Course Syllabus

Traditional Medicine and Community Health
IPBH-3005 (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 Traditional Medicine and Community Health seminar focuses on alternative health concepts, traditional practices, and the realities of contemporary Aymara and Mapuche healthcare. Course content includes indigenous visions of health and healing and community health. Students examine the Chilean Intercultural Health System and the integration of traditional medical practices into the formal public health care system. Concepts of community health and the role of community in health promotion and prevention in the rural context are also explored. Students learn about these topics through lectures, reading materials, discussion, and field experiences.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, students will be able to:
- Identify alternative conceptualizations and visions of health as embraced by rural and indigenous groups in Chile.
- Discuss the achievements and challenges of the Intercultural Health System and the mainstreaming of traditional health practices.
- Relate the importance of meeting community health needs through the articulation of community within an appropriate cultural context.
- Assess Chilean public health policy as it relates to equitable access for indigenous peoples and marginalized groups.

Language of Instruction
This course is taught in Spanish.

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.*

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Module 1: The Chilean Rural Health System
Module 1 offers an overview of the Chilean rural health sector. Students will learn about healthcare structures and systems in rural Chile, and study the epidemiological profile of the rural population.

Session 1: Introduction to Rural Chile

Session 2: Rural Chile and the Health Sector – An Introduction

Session 3: The Population Profile of Rural Chile

Required Readings:

Module 2: Community Health
Module 2 introduces concepts of community health. The module explores the ways in which community health is approached in Chile and how concepts are applied. Excursions to rural communities provide firsthand learning experiences during this module.

Session 1: Concepts of Community Health

Session 2: Community Organization and Health

Session 3: The Role of the Community in Health Promotion and Prevention

Required Readings:

Module 3: Formal and Non-Formal Traditional Health Practices in Chile

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Module 3 explores traditional healthcare in Chile. Indigenous healthcare systems are discussed. Students will examine the formal integration of traditional practices into the Chilean public healthcare system.

Session 1: The Chilean Intercultural Health System

Session 2: The Indigenous Cosmovision of Health

Session 3: Multiculturalism and Religious Aspect Related with Health

Session 4: Concepts and Practices of Health Used by Aymara People

Session 5: Concepts and Practices of Health Used by Mapuche People

Session 6: Access Issues Related to Alternative Methods of Health Treatment

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.

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

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

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

Assessment:
Module paper 30%
Excursion 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 Handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment, and the academic appeals process.

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