

Health class preparation (for May 2)

1. How should we define “health” and why is this area considered a problem of the global community? How does globalization factor into this discussion?
2. Nelson (p. 215) argues that an individual’s health is affected by a “complex interplay” of factors. Pirages and Runci also emphasize the interaction of health with other issues, while Drachman suggests that, along with other interconnections, health needs to be considered from a human rights perspective. What are the various areas that these authors discuss and to what degree do these factors overlap with other global problems that we have examined in this class? Are there global problems that are not covered by these authors that we should consider in relation to health? Given the “complex interplay” how should solutions to global health be approached? In answering this question, consider the options presented in the reading as well as your own ideas. As part of this discussion of solutions, be sure to address both individual state and international community possibilities.
3. Drachman (259) observes, “No other infectious disease compares in scope and deadliness to the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)” so consider this health problem in particular. How would you prioritize health for the international agenda in general and what specific aspects of this global problem would you emphasize?