Health Systems, Policies, and Programs
IPBH-3005 (3 Credits / 45 hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Argentina: Public Health in Urban Environments

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus is representative 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 Health Systems, Policies, and Programs seminar introduces students to the social organization of health care in Argentina. The course examines the development of the health care system as part of the social, political, and economic fabric of Argentine society. Students study the societal responses that have occurred throughout Argentina’s history to improve health and well-being. Using a comparative approach, the organization of the system is studied based on the way needs are addressed while the health system profile is presented and discussed at varying geographical levels, including the national, provincial and local, and its administrative sectors – private, public, and the social security system.

The interdisciplinary view of the Argentine health care system that is presented allows students to understand how health needs are met in large urban areas. From a population perspective issues such as quality, cost, and access are considered. Organizational structure and the relationship between different health system components are taken into account when addressing how different stakeholders contribute to defining the public health agenda.

Expected Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Identify the key features of the history of public health in the context of the Argentine development process.
- Define the basic concepts related to health systems and public health policies in Argentina.
- Discuss the Argentine healthcare system from popular, social, economic, and human rights perspectives.
- Debate the linkages among Argentina’s epidemiological profile and the health needs of the population with the national health system’s policies and programs in different contexts.
- Critically analyze the responses of the Argentine health system and public policies to address the population’s health needs and to cope with the different risks affecting quality of life in urban environments.
• Analyze the political process in defining the public health agenda and the roles played by different stakeholders.

Language of Instruction
The academic content of this course is taught predominantly in Spanish; all orientation and logistical issues are provided in English.

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 I: The historical, social and economic background of the establishment of the Argentinean health system.

This module comprises an analysis of the historical processes and main concepts for a broad-based understanding of contemporary Argentina. The context of historical and socio-economic process, including the consolidation of the State, immigration and urban transformations; industrialization and expansion of public health services are analyzed to understand different stages of the development of the healthcare system.

Session 1: Introduction to the principle historical processes in the formation of Contemporary Argentina.


Session 2: Military dictatorship and return to democracy and the 2001 crisis.


Session 3: Contemporary Argentina: recent history and key points for understanding the current healthcare system.

The Kirchners’ governments: the political, economic and social agenda. Human rights and social inclusion policies. The new elected government and new policies trends. The economic, social and political challenges in 2016. Discussion based on data from public opinion’s research on health issues.

Required readings

Further reading:


The topics listed above will be covered at:

- Regular sessions at ISALUD
- Discussions based on documentary film extracts, press article and data from public opinion research.
- Guided walk through some historical city icons.

Module II: Public policy and health: challenges to equity.

This module covers health as a public good, the role of the state and public policies in the search of health and wellbeing. Also included are how public policies influence popular access to health goods and social services and the debate on health and equity: alternative policies to reduce inequality.

Session 1: Health policy and equality.


Session 2: The role of the State and public policy in health status and wellbeing.


Required readings

Further reading

- Maceira, Daniel (2009). Inequidad en el acceso a la salud en la Argentina, Documento de Políticas Públicas / Análisis N°52, CIPPEC, Buenos Aires, CIPPEC.

The topics listed above will be covered at:

- Regular lectures at ISALUD
- Reading workshop

Module III: The national healthcare system: structure and organization.

This module introduces to the organization of national healthcare system and health policies and discusses the different complexity levels in healthcare, and the organization of “Service Networks.” Included are primary healthcare, and articulation of health services and social services.

Session 1: Introduction to the national healthcare system and its organization.

The health system within the country’s political organization, Main features of system organization: public, social security and private sector. Financing health services coverage. Its constitution and main reforms attempts in the last decades. Recent policies and main health programs, their functioning across the country. How health policies from different governmental levels operate in the field: The case of Plan Nacer and Remediar, its impact in facilitating access to health services and improving health conditions. Social programs and its role in complementing health policies.

Required Readings.


Session 2: Practical activity: interviews. Students will do a search about health system components through interviews with key people from health sector.

Session 3: Practical activity: survey. Students will do a search about the access to health services through a survey to population.

Session 4: Introduction to national health policy and programs. Health programs’ implementation across different sectors.

Session 5: Group discussion. Students in small groups will discuss the findings of the survey and interviews and will compose and present a brief report.

Required Readings.

Explore the following web pages:

- Plan Nacer: http://www.ms.gba.gov.ar/sitios/nacer/
- Plan Remediari: http://www.remediar.gov.ar/
- Asignación Universal por Hijo (AUH): http://www.anses.gob.ar/destacados/asignacion-universal-por-hijo-1
- Asignación Por Embarazo: http://www.anses.gob.ar/destacados/asignacion-por-embarazo-5

Session 6: Healthcare in complex service networks

Conceptual basis of services networks, main steps in the process of establishing a network, its characteristics and potentialities, the organization of service delivering through a health network, the case of the services network of an area of the Buenos Aires province (Region VI).

