Fall 2010-Spring 2011

This program examines what makes us sick, what keeps us healthy, and what it would take to give good health the upper hand in developing countries. Over the last century, clean drinking water, modern sanitation and good nutrition—along with the development of highly effective vaccines and antibiotics—have increased average Western life expectancy by an unprecedented 35+ years. Tragically the benefits of public health have yet to be extended to many of the poorest nations in the developing world who critically need improved access to economic opportunities, medical care and improve public health infrastructure. Meanwhile, in the past two decades, infectious diseases that had nearly been conquered, such as tuberculosis, have come surging back, while devastating new diseases such as AIDS, SARS and Swine Flu have emerged. Microbial resistance to many modern drugs is rising, threatening everyone everywhere. And with globalization, humans are more vulnerable than ever before to disease outbreaks from any part of the world. The health of any one nation now increasingly depends on the health of all nations. The program includes a trip to either Peru or the Dominican Republic over Thanksgiving break to learn more about the specific health and economic needs in various developing countries.

Instructor: Professor Rick Mayes, Political Science Department

SSIR Program Information and Application Process

This year-long program (fall 2010-spring 2011) is only open to sophomores. Students participating in the program will live together in the Freeman residence hall and take a 1.0 unit course in the fall 2010 semester. They will also work together on a 0.5 unit team research project in the spring 2011 semester. Applications will be due by early February (2010). Interviews of 1st year applicants will be conducted by Professor Mayes and former students who have taken the Global Health & Human Rights class and traveled abroad. Final decisions for admission to the program will be made in late February, prior to normal course and housing registration. Any questions and/or if you’re interested in applying, email Prof. Mayes (bmayes@richmond.edu).

Whereabouts of Select Alumni from the Program:
- White House: Pres. Obama’s Office of Legislative Affairs
- Harvard Humanitarian Initiative; Project Vietnam
- Teach for America; National Institutes of Health
- USAID; Fulbright; New York City Teaching Fellows
- Texas Teaching Fellows; UT-Austin Graduate School A&S
- University of Virginia School of Law & Graduate School
- Mayo School of Medicine; Medical College of Virginia
- Emory University School of Medicine; VCU Nursing
- Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine
- Massachusetts General Hospital; Duke Divinity School
- University of Virginia School of Medicine
- Wake Forest University School of Medicine
- Tulane University School of Medicine & Public Health