



Traditional Medicine and Community Health

IPBH-3005 (3 Credits / 45 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 healthcare among the Aymara and Mapuche peoples. Course content includes indigenous visions of health and healing and community health. Students examine the intercultural components of the Chilean healthcare system, and the proposed integration of traditional medicine alongside of biomedical practices. Concepts of community health and the role of the community in health promotion and prevention in the rural context are also explored. Students learn about these topics through lectures, reading materials, discussion, and extensive 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 ongoing project of integrating intercultural health practices into the formal Chilean state 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 other 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.

Session 1

Medical Anthropology and Interculturality

A theoretical overview of relevant theoretical concerns of health, disease and illness as a framework for the course, within the context of critical medical anthropology, and with a special focus on the concept of interculturality in health.

Required reading:

Albó, X. 2001. "Interculturalidad y Salud." In: Salud e interculturalidad en América Latina. Perspectivas antropológicas, pp.65 – 74. Gerardo Fernández Juárez (Coordinador). Ediciones Abya Yala. Quito, Ecuador.

Gavilán Vega, V. (s.f.). "El enfoque intercultural aplicado a la salud en el norte de Chile."

Pozo, G. 2014. "¿Cómo descolonizar el saber? El problema del concepto de la interculturalidad. Reflexiones para el caso mapuche." Polis, Revista Latinoamericana, Volumen 13:205-223.

Session 2

Indigenous Peoples and Public Policy in Chile

The current sociopolitical status of the diverse indigenous peoples in Chile, and the official government policy response to addressing issues of political and human rights.

Required reading:

Aylwin J. et al. 2015. "Chile. América del Sur." IWGIA - El mundo indígena. 207 – 219.

Bello, A. (s.f.) "El Programa Orígenes y la política pública de gobierno de Lagos hacia los pueblos indígenas." Documento de análisis.

Session 3

The Health of Indigenous Peoples in Chile

The special nature of health, disease and illness as these apply to the indigenous peoples of Chile, with a focus on demographic, epidemiological, cultural and political realities.

Required reading:

Ministerio de Salud. 2006. "Política de Salud y los Pueblos Indígenas (Documento de trabajo)."

Organización Internacional de Trabajo. 1989. "Convenio N° 169, sobre Pueblos Indígenas y Tribales en Países Independientes." Comisión Nacional de los Pueblos Indígenas. Gobierno de Chile.

Session 4

Culture and Worldview of the Aymara

The social, cultural and political history of the Aymara people in Chile, with a special focus on belief systems and community structures.

Required reading:

Albó, X. 2000. "Aymaras entre Bolivia, Perú y Chile." Cuarto Intermedio, No. 54, febrero 2000.

Gundermann, H. y H. González Cortez. 2009. "Sociedades indígenas y conocimiento antropológico. Aymaras y atacameños de los siglos XIX y XX." Chungará, Vol. 41 No.1; 113 – 164.

Zapata, C. 2007. "Memoria e historia. El proyecto de una identidad colectiva entre los aymaras de Chile." Chungará, Vol. 39 No. 2; 171 – 183.

Session 5 (Putre field class)

The Aymara Worldview and Medical System: Roles of Traditional Practitioners and Natural Remedies

Aymara health beliefs and practices as currently implemented; taught by a traditional healer.

Required reading:

Carpeta de viaje - Putre. 2016. "El sistema médico aymara: Características generales."

Session 6 (Putre field class)

Traditional Birth Practices among the Aymara

Aymara concepts of pregnancy and birth, as currently implemented; taught by a traditional birth attendant.

Session 7 (Makewe field class)

History, Philosophy, and Worldview of the Mapuche People

The social, cultural and political history of the Mapuche people in Chile, with a special focus on belief systems and community structures.

Required reading:

Quidel Lincoleo, J. 2015. "Pu mapunche ñi gijañmawün." Carpeta de Viaje - La Araucanía.

Session 8 (Makewe field class)

Relations Between the Chilean State and the Mapuche People: Analysis of the Conflict in the Araucanía Region

The history and ongoing reality of the sociopolitical conflict between the Mapuche people and the Chilean state, with a particular emphasis on history, race relations, and economic exploitation.

Required reading:

Millamán Raineo, R. 2008. "La historia oculta y las voces ancestrales: La confrontación mapuche contra el sistema neoliberal chileno." Le Monde Diplomatique (Edición Chile), March.

Session 9 (Makewe field class)

Comprehension and Analysis of the Intercultural Healthcare Model from the Mapuche Perspective

The unique nature of the intercultural health model, as conceived of and implemented by local Mapuche health services.

Required reading:

Menéndez, E. L. 1998. "Modelo médico hegemónico: Reproducción técnica y cultural." Natura Medicatrix No. 51.

Session 10 (Makewe field class)

The Mapuche Healthcare System: Concepts of Health, Illness, and Medicinal Practices

Mapuche health beliefs and practices as currently implemented; taught by a traditional healer.

Required reading:

Caniullán, V. 2014. "Mapuche lawentuwün sugu." Carpeta de Viaje - La Araucanía.

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Description of Assignments

Course paper: Write a 9-10 page paper, based on your selection of one of a group of possible questions from the course which will be assigned. The paper should include bibliographic references as well as references from your class and field-based learning during the course.

Critical response papers: Write a series of three, 2-3 page response papers, examining a topic which will be assigned and based on the material presented up until the respective date. This will be an interdisciplinary, cross-referenced paper, together with the "Public Health in Chile" course.

On-site group community study: With your group, you will spend 2½ days in an assigned community of the Araucanía region, in southern Chile. There will be set of specific study topics to investigate, with the later formal presentation of the research results to the general class.

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

Course paper	30%
Critical response paper 1	10%
Critical response paper 2	10%
Critical response paper 3	10%
On-site group community study	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.

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>.