Multiple sessions: During the visit to Florencio Varela students will be introduced to the functioning of the health care system and health services network through visits to Hospital El Cruce (complexity level II), Hospital Mi Pueblo (complexity level II), CAPS (complexity level I), and Centro Comunitario Angelelli

Required Readings.

- Florencio Varela Handbook

Further Reading:

- Belmartino, Susana (2005), *La atención médica argentina en el siglo XX: instituciones y procesos*. Buenos Aires, Siglo XXI.
• Lima Quintana, Laura, Levcovich, Mónica y Díaz-Muñoz, Ana Rita (2012), *Las reformas de los sistemas de salud del reino Unido, Estados Unidos y Países Bajos. De la década del 90 al siglo XXI*. Buenos Aires, Ediciones Fundación Sanatorio Güemes,

**The topics listed above will be covered at:**

✓ Regular sessions at ISALUD
✓ Debate and discussion based on interviews and survey conducted by students.
✓ Discussion with guest lecturer.
✓ Multiple activities at health and community institutions

**Module IV: Healthcare policies and programs in interior urban centers.**

This module provides a general orientation to health policies focusing on developments of the last decade. The role of civil society in population health conditions and wellbeing through the implementation of community projects are explored through dialogue with experts, politicians and visits to different health and social institution and services. Visits include presentations, discussion groups, and reflections.

**Province of MENDOZA**

**Dialogue with experts:**

**Session 1:** The organization of the health care system in Mendoza. The experience of building a primary health service system.

**Session 2:** Community participation and community health care organizations.

**Session 3:** Sexual and reproductive health policies at the community level. The health professional team and the implementation on public policies.

**Session 4:** The political process of defining health policies at the provincial level. Dialogue with politicians.

**Required readings**

• Mendoza Handbook

**The topics listed above will be covered at:**

✓ Dialogue with experts and politician
✓ Meetings with health institutions officials and private health professionals
✓ Centro de Atención Primario en Salud “La Consulta”
✓ Centro de Integración Comunitaria de Maipú (Centro Integrador de Salud y Servicios Sociales)
✓ Centro OSEP-Provincial Social Security institution
✓ Private health institutions and NGO’s
Province of TUCUMÁN

Session 1: The role of social work professionals in local health organizations.

Session 2: The provincial health system. Discussion on how the provincial system articulates national, provincial and municipal program and resources.

Session 3: The provincial health system organization from the experience of health professionals. Small groups interviews with health system´s officials.

Session 4: The role of NGO´s in improving social and health conditions. The case of Red Cross. Dialogue and community activity with Red Cross volunteers

Required readings:

- Tucumán Handbook

The topics listed above will be covered at:

- Dialogue with experts
- Meetings with health institutions officials
- CIC Vial III
- Policlínica Villalonga (first health care level)
- CAPS Carlos Cattaneo (first health care level)
- Hospital y Maternidad Avellaneda (second health care level)
- Grassroots organizations
- Community Project (Red Cross Tucumán)

Module V: Main challenges in the development of the Argentina´s health system.

Dialogue with expert reviewing main strengths and problems that Argentinian health system currently face to improve quality and reduce inequality.

Session 1: Questions and reflections concerning observed health system challenges. In this dialogue the main features of Argentina´s health system are presented And discussed in the light of the international experience.

Course Requirements

Readings

Students are responsible for all required readings, and should be prepared to bring them to bear in class. The readings will aid students in placing classes in their context, to engage lecturers, to generate questions for class discussions, and to deepen their knowledge of particular course topics.
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.

- **Pre-departure assignment** Based on the recommended bibliography, students will be required to complete a 2-page essay answering a question related to the history of the Argentinean health system.
- **Group discussion papers** Students will meet with an assigned group to critically discuss issues concerning Argentina’s health system, policies, and programs raised in lectures, excursions, and debriefings. Based on these discussions, students will write a series of papers providing critical analyses of the themes discussed.
- **Mid-term** Students will be required to reflect on certain aspects of Argentina’s health system and current health policies.

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

Student Expectations and Policies
- **Class Participation** Participation in class refers to attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all lectures, discussions, field trips, and other activities. It also means polite, respectful, and appropriate behavior.
- **Readings** Students are responsible for all required readings, and should be prepared to bring them to bear in class. The readings will aid students in placing classes in their context, to engage lecturers, to generate questions for class discussions, and to deepen their knowledge of particular course topics.
- **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.
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.

Disability Services: Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services at disabilityservices@sit.edu for information and support in facilitating an accessible educational experience. Additional information regarding SIT Disability Services, including a link to the online request form, can be found on the Disability Services website at http://studyabroad.sit.edu/disabilityservices.