



## 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.

A political and historical framework of country development after 1853 constitution. The agro-export boom and immigration. Oligarchy, democracy and coups D'état (1853-1930). Perón and Eva Perón, Social justice, populism and nationalism. Trade union on the base of the constitution of social security and health system.

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

The violation of Human rights and individual guarantees during the dictatorship, its social and political consequences in the present (1976-1983). Transition to democracy (1983-2003). 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**

- Romero, J.A. (2002), A History of Argentina in the Twentieth Century. The Pennsylvania State University, Chapter 4 and 8.

**Further reading:**

- Perrone, N. y Teixido, L., “Estado y Salud en Argentina”. Revista Maestría en Salud Pública, UBA, N°7, noviembre 2006. <http://maestria.rec.uba.ar>.

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

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Developing a first historical time-line to identify main milestones.

**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.

The rights-based approach to health and health care. United Nations declarations and covenants and their implications. The current equity debate. Approaches to equity: different dimensions and barriers. Challenges to equity for access to social and health services. Group discussion based on Whitehead (1991).

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

The rationale for government’s role in health care provision and regulation. Health as public good. Differences between medical markets and regular markets. Health Care System models and equity implications. Group discussion based on Stiglitz (2010).

**Required readings**

- Stiglitz, Joseph, *Economics of the Public Sector* (2010), New York.W.W.Norton. Chapter 5, pp. 345-366.
- Whitehead, Margaret (1991). “The concepts and principles of equity and healthy.” *Health Promotion International*, vol. 6, no. 3.

**Further reading**

- United Nations (1948). “Universal Declaration of Human Rights”.
- United Nations (1965).”International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination.”
- United Nations (1966). “International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights”
- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, World Health Organization. “The Right to Health.” Fact Sheet No. 31.

- National Economic & Social Rights Initiative (NESRI) (2008). “Human Right to Health.”
- National Economic & Social Rights Initiative (NESRI) (2008). “Human Right to Health Care.”
- Devoto, Florencia (2008). *Reformas en la política de salud en Argentina durante los años noventa con especial referencia a la equidad.*, Buenos Aires. Centro de Estudios para el Cambio Estructural.
- Gruskin, Sofia; Bogecho, Dina: and Ferguson, Laura (2010). “Rights-based approaches’ to health policies and programs: Articulations, ambiguities, and assessment.” *Journal of Public Health Policy*, vol. 31, no. 2.
- Maceira, Daniel (2009). *Inequidad en el acceso a la salud en la Argentina*, Documento de Políticas Públicas / Análisis N°52, CIPPEC, Buenos Aires, CIPPEC.
- Sen, Amartya (2002), Why Health Equity? *Health Econ.* 11: 659-666.
- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (2000). “CESCR General Comment No. 14: The Right to the Highest Attainable Standard of Health.”

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

- ✓ Regular lectures at ISALUD
- ✓ Reading workshop
- ✓ In class discussions

**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.

Session 2: Introduction to national health policy and programs. Health programs’ implementation across different sectors.

Session 3: Practical activity: interviews. Students will do a search about health system components through interviews with key people from health sector.

Session 4 Practical activity: Students will do a search about the access to health services through interviewing a user

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

### **Required Readings.**

- Langsam, M. (2001) "Health care policies in Argentina: an historical overview" in MS Thesis Argentine Health Care System, chapter Two pp. 22-28. Oxford University.
- PNUD, OPS/OMS, CEPAL (2011). *Aportes para el desarrollo humano en Argentina 2011. El sistema de salud argentino y su trayectoria de largo plazo: logros alcanzados y desafíos futuros*. PNUD Argentina – OPS/OMS Argentina - CEPAL Argentina .Chapters 1, 3, 4, 5 y 6.

And explore the following web pages:

- <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/salud>
- <https://www.anses.gob.ar/>

### **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, and the organization of service delivering through a health network.

**Multiple sessions:** During the visit to Hospital Garrahan students will be introduced to the functioning of the health services network of a national program and the use of telemedicine. Students will also be introduced to the role of civil society organization in supporting health services and policies.

### **Required Readings.**

- Rovere, Mario (1999 ) " Redes en Salud; Un nuevo paradigma para el abordaje de las organizaciones y la comunidad" Secretaria de Salud Pública de Rosario  
<http://www.rosario.gov.ar/sitio/verArchivo?id=8565&tipo=objetoMultimedia>
- Ministerio de Salud de la Nación (2018). Programa Nacional de Cardiopatías Congénitas en <http://www.msal.gob.ar/index.php/programas-y-planes/414-programa-nacional-de-cardiopatias-%20congenitas-pncc>

### **Further Reading:**

- Belmartino, Susana (2005), *La atención médica argentina en el siglo XX: instituciones y procesos*. Buenos Aires, Siglo XXI.
- Jones, Ian R. (2003) "Health Promotion and the New Public Health" in Scambler, Graham (Ed.). *Sociology as Applied to Medicine*. Chapter 17, Elsevier Science Limited, Fifth edition.
- González García, Ginés y Tobar, Federico.(2005) *Salud para los argentinos: economía política y reforma del sistema de salud en Argentina*. Ediciones ISALUD. Caps 4 y 5.
- 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 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**

During the visit to Mendoza students will have a first approach to the functioning of the health system at the provincial level, focusing on how primary health care strategy is understood and implemented. Students will be introduced to “field” theoretical approach to analyze the health system dynamic at the territorial level. Through dialogues with local professionals students will learn about the work of diverse social actors and institutions in the health field (private, NGO, state program, hospital of high complexity) and will explore the challenges of the local health system to make health services accessible for all.

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**

The visit to Tucumán will offer to students the opportunity to learn more in depth about civil society organizations' role in complementing the government institutions' work in the health field. The provincial health organization will be examined focusing on how state and non-government organizations work together to promote community empowerment and facilitate access to social and health services.

Session 1: The role of civil society organizations in promoting policies and projects and supporting local health organizations

Session 2: Experiences of cooperation between government and civil society organization in the health sector: the case of Red Cross- and the provincial AIDS provincial program in Tucumán. Presentation and dialogue with government official and Red Cross staff.

Session 3: NGO's community projects focused on improving social and health conditions. The case of Red Cross. Dialogue with different NGOs and community activity with Red Cross volunteers

Session 4: The provincial health system organization from the experience of health professionals. Small groups interviews with health system's officials.

### ***Required readings:***

- Tucumán Handbook

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

- ✓ Dialogue with experts
- ✓ Meetings with health institutions officials
- ✓ PoliclínicaVillalonga (first health care level)
- ✓ Grassroots organizations
- ✓ Community Project (Red Cross Tucumán)

## **Module V: Argentina's health system in perspective: Strengths and challenges**

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.

Session 2: Final discussion: applying different theoretical perspectives to analyze the functioning of the Argentinean health system and its main challenges.

## 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: Question 1	10%
Group Discussion Papers	45%
Mid-term	35%
Participation	10%

- **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](mailto: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>.