Course Description
According to the United Nations Universal Declaration, human rights for all people in the world are the foundation of peace, social justice and freedom. In article 25 of this Declaration, the right to health is clearly stated. This course focuses on health disparities, which have negative effects on numerous populations in Northern Brazil. Throughout the course, students participate in discussions with university professors, health professionals, political activists and leaders of social movements. Students will learn about the impact of social determinants of health in the life of individuals. Furthermore, the excursions to less developed areas in the state of Bahia will help students understand the sub-standard living conditions in which these populations live, including limited access to adequate housing, sanitation, potable water, health services, and quality education. Students will also learn about the Brazilian health care system and will have hands-on opportunities to take part in the system. Lectures and discussions are conducted in Portuguese (with interpretation) or English by Brazilian specialists. Courses are held at the SIT office or at public health facilities, social organizations or in the field.

Course Objectives
- Through field visits, lectures, and readings, demonstrate to students the concept of health as a human right within the public health context
- Expose students to the Brazilian Universal Health Care System and provide them opportunities to witness and partake in its functioning
- Provide students the opportunity to learn about the social determinants of health and the realities of these in northern Brazil

Expected Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, students should be able to:
- Discuss health care as a universal human right and its theoretical underpinnings
- Debate the Brazilian Universal Health Care System, its successes, problems, and challenges
- Outline and analyze the challenges involved in public health care in the developing world
Course Content

The Brazilian National Health System – The Allopathic and Traditional Sectors
Understanding the Brazilian Primary Health Care Program--O Sistema Único de Saúde (SUS)

How the System Works: Diretrizes Básicas do Ministério da Saúde (Basic Directions of the Ministry of Health)

Afro-Brazilian Traditional Healing Lecturer: Professor Valdina Pinto, Makota do Terreiro de Candomblé Tanuri Junçara, Salvador, Bahia. This lecture will discuss how Brazilians in different social groups explain the causes of ill-health and the types of treatment they are likely to seek when they become ill. Special focus will be paid to Afro-descendants.

Decision-Making about Health Problems and Treatment Choice

Delivery Models: Concepts and Execution Modelos de Assistência: Conceitos e Operacionalização (Assistance Model: Concept and Executing) Lecturer: from “Atenção Integral à Saúde”

Gender and Reproduction: Health Issues of Women and Children.

Youth and Elderly.

Adult: High Blood Pressure; Diabetes; STD/AIDS.

Auxiliary Services of Diagnosis and Therapy.

Dental/Oral Care.

Health of Worker “Saúde do Trabalhador”.

Community/Social Control and Input into Medical Care and Health

Promotion/Disease Prevention Systems.

Sanitation: Sewage System.

Diet and Nutrition.

Mental Health, Violence, Drug Consumption

Educational Excursions

The objective of the educational excursions is to undergo intensive academic learning through hands-on field experience. Many of the activities students engage in will be experienced in underprivileged areas, challenging the students to understand how historical oppression affects the lives of poor people today particularly as they relate to public health. Among the topics that will be raised are: racial inequality and politics in Brazil, historical oppression and social exclusion of Afro-Brazilians, political mobilization racial democracy and identity, and health and social justice. Students will have the opportunity to meet community leaders and members, and discuss with them their struggle to survive and to undertake community work in historical and cultural sites in the states of Bahia and Maranhão.

Places to be visited include:
- Ilha de Mare (Mare Island) – visit to this former quilombo community to participate in a health fair work project.
- Terreiro de Candomble do Tumbenci – An activity at the traditional Afro-Brazilian shrines in Salvador. The Terreiro de Candomble do Tumbenci, Angolan tradition, is recognized by the Federal Government.
- Excursion to rural and urban areas of Cachoeira in the Reconcavo Region in the state of Bahia, visiting the Movimento dos Sem Terra (MST) Settlement.
- Excursion to Santo Antonio de Jesus—the main commercial municipality in the Recôncavo Region to observe the activities of the Programa de Saúde da Família (PSF), in an environment outside Salvador. The students shadow health professionals, mainly community health agents.

**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
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:
94-100%  A
90-93%  A-
87-89%  B+
84-86%  B
80-83%  B-
77-79%  C+
74-76%  C
70-73%  C-
67-69%  D+
64-66%  D
below 64  F

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.