Public Health in Chile
IPBH-3000 (3 Credits / 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Chile: Public Health, Traditional Medicine, and Community Empowerment

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus is representative of a recent semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Course Description
The Public Health in Chile seminar provides a broad-based introduction to the Chilean public health system, Chile’s health profile, and the social determinants of health in the region. Students examine theoretical and practical perspectives on public health in a contemporary context in Chile and in Latin America in general. Through classroom lectures and firsthand field experiences, students explore the formulation and application of public health policy at local, regional, and national levels. Classes are held at the Department of Health Sciences at the University of Tarapacá in Arica, and also at public health organizations, public and private health centers, and in field settings.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, students will be able to:
- Identify the multiple components, levels, and complexities of the Chilean public health system.
- Delineate contemporary challenges to equitable healthcare delivery particularly in the Chilean public sector.
- Discuss the principal social determinants of health in Chile as these relate to Latin America in general.
- Argue and debate the successes, strengths, and weaknesses of Chilean public health policy at the local, regional, and national levels.

Language of Instruction
This course is taught in Spanish.

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Course Schedule

*Please be aware that topics and excursions may vary to take advantage of any emerging events, to accommodate changes in our lecturers' availability, and to respect any changes that would affect student safety. Students will be notified if this occurs.

Module 1: Health, Society, and Culture
Module 1 provides a general introduction into Chilean history and culture. Students will contextualize discussions of the health sector in a historical context.

Session 1: Introduction to Chilean History and Culture I

Session 2: Introduction to Chilean History and Culture II

Session 3: Racial and Religious Diversity and Identity in Chile

Required Readings:

Module 2: The Chilean Public Health System
Module 2 provides an introduction to the Chilean health system, including the structures and functions of the public health system. Special public programs and initiatives are also explored.

Session 1: The Health Profile of the Chilean Population

Session 2: Economic, Structural, and Ideological Determinants of Public Health Planning and Practices in Chile

Session 3: Critical Study of the Chilean Model for Public Health

Session 4: Analysis of Key Chilean National Health Programs, Including the Chilean Health Program

Required Readings:
Module 3: Contemporary Issues in the Chilean Public Health Profile

Module 3 introduces students to particular health issues in Chile, including reproductive health, infants and children, mental health, the elderly, among others.

Session 1: Child, Infant, and Maternal Health

Session 2: Adolescent, Mental, and Elderly Health

Session 3: Women’s Health

Session 4: Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)

Session 5: HIV/AIDS

Required Readings:

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Description of Assignments:

**Module paper:** Write a five-to-seven page paper based on a topic of your choice from one of the three modules. The paper should include bibliographic references as well as references from your class and field-based learning during the course.

**Group discussion paper:** With your group, write a three-to-five page paper based on the assigned group discussion topic. Group and individual points of view and arguments should be included and substantiated. The paper should include bibliographic references.

**Exam:** The course exam is cumulative. It includes essay and short-answer questions.

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Participation: Participation refers to attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all lectures, discussions, field trips, and other activities. It also includes culturally appropriate, polite, and respectful behavior.

Assessment:
Module paper 30%
Group discussion paper 30%
Exam 30%
Participation 10%

Grading Scale
94-100%   A   Excellent
90-93%   A-
87-89%   B+
84-86%   B   Above Average
80-83%   B-
77-79%   C+
74-76%   C   Average
70-73%   C-
67-69%   D+
64-66%   D   Below Average
below 64   F   Fail

Expectations and Policies
- 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.
- Excursions: Many of the visits will be to underprivileged areas, challenging students to understand how historical oppression and public policies affect the lives of peoples today. Please be respectful and open to listening to a variety of viewpoints.
- Readings: Students are responsible for all of the required readings, and should be prepared to bring them to bear in class. The readings will help place the classes in context, engage lecturers, generate questions for class discussions, and deepen student knowledge of particular issues discussed in class.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad Student Handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment, and the academic appeals process.

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