



Contemporary Issues in Public Health in the Yucatán Medical Spanish and Public Health in the Yucatán

IFSA course code: BSHS388-02

US semester credit hours: 3

Contact hours: 45

Language of Instruction: English

Host institution affiliation: Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán

Method of delivery: Face to Face

Course Description:

An increased diversity in the socioeconomic, ethnic and racial composition of our communities has presented health care providers with many new challenges when responding effectively to patients' health care well-being. This course will expand on these, while providing the knowledge of the basics about healthcare in the Yucatan. We will examine the public and private health care systems of Mexico, mainstream and traditional care in the urban and rural setting, as well as a study of local prevailing health issues such as cervix cancer, obesity, diabetes and heart disease, from a cross-cultural competency. Students will be able to understand the source of these illnesses, as well as develop an appreciation for patients' expectations and how local health authorities organize the health care system, from their own cultural context and reality. A visit to Havana will provide students the opportunity to appreciate differences not only in terminology, but also in types of illnesses in a different region of the Caribbean and how a different medical system approaches health.

Student Learning Objectives:

- Identify public health monitoring systems to isolate and solve community health problems.
- Recognize health problems and health hazards in the community using a sociocultural framework.
- Identify appropriate methods for assessing the determinant of health problems.
- Become familiar with agencies that protect health and ensure healthy.
- Apply and interpret commonly used terminology and findings in public health studies.
- Contrast medical systems from two different countries: Mexico and Cuba

- Recognize the distinction between infectious and chronic diseases and public health approaches to both.
- Discuss the social determinants of health and how they are related to health disparities.
- Articulate how legislation has supported public health.

Organization of the course:

This is a theoretical / practical course, a series of visits to local rural communities are arranged, as well as clinical observations to diverse clinical settings, where students will be in direct contact with real life patients.

Theory: June 19 through July 13

Clinical Observations: July 19, 26, July 3 and 10 – in the mornings

Rural community visits: 2 Saturdays and 1 Friday

Clinical Shadowing Experiences: July 16 – 21. Debriefing will take place in the afternoons.

Week 1	
Session 1: Course Introduction. History of Public Health and public health structure	Visit of UADY and life sciences campus
Session 2: An overview of Health Issues in the Yucatan: Medical care systems	
Session 3: Health disparities in Mexico and the Yucatan	
Session 4: Health Policies, Practices and Services in Urban Settings in Yucatan	
Session 5:	<i>Rural community</i>
Week 2	
Session 6: Chronic diseases	
Session 7: Infectious diseases in the Yucatan I & II	<i>Urban medical care providers: CRYT, Starmedica, Alta Especialidad</i>
Session 8: Health Policies, Practices and Services in Rural Settings in Yucatan	
Session 9: Intercultural communication. Risk communication with rural and urban communities	
Session 10: Visit to rural clinic	
Session 11:	<i>Rural community</i>
Week 3	
Session 12: Introduction to epidemiology (<i>mid-term eval.</i>)	
Session 13: Nutrition	<i>Urban medical care providers: CRYT, Starmedica, Alta Especialidad</i>
Session 14: Health care in Cuba	

Session 15 & 16: Cuba Field Excursion	<i>4 days in Cuba (sessions 15 & 16)</i>
Week 4	
Session 17: Public Health law and ethics / Public Health surveillance	
Session 18: Health policy and management / Social and Behavioral health	<i>Urban medical care providers: CRYT, Starmedica, Alta Especialidad</i>
Session 19: Mainstream and traditional health systems Health	
Session 20: Final Exam	
Session 21:	<i>Rural community: Fundebien</i>
Week 5	
Session 22 to 26:	<i>Shadowing Experience</i>

Evaluation

- 100% attendance and participation in class
- Four 1-page writing assignments in response to assigned course readings
- Weekly submission of reflection journal. One entry is required after each clinical observation and community visits.
- 1 mid-term examination
- Final Exam is an oral presentation of topic related to each student's professional interest.

Clinical Observations:

These are designed to expose students to the different medical settings and provide an in-depth understanding of the Mexican health care system.

References:

- Dubard, C Annette and Ziya Gizlice (2008) "Language Spoken and Differences in Health Status, Access to Care, and Receipt of Preventive Services Among Hispanics." *American Journal of Public Health*. 98(11) 2021-28.
- Hunt, Linda M and Katharine B de Vood (2005) "Clinical Myths of the Cultural "Other" Implications of Latino Patient Care". *Academic Medicine*. 80(10): 918-24.
- Julliard, Kell et al. (2008) "What Latina Patients Don't Tell Their Doctors: A Qualitative Study". *Annals of Family Medicine*. 6(6):543-49.
- Schneider, Mary-Jane (2010). *Introduction to Public Health*. Burlington: Jones and Bartlett Publishers.
- Turnock, Bernard J. (2001) *Public Health: What It Is and How It Works*. Aspen: Aspen Publishing.

Current health news on public health issues in newspapers and medical journals.

Other readings and materials are identified in the instructions pertinent for each module of the course.

Timely Submissions

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be accepted at the discretion of the course instructor and generally only in the event of a documented illness or emergency.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Any academic endeavor must be based upon a foundation of honesty and integrity. Students are expected to abide by principles of academic integrity and must be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work while studying abroad. Any academic work (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill an academic requirement must represent a student's original work. Any act of academic misconduct, such as cheating, fabrication, forgery, plagiarism, or facilitating academic dishonesty, will subject a student to disciplinary action.

IFSA-Butler takes academic integrity very seriously. Students must not accept outside assistance without permission from the instructor. Additionally, students must document all sources according to the instructions of the professor. Should your instructor suspect you of plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty, you may receive a failing grade for the course and disciplinary action may result. The incident will be reported to the IFSA-Butler resident director as well as your home institution.