Helen Tilley  
History 379-0/Global Health 309  
**BIOMEDICINE AND WORLD HISTORY**  
Day/Time: TTH 11:00-12:20  
Office Address: Harris Hall Room 312  
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E-mail Address: helen.tilley@northwestern.edu  
Maximum Enrollment: 90

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Global health has justifiably become a popular buzzword in the twenty-first century, but too often its multifaceted origins are allowed to remain obscure. This lecture course is designed to provide students with an historical overview of four developments pivotal to the field’s consolidation: the unification of the globe by disease; the spread of biomedicine and allied disciplines around the world; the rise of institutions of transnational and global health governance; and the growth of the pharmaceutical industry. In order to place global health in its widest possible context, students will learn about the history of empires, industrialization, hot and cold wars, and transnational commerce. We will analyze the political and economic factors that have shaped human health; the ways in which bodies, minds, and reproduction have been medicalized; and the socio-cultural and intellectual struggles that have taken place at each juncture along the way. Above all, this course should give students tools to assess the benefits, dangers, and blind spots of existing global health programs and policies.

**AREAS OF CONCENTRATION:** Global

**TEACHING METHOD:** The two lectures will be complemented by general and specialized readings relating to the themes for each week. Smaller discussion sections will be held weekly.

**EVALUATION METHOD:** Students will be asked to write three short papers and one take-home essay.

**GRADING BASIS:** ANC (no P/N option)


**INSTRUCTOR PROFILE:** Helen Tilley explores the interplay among environmental, medical, and human sciences in nineteenth and twentieth century European empires, with a particular focus on Africa. Her current research examines the history of African decolonization, global governance, and the ethnoscientific projects that accompanied post-colonial state building in the Cold War era.