Healthcare Practice in Madagascar

IPBH-3500 (3 credits / 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Madagascar: Traditional Medicine and Healthcare Systems

Please note: This syllabus represents 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
Traditional medicine continues to be practiced throughout Madagascar in both urban and rural settings as an available, affordable and effective method of healthcare rooted in local biodiversity. The Healthcare Practice in Madagascar seminar examines healthcare practices in urban and rural settings to understand traditional and allopathic healthcare approaches. Ethical issues in healthcare delivery, the roles of healthcare professionals, and informal healthcare practice in the different systems are explored. Through lectures, discussions, educational excursions, extensive field experiences and assignments, you will be encouraged to explore the course material through a continual interrogation of the theory/practice dynamic. The language of instruction is English, with lecturers from the Faculty of Science and Medical School of the University of Antananarivo, traditional healing specialists, non-governmental organization (NGO) officials and local clinic practitioners.

Learning Outcomes:
At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Discuss the similarities and differences of healthcare practices in urban and rural settings;
- Critically appraise approaches to healthcare in traditional and allopathic paradigms;
- Describe ethical issues in healthcare delivery;
- Analyze the roles of healthcare delivery professionals in the different systems;
- Assess informal healthcare practices within the overall healthcare system in Madagascar.

Course Requirements

Readings
You are responsible for all required readings and should be prepared to bring them to bear on discussions in class. The readings will help you place the classes in their context, to challenge and engage lecturers, to generate questions for class discussions and to deepen your knowledge of particular aspects discussed in class. They are not necessarily tailor-made for each and every class. As the

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Healthcare Practice in Madagascar Seminar is carried out alongside and interwoven with the Social and Political Dimensions of Health Seminar, you are expected to complete all assigned readings for both program courses.

**General Required Readings**


McMichael AJ. The urban environment and health in a world of increasing globalization: issues for developing countries. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 2008;78:1117-26


**Please note:** Course content, lecturers and readings may be modified as needed. Should any change of class topics or lecturers be necessary, students will be promptly notified.

**Evaluation and Grading Criteria**

**Health Care Practice in Madagascar Assignments**

You are expected to prepare for, attend, and participate fully in all lectures, discussions, and field visits. In addition to completing the required readings, you are encouraged to read local newspapers and other

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media for more local context. The Healthcare Practice in Madagascar assignments are designed to help you study, reflect upon and draw conclusions about particular issues of Healthcare Practice in Madagascar based on lectures, discussions, educational excursions, and field experiences during the program. Grades are based on preparation and participation in all lectures, discussions, and activities; leadership in discussion groups; demonstrated completion of all assigned readings; the quality of analysis, depth of reflection, clarity of expression and creativity for the reflection journal and visual essay. The academic director assigns all grades.

**Evaluation**

- Pre-departure / Arrival Quiz 20%
- Reflection Journal 40%
- Visual Essay 30%
- Participation 10%

**Reflection Journal**

You are required to keep a daily reflective journal for each day of the scheduled practicum experiences. For each day, you must make an entry of at least half of an A4 page, and you may want to write more to delve into certain issues. Please note that this can be done electronically or may be very neatly handwritten. These daily logs are intended to help you document, reflect, analyze and critique what you are learning. Include both documentation of what you’ve accomplished and reflective thinking about why and how what you’re doing and experiencing is important: to you, the organization, the other participants and/or larger local/global issues. Reference lectures and discussions from the Healthcare Practice Seminar and experiences from your homestays that provide insight into your practicum experiences.

Your final journal entry must be in the form of a 4-6-page synthesis essay that provides a deeper understanding of your work over the course of the program. You should examine the relationships you have found between theory and practice, and provide your evaluation of healthcare practice in Madagascar.

**Visual Essay of Health Care Practice in Madagascar**

Visual literacy involves a set of skills used in the interpretation and criticism of images. The concept of visual literacy includes the ability to create and use images to communicate. In this assignment, you need to compile images (photographs) from your experiences in the program to produce a 15-minute visual presentation of your experiences of “Traditional Medicine and Healthcare Systems in Madagascar.” You may also use images from homestays and excursions where necessary to give context to some of your reflections and arguments. Think carefully about what you want to depict and why – tell a story about the various situations you have been placed into and have created for yourself. What do you want us/others to know about your journey and discoveries with regards to healthcare delivery as a vehicle for development and social change in Madagascar? You will have an additional five minutes for question and answer.

**Participation/Continuous Assessment**

Assessment of your participation in the course is based on the following criteria:

- Attendance: promptness to all activities and positive presence in all program environments
- Active listening: paying attention in class/during field excursions, asking appropriate questions, showing interest and enthusiasm, entertaining contradictory perspectives, taking notes
- Involvement in class discussions: either in small or large groups sharing knowledge and information
- Respect: positive and full interaction with host institutions, learners, SIT program affiliates, SIT staff, homestay communities and fellow students

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**Grading Scale:** 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

**Grading Criteria**
An “A” grade for an assignment entails superior (not just “very good”) performance in terms of structure and organization of assignments, analysis, logical argumentation and consistency, and the provision of factual, numerical and/or historical evidence. In terms of class participation, an “A” grade refers to full attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all practicum experiences, discussions, field trips and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior. The level, frequency, and quality of your participation will be monitored and taken into account.

**Course Schedule**
The Health Care Practice in Madagascar Seminar is a two-and-a-half-week lecture series with integrated excursions. It is divided into three interrelated modules, with lectures taking place mainly at the Pharmacology Department at the University of Antananarivo:

**Module I: Healthcare practice in Madagascar**
You will complete an intensive set of lectures and field trips to explore healthcare systems in Madagascar. Field trips will include visits to rural and urban allopathic healthcare centers (public & private), as well as a visit to a traditional healing practice center.
Topics for exploration will include:
- History, policy and practice of healthcare in Madagascar
- Organization of allopathic medical practice
- Public and private healthcare options
- Organization of traditional medical practice
- Formal and informal training of healthcare providers
- Professional healthcare practitioners – allopathic and traditional
- Informal practice of traditional medicine (“folk remedies”)
- Integrated healthcare

**Module II: The Economics of Health Care**
This module includes a set of lectures and field trips to explore the economies of healthcare in Madagascar. Field trips will include visits to SoTraMEx (Société de Transformation Malgache et d’Exportation), and local traditional medicine resource markets.
Topics for exploration will include:
- Availability of medicines and prescriptive treatments
- Access to healthcare at different socio-economic levels of society
- Healthcare funding
- Ethics in healthcare practice

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Module III: Rationalization of Traditional Medicine

You will complete an intensive set of lectures and field trips to explore the rationalization of traditional medicine in Madagascar. Field trips will include visits to Centre National de l’Application de Recherche Pharmaceutique (CNARP) and the ‘Laboratoire de Pharmacologie Générale de Pharmacodynamie et de Cosmétologie’ (LPGPC). Topics for exploration will include:

- Translating empirical data to scientific data
- Standardization of traditional medicine resources
- Precision of dosage in traditional medicine

Student Expectations

Class Participation

Participation in class refers to attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all academic seminar lectures, discussions, field trips and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior.

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. Also, refer to the specific information available in the Student Handbook and the Program Dossier given to you at Orientation.

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