



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

Contemporary Issues in Public Health in the Yucatán is specially designed for all IFSA-Butler students on the Medical Spanish and Public Health in the Yucatán program. It is taught in English. The class is awarded 3 U.S. semester credit hours and meets for 45 hours during the summer.

**Course Description:**

Increasing 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' healthcare and wellbeing. This course will expand on these topics, while providing basic knowledge about healthcare in the Yucatán. It will examine from a cross-cultural perspective the public and private health care systems of Mexico, mainstream and traditional care in urban and rural settings, as well as study local prevailing health issues such as cervical cancer, obesity, diabetes and heart disease in order to understand the patients' expectations from their own cultural context.

**Objectives:**

- Identify public health monitoring systems to pinpoint 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 relate to health disparities.
- Articulate how legislation has supported public health.

**Content:**

This is a theoretical / practical course. A series of visits to local rural communities a medical facility are arranged, where students will be in direct contact with real life patients.

Theory: Monday through Thursday 8:00 – 10:00AM

Rural community visits: Fridays all day

Clinical Observations: 5 in total to expose students to the different medical settings and to provide an in depth understanding of the Mexican health care system.

Week 1	
Session 1: Course Introduction. History of Public Health and public health structure	
Session 2: An overview of Health Issues in the Yucatán.	

Session 3: Health disparities in Mexico and the Yucatán	
<b>Week 2</b>	
Session 4: Health Policies, Practices and Services in Urban Settings in Yucatán	
Session 5: Chronic diseases	<i>CO #1: Visit UADY's life sciences campus and Medicina del Deporte</i>
Session 6 & 7: Infectious diseases in the Yucatán I & II	
Session 8: <i>Rural community</i>	
<b>Week 3</b>	
Session 9 & 10: Health Policies, Practices and Services in Rural Settings in Yucatán	
Session 11: Intercultural communication	<i>CO #2: O'Horan Public Hospital</i>
Session 12: Risk communication with rural and urban communities	
Session 13: <i>Rural community</i>	
<b>Week 4</b>	
Session 14: Introduction to epidemiology	
Session 15 & 16: Health care in Cuba I & II	<i>CO #3: CRIT-Yucatan (Rehabilitation Center)</i>
<b>Week 5</b>	
Session 17: Nutrition ( <b>mid-term eval.</b> )	<i>CO #4: ISSTE</i>
Session 18: Mainstream and traditional health systems	
Session 19: Public health law and ethics	
Session 20: <i>Rural community</i>	
<b>Week 6</b>	
Session 21: Public health surveillance	
Session 22: Health policy and management	<i>CO #5: Starmédica / Alta especialidad</i>
Session 23: Social and Behavioral health	
Session 24: Final overview	
Session 25: Final exam	

**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.
- One mid-term examination
- The final Exam is an oral presentation of a topic related to each student's professional interest.

**Medical Shadowing:**

For pre-med, pre-nursing, and pre-dentistry students, possibilities for medical shadowing exist during available afternoons. Students will be interviewed and placed appropriately according to their language skill level and academic interest.

**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.