Course Description
This is an interdisciplinary course that focuses on public health care issues and community welfare policies, realities, and issues of concern in Brazil, particularly the Northeast region. A strong focus is placed on the situation of typically marginalized groups such as the African descendant population and indigenous people. Study of both the Brazilian National Health System as well as alternative health care practices is undertaken. Students are exposed to a health system that has achieved success (e.g., in the HIV/AIDS program and infant mortality rates) and continues to evidence resounding failures (e.g., high rates of preventable and treatable diseases and premature death of Afro-Brazilian at all ages, including: low birth weight, hypertension, diabetes, maternal death, and death by external causes. inequality of access and quality of health care for the majority of inhabitants).

Coursework and discussions focus on global, national, and local health care issues, most of which affect large numbers of people in Brazil and in the world, such as poverty, health care and health disparities, sanitation and potable water. Material is imparted by lecturers, during discussions, and field-based learning experiences. Lectures and discussions are conducted in Portuguese (with translation) or English by Brazilian specialists. Courses are held at the SIT Office or on site at public health organizations, health centers, hospitals or in the field.

Course Objectives
- Introduce students to relevant aspects of Brazil’s historic, economic, and cultural processes that directly affect the public health sector and its intersection with race
- Enable students to recognize health as a broad concept that is integrally related to social development
- Impart knowledge to students about public health in Brazil including current challenges and conditions

Expected Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, students should have attained the following:
- Country-specific knowledge about public health
• Greater understanding of the intersections of health and social development in Brazil
• Greater awareness of race as a social determinant of health Northeastern Brazil

Course Content

History of Colonization


History of Slavery and Rebellions (Quilombos)
Lecturer
Prof. Dr. Jaime Sodré (UNEB)

Mandatory Readings


Gender, Race and Ethnicity: The Social Exclusion of Black Women
Lecturers
Vilma Reis, sociologist, coordinator of CEAFRO/UFBA and Creuza Oliveira, political activist, president of the national union of domestic workers.
Mandatory Readings


Race, Culture and Development
Lecturer
Prof. Dr. Nilo Rosa, economist, professor of UEFS, political activist of Black Movement, President of the Afro-Brazilian Researcher Association, in the state of Bahia.

Mandatory Readings


Institutional Racism
Lecturer
Prof. Dr. Samuel Vida, lawyer, professor of UCSAL; political activist of the Black Movement (movimento negro).
Mandatory Readings

The Transvestite Dilemma: Violence and Social Exclusion
Lecturer
Keila Simpson, transgender activist, (vice-president of the National Association of Transgender)

Domestic Violence: Women Living in Silence
Lecturer
Prof. Dr. Esther de Souza Costa, Nurse School (UFBA)

Mandatory Readings

Health as a Human Rights Issue in Developed and Developing Countries

What is Health Promotion? Health Promotion Practice in Developing Countries: How to Make it Work

Constructing Global Public Health in the 21st Century: The Impact of Globalization on a Hungry World
Mandatory Readings

Course Requirements

Class Participation
Participation in class refers to punctuality, attentive listening, active engagement, flexibility, and culturally-respectful behavior during all program activities.

Readings
Students are responsible for all required readings, and should be prepared to bring them to bear in class. The readings aim to help students place the classes in their context, to engage lecturers, to generate questions for class discussions and to deepen student knowledge.

Student Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Assignments
Timely completion of all assignments is expected. Late hand-ins will be penalized. All assignments are evaluated according to organization, analytical quality, depth of understanding, argumentation and presentation of evidence.

Synthesis and Reflection Paper 1 30%
Synthesis and Reflection Paper 2 30%
Group Assignment 30%
Participation 10%

Grading Scales and Criteria
Grades are given both fairly and rigorously and in accordance with the system below. They will reflect a combination of absolute quality of performance, progress made, the ability to take into
account and assimilate the Academic Director’s and the teachers’ advice in assessing the work done. An “A” letter grade reflects exceptional work, perfect combination of academic competences and personal research and analysis. It shows great ability to integrate field-based investigation and personal reflection into a structured and well argued paper. A “B” letter grade reflects serious and methodical work as well as a substantial effort at analyzing and understanding cross-cultural issues. A “C” letter grade shows the work meets the requirements but needs more in-depth reflection and personal involvement. A “D” letter grade is insufficient and clearly reflects lack of work or serious deficiencies.

The grading scale for all classes is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-93%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84-86%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-83%</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79%</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74-76%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-73%</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69%</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64-66%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>below 64%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please see the SIT Study Abroad student handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, academic warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment, and the academic appeals process.

Please note, the syllabus, course content, lecturers, and readings may modified by the Academic Director in order to better suit the needs of the course and its participants. Should any change of class topics or lecturers may be necessary, student will be promptly notified.