

Tampere University
Faculty of Social Sciences/ Health Sciences Unit

Global health and nursing (4 ECTS)

Time: 12. – 13.2.2026

Place: Zoom

Course leader: Professor Eija Paavilainen TAU / Professor Anna Axelin UTU

Teachers:

Associate Professor Ashish Kc, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Associate Professor Nompumelelo Ndlovu, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Professor Anna Axelin, University of Turku

Professor Katja Joronen, Tampere University

Professor Meri Koivusalo, Tampere University

Professor Salla Atkins, Tampere University

Learning outcomes:

After completing the course, students will have a comprehensive understanding of global health, including broad issues such as disease prevention, healthcare service systems, and health disparities, as well as how these relate to the health and welfare of individuals, families, communities, and nations. These topics are central to nursing science and implementation research. The course aims to help students achieve knowledge and understanding of global health and sustainable healthcare systems that can effectively respond to current and future health challenges.

Learning methods:

Six lectures will be held over two days, each including a discussion based on topic-related papers, chaired by the teacher responsible for the topic. (Materials available in Moodle)

Independent reading and (short) written assignment

Small group work

Evaluation: Pass / Fail

Learning tasks:

Learning tasks of this course are performed both before and during the course days.

1) First learning task (before the course)

This task will help you become familiar with key concepts and frameworks in global health and nursing.

Please review the provided literature before the course. Based on the assigned readings, prepare:

- a. Informal notes capturing your insights and reflections.
- b. Two thoughtful questions for each lecturer. These questions should demonstrate your critical engagement with the readings and aim to enrich the discussion during the course.

A list of literature can be found in the Moodle environment four weeks prior to the course.

Purpose: To build a foundational understanding of global health challenges and their relevance to nursing science.

2) Second learning task (before and after the course)

This task will deepen your understanding of global health issues and nursing interventions related to your PhD study target group.

Please search for two research papers that focus on global health and nursing among people who are the participants of your PhD study (e.g., children, adolescents, parents, people with a distinct disease, elderly people).

a. *Before the course*: Prepare an initial version of your short paper (1–2 pages). This can be in bullet points or an outline format summarizing your preliminary findings. Bring this to the course for discussion.

b. *After the course*: Submit a final version of the short paper (1–2 pages) within four weeks after the course. The paper should respond to the following questions:

- a) What global health challenges affect your target group?
- b) What nursing interventions or strategies have been studied to address these challenges?
- c) What research methods have been used in these studies?
- d) What are the main findings and implications for practice or policy?

3) Third learning task (during the course)

During the course, you will work collaboratively to develop a comprehensive view of global health and nursing and create a common statement on how nursing practice and research can contribute to sustainable healthcare and address health disparities globally.

Purpose: To synthesize knowledge and foster collective understanding of nursing's role in global health.

Literature connected to the lectures:

Lecture 1 (Koivusalo):

1) Koivusalo M, Ollila E: *Global Health Policy*, in: Yeates N, Holden C (eds) *Understanding Global Social Policy*. The book is available for electronic reading via Andor:

<https://r4.vlebooks.com/Reader?ean=9781447358060#>.

VLE Books allows online reading but does not permit downloading; however, you can probably request a copy from the library if you need one.

Lecture 2 (Atkins):

1) Mariana C. Arcaya, Alyssa L. Arcaya & S. V. Subramanian (2015) Inequalities in health: definitions, concepts, and theories, *Global Health Action*, 8:1, 27106, DOI: 10.3402/gha.v8.27106

Lecture 3 (Joronen):

1) Vandenberg, S., Strus, J. J. A., Chircop, A., Egert, A., & Savard, J. (2025). Planetary Health in nursing: A scoping review. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 81(12), 8080-8115.

2) Myers, S. S. (2017). Planetary health: protecting human health on a rapidly changing planet. *The Lancet*, 390(10114), 2860-2868.

Lecture 4 (Ndlovu):

1) Ntshingila, N., & du Plessis-Faurie, A. S. (2023). Child health promotion during the COVID-19 pandemic: A health and welfare sector collaboration. *African Journal of Primary Health Care & Family Medicine*, 15(1), 3767.

2) Mbowa, S., Patel, L., & Sani, T. (2024). *Communities of practice for social systems strengthening to improve child wellbeing*. <https://communitiesforchildwellbeing.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/CSDA--SihlengimiziResearchBrief--Research-Brief--A4--June-2024--2.pdf>

Lecture 5 (Kc):

1) Damschroder, L.J., Reardon, C.M., Widerquist, M.A.O. et al. The updated Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research based on user feedback. *Implementation Sci* 17, 75 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13012-022-01245-0>

2) Glasgow RE, Vogt TM, Boles SM. Evaluating the public health impact of health promotion interventions: the RE-AIM framework. *Am J Public Health*. 1999 Sep;89(9):1322-7. <https://doi.org/10.2105/ajph.89.9.1322> .

Lecture 6 (Axelin):

1) Shartyanie NP, Hanifa IN, Khan N. Digital Health Interventions in Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care Services in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Scoping Review. *J Med Internet Res*. 2025 Oct 28;27:e75738. doi: 10.2196/75738. PMID: 41150886; PMCID: PMC12560964.

2) Ekström N, Gurung R, Humagain U, Basnet O, Bhattarai P, Thakur N, Dhakal R, Kc A, Axelin A. Facilitators and barriers for implementation of a novel resuscitation quality improvement package in public referral hospitals of Nepal. *BMC Pregnancy Childbirth*. 2023 Sep 13;23(1):662. doi: 10.1186/s12884-023-05989-5. PMID: 37704967; PMCID: PMC10500818.

Program:

Thursday 12.2.2026

9:15 –9:45 Introduction to the course

9:45-11:00 Lecture 1: *Global Policy Actors, Agendas and Policy on Health Systems and Health Work Force*, Professori Meri Koivusalo, Tampere University

11- 12 LUNCH BREAK

12:00-13:10 Lecture 2: *Equality, Equity and Social Determinants of Health*, Professor Salla Atkins, Tampere University

13:10 – 13:15 Break

13.15-14.30 Lecture 3: *Global and Planetary Health through the Lens of Nursing Practice and Research*, Professor Katja Joronen, Tampere University

14:30-16:00 Workshops in breakout rooms: 1) Share your insights from the orientation literature and preliminary readings, based on tasks 2(b) and 3(a). 2) Plan the next day's discussions using the outcomes of these tasks.

Friday 13.2.2026

9:15-9:30 Introduction of the day

9:30-10:45 Lecture 4: *Towards Better Lives: Multidisciplinary Nursing Research with Children in South Africa*. Nompumelelo Ndlovu, Associate Professor in Psychiatric Nursing, Department of Nursing, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Johannesburg

10:45-11:00 Break

11:00–12:00 Lecture 5: *Implementation Research in Global Public health for women and children*
Associate professor, Ashish Kc, University of Gothenburg

12:00-13:00 LUNCH BREAK

13.00 – 14:00 Lecture 6: *Implementing Digital Health Interventions in Perinatal Care: A Global Health Perspective*, Professor Anna Axelin, University of Turku

14:00–14:15 Break

14:15-16:45 Collaborative synthesis and group presentation

- 1) Collective writing (Task 3) to synthesize ideas and collaboratively develop perspectives on key priorities for global health and nursing.
- 2) Group presentation: Each breakout group will present their output to the entire student group to foster shared learning and discussion.

16:45-17:00 Closing the day