



**Public Health Concentration**  
**Contemporary Issues in Public Health in the**  
**Yucatan**  
**Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán**  
**Program Course**

**Instructor:** TBA

**Credits:** 3 U.S. credits (45 contact hours)

**Language of Instruction:** Spanish

**Class Schedule:** Mon & Wed. 10:00 – 12:00 (theory)

**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 topics, while providing the knowledge of the basics about healthcare in the Yucatán, and examining 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 to understanding the patients' expectations from their own cultural context.

**Objectives:**

- Learn about public health monitoring systems to identify 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 and ensure health.
- Apply and interpret commonly used terminology and findings in public health studies.
- 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 is arranged, as well as visits to public and private medical facilities, where students will be in direct contact with real life patients.

A minimum number of students (6) is required to offer this course.

Theory: Two days per week / two hours each day

Clinical Observations: 10 in total organized into 8 visits to different medical settings in the city and 2 day-long visits to nearby Mayan communities.

**Form of 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 visit.
- 1 mid-term examination
- Final Exam is an oral presentation of a topic related to each student's professional interest.

**Medical Shadowing:**

For pre-med; pre-nursing; pre-dentistry students, possibilities for medical shadowing exist dependent upon their level of Spanish. Students will be interviewed and placed appropriately according to their language skill level and academic interest.

**Structure:**

The course is organized in 4 modules that combine the theoretical and field practicums students will be exposed to throughout the semester.

<b>Module 1 (theory)</b>	<b>Practicums</b>
Course Introduction. History of Public Health and public health structure Speaker: <i>Medical school system in Yucatan</i>	<i>Visit to UADY medical facility and Medicina del Deporte</i>
An overview of Health Issues in the Yucatan.	<i>Visit to U. Modelo medical facility</i>
Health disparities in Mexico and the Yucatan	
Health Policies, Practices and Services in Urban Settings in Yucatan	
<b>Module 2</b>	<i>Visit private medical facility: CEMA</i>
Introduction to epidemiology	<i>Visit largest Public Hospital: O'Horan</i>
Infectious diseases in the Yucatan I & II	
Chronic diseases	
Health Policies, Practices and Services in Rural Settings in Yucatan Mid-term evaluation	
<b>Module 3</b>	<i>Community visit (Yaxunah &amp; Yaxcabah I)</i>
Intercultural communication	<i>Nutre y Mueve tu Vida(Nutrición)</i>
Risk communication with rural and urban communities	<i>Community visit (Yaxunah &amp; Yaxcabah II)</i>
Mainstream and traditional health systems	
<b>Module 4</b>	<i>CRIT-Yucatan (Rehabilitation Center)</i>
Public Health surveillance	<i>Visit College of Nursing</i>
Public Health law and ethics	<i>Visit Starmedica / Alta Especialidad</i>
Health policy and management	
Social and Behavioral Health	
Final exam	

**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.