



Contemporary Issues in Public Health in the Yucatan
For students in the Public Health semester concentration
IFSA Mérida

Course Code: BSHS305-05

Credits: 3 U.S. credits hours

Contact hours: 45

Instructor: Dra. Judith Ortega

Language of Instruction: Spanish

Class Schedule: 3 hours each week

Course 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, 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.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to make cognitive connections between this course and other courses on the Mexican Universities IFSA-Mexico program. This course strives to provide students the ability to become aware of resources for further study of Contemporary Issues of Public Health in the Yucatan.

Students will:

- Analyze public health monitoring systems to identify and solve community health problems.
- Recognize and evaluate 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.
- Synthesize 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.
- Evaluate and analyze the social determinants of health and how they are related to health disparities.
- Evaluate how legislation has supported public health.

Course Outline:

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

Module 1 (theory)	Practicums
Course Introduction. History of Public Health and public health structure Speaker: <i>Medical school system in Yucatan</i>	To be determined according to students' interests. Some shadowing include:
An overview of Health Issues in the Yucatan.	<i>Fundebien; CRIT-Y; CEM: Private clinic; O'Horan Public hospital; Sports Medicine Center (UADY); Centro de Salud Santa Rosa; Cancer Registry</i>
Health disparities in Mexico and the Yucatan	
Health Policies, Practices and Services in Urban Settings in Yucatan	
Module 2	
Introduction to epidemiology	
Infectious diseases in the Yucatan I & II	
Chronic diseases	
Health Policies, Practices and Services in Rural Settings in Yucatan Mid-term evaluation	
Module 3	
Intercultural communication	
Risk communication with rural and urban communities	
Mainstream and traditional health systems	
Module 4	
Public Health surveillance	
Public Health law and ethics	
Health policy and management	
Social and Behavioral Health	
final exam	

Assessment Methods:

- 20% Four 1-page writing assignments in response to assigned course readings.
- 25% Weekly submission of reflection journal. One entry is required after each week of medical shadowings, community visit and *hoy en tu comunidad*.

- 20% 1 mid-term examination
- 20% Final Exam is and oral presentation of topic related to each student’s professional interest.
- 15% Class attendance and participation in class

Grading rubrics for individual assignments will be provided by the instructor 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.

Participation includes attendance, preparation, engagement in discussion, civility, and respect.

Grading chart:

HOST UNIVERSITY IN MEXICO	U.S.
96 – 100	A
90 – 95	A-
87 – 89	B+
83 – 86	B
80 – 82	B-
77 – 79	C+
73 – 76	C
70 – 72	C-
0 – 69	F

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.

Resources:

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.

Additional Items:

The theoretical portion of this course will meet three hours each week at the IFSA-Mexico office.

Medical shadowing students are expected to attend a series of pre-arranged medical shadowing practices. Placement will be determined according to language skill level and specific academic interest.

Hoy en tu Comunidad during seven Saturdays of the semester, students will participate in outings with *Hoy en tu Comunidad* group, to different Mayan communities. Dates will be provided.

To contact the professor outside of class time, please make an appointment at: 999 900 9911.