THE ENVIRONMENT AND GLOBAL HEALTH

Fall 2015: ARCH 490, Section EGH (3UG/4GRAD credits): Assoc. Professor Lynne M. Dearborn, PhD
Meets 3:30-4:50pm, Tuesday & Thursday, Room 428 Armory. GRAD extra 1 hr. discussion TBD

This course addresses important topics at the intersection of environmental conditions and human health around the globe. Over the past decade, these topics have been an increasing part of the research and prevention agenda at the World Health Organization (WHO), United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and National Institute of Health (NIH). More recently the American Institute of Architects has targeted human health and environment links as a critical new realm of practice, placing an emphasis on translating available research into the realm of design. Applications in design will seed changes in the types of environments we create in order to enable those environments to support greater health and well-being. This course will engage both graduate and advanced undergraduate students in reading, discussing, and applying the results of the latest research and translational studies linking the environment (particularly at the architectural scale), and environmental design to health in a range of diverse cultural contexts. This course will ask all participants to consider the application of research to professional design, planning and community health practice in roles they will take on in their lives as professionals.

Graduate students in the course will be expected to search for, read and synthesize research in an area of interest. They will be expected to present that research synthesis to the rest of the class and lead a discussion on the topic they have chosen to study. Graduate students may also choose to take the course for 4 credits by enrolling in an extra hour of discussion with the instructor each week.

Course Objectives:
1) To expose participants to seminal, as well as the most recent knowledge, linking environment to health/well-being
2) To translate research findings into applicable concepts of design/planning of the environment.
3) To enable participants to apply knowledge in the realm of environment-health & well-being to environmental design and policy at a range of scales and in diverse cultural contexts
4) To apply concepts of active learning to the study of environment and health/well-being relations in a global context