>&gt;70%</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>&gt;65%</b>	<b>C-</b>
<b>&gt;55%</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>&lt;55%</b>	<b>E</b>

**GRADING:**

Assignment	Description	Total Points	Percentage of Final Grade
Weekly participation in class discussion	Active participation in the discussion (12 sessions), 5 points each	60	30%
Weekly journal entry on Canvas	Thoughtful reflection on the readings based on a prompt (10 posts), 6 points each	60	30%
Final project	Includes in-class presentation of project	80	40%

**FLEXIBILITY CLAUSE**

We reserve the right to modify the class schedule listed above as needed. Any changes will be made well in advance, and you will be immediately notified. Conflicts that arise due to a change in schedule can be discussed with us and will not be held against you. Scheduled Reading Assignments and Graded Assignments should not change, except due to unforeseen circumstances.

**STUDENT DEMEANOR**

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and to remain in class until the class has been dismissed. Students are expected to come to class prepared, having completed any required readings and performed any preparatory work that is assigned. While in class, students are expected to participate in class discussion, and to treat the other students and the instructor with respect and attention. While in class, students should not participate in texting, information seeking or viewing outside of that related to the course task at hand, talking on the phone, or other activities not related to classroom engagement and participation.

**CLASS ATTENDANCE AND MAKE-UP WORK**

Students are expected to notify instructors of absence in advance. Acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to engage in class include illness; Title IX-related situations; serious accidents or emergencies affecting the student, their roommates, or their family; special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences); military obligation; severe weather conditions that prevent class participation; religious holidays; participation in official

university activities (e.g., music performances, athletic competition, debate); and court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena). Other reasons (e.g., a job interview or club activity) may be deemed acceptable if approved by the instructor. For all planned absences, a student in a situation that allows an excused absence from a class, or any required class activity must inform the instructors as early as possible prior to the class. For all unplanned absences because of accidents or emergency situations, students should contact their instructor as soon as conditions permit. Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered during absence from class or inability to engage in class activities because of the reasons outlined above.

## **STUDENT USE OF AI IN ASSIGNMENTS**

Unless specifically requested or authorized by your course or clerkship director for a particular need, the use of AI on assignments, essays/reflection papers, exams, and quizzes is considered cheating, and you would be violating the UF Regulations 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code. When authorized, the use of electronic and other resources, including artificial intelligence tools, requires proper attribution. You are responsible for understanding your dynamic data stewardship responsibilities to minimize personal, college, and university risk.

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code on all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you witness any instances of academic dishonesty in this class, please notify the instructor or contact the Student Honor Court (392-1631) or Cheating Hotline (392-6999). Academic dishonesty cannot be tolerated. All persons involved in cheating or plagiarism will receive a zero on the affected assignment or exam and will be reported to the Dean of Students Office. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students who require a classroom accommodation for a disability must contact the Disability Resource Center in 0020 Reid Hall (phone: 352-392-8565). Please see the University of Florida Disability Resource Center website for more information at: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc>. Please note that the student must provide documentation of a requirement for accommodation by the second week of class. No accommodations are available to students who lack this documentation. If this documentation is provided later than the end of the second week, then we nor the Disability Resource Center can guarantee that these accommodations will be provided. It is the policy of the University of Florida that the student, not the instructor, is responsible for arranging accommodations when needed.

## **ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION PROCESS:**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via Gatorevals. guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from Gatorevals, in their canvas course menu under Gatorevals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

## **RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL HELP:**

### **Health and Wellness**

*U Matter, We Care:* If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352-392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

*Counseling and Wellness Center:* <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 352-392-1575

*UF Title IX:* [inform@titleix.ufl.edu](mailto:inform@titleix.ufl.edu), 352-273-3721

*University Police Department,* 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

### **Academic Resource**

*E-learning technical support,* <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>, 352-392-4357 (select option 2), [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu)

*Writing Studio,* 302 Tigert Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

*Student Complaints On-Campus:* <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

*UF Student Success:* For improving study skills to connecting with a peer tutor, peer mentor, success coach, academic advisor, and wellness resources, go to <http://studentsuccess.ufl.edu>

*Honors Program,* 201 Walker Hall, 352-392-1519. Quick questions for an Honors advisor? Email [advisor@honors.ufl.edu](mailto:advisor@honors.ufl.edu). Need an Honors advising appointment? Schedule via Microsoft Bookings: <https://bit.ly/ufhonorsadvising>