Study Center in Santiago, Dominican Republic

Course name: Community Health Practicum  
Course number: PUBH 3002 DRSU  
Programs offering course: Community Public Health  
Language of instruction: Spanish  
U.S. Semester Credits: 3  
Contact Hours: 45 (3:1, 135 field hours)  
Term: Summer 2017

Course Description
This course has been designed to help English-speaking students apply the knowledge acquired in the Pre-Professional Healthcare Issues course through community service focused on primary care. Students will make an Analysis of Health Status (ASIS) followed by a project with the purpose of improving those health problems identified in the community. The course is based on the practical application of priority healthcare programs, addressed to rural and urban areas, and it will be performed under the Primary Health Care strategy, emphasizing health promotion. These programs include prenatal care, health care to children and adolescents, extended vaccination program, chronic diseases, prevention of uterine-cervical and breast cancer, sexually transmitted diseases, birth control, prevention and treatment of tuberculosis and endemic diseases (Malaria, Dengue, Chikungunya, Cholera, among others).

The course offers training on the appropriate educational techniques that allow students to get involved in community health care promotion and prevention. Moreover, the course will engage students in the application of the most useful health care tools, such as family records, diagrams, and identification badges for pregnant women, chronic patients’ records, and children’s identification card, among others.

In order to comply with the course requirements, students will be visiting First Level Health Care Centers in their communities during the first five (5) weeks. Visits during this period will be held three (3) days a week for three (3) hours (45 field hours). The last three (3) weeks will comprise a rural stay (30 field hours), an urban stay (30 field hours), and final research and presentations (30 research hours).

Learning Objectives
Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Have a general overview of the most important health care programs of the Dominican Health Care system.
2. Determine the current status of the priority health programs of the assigned First-level Health Care Center (CPN).
3. Effectively apply the tools to perform the Analysis of Health Status (ASIS).
4. Make an action plan according to the health priorities found in the ASIS.
5. Implement a project designed to improve the health conditions of families and communities.
6. Apply different health education techniques during the implementation of the project.

Procedural Skills:

1. Evaluate priority health programs within the First Level Health Care Center (CPN).
2. Apply the most effective Primary Health Care tools to make analyses of health status.
3. Use adequate educational techniques for promoting health.
**Course Prerequisites**
Four semesters of college-level Spanish or equivalent.

**Methods of Instruction**
The course methodology will be based on the following:
- Home visiting program.
- Reflective critical analysis of specific cases.
- Use of guideless for the different programs.
- Focus groups.
- Guidance from health care professionals at the CPN.

**Assessment and Final Grade**
First five (5) weeks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Activities</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home Visits</td>
<td>Reflective Analysis</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Public Health programs</td>
<td></td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design an Analysis of Health Status (ASIS) of the assigned program and application of tools</td>
<td>II y III</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project implementation</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final written report</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral presentation</td>
<td></td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Last three (3) weeks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group oral presentations on research during rural and urban stays</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation of individual duties during the fieldwork experience</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final written project</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Course Requirements
All coursework must be submitted to the instructor of record, unless the student has received other explicit, documented instructions to the contrary. It is your responsibility to make sure the instructor has received all your required work. Failure to do so may result in zero credit for lost assignments.

Neither individual instructors nor the Resident Director have final authority to extend deadlines past the end of the semester, make special arrangements for students to submit late work, or otherwise modify CIEE or host institution academic policies.

Attendance and Class Participation
Attendance will be taken at every class and fieldtrip, and as per the universal rules of tardiness and absences at the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra, excess absences and/or tardiness are cause for failure. Attendance is mandatory for all fieldtrips, the same as for classes. Ten (10) minutes of tardiness equal one hour of absence—not one class, but one hour of class. The rule for allowed absences is the number of credits X 3 plus 1 (except for language classes, which allow students to miss no more than 10% of their classes). This means, since it is a 3-credit class, there is no penalty for absences—except that you will miss out on important material and participation in discussions/debates if you are absent—until or unless you reach a 10th hour of absence, at which point you fail the class, no matter what your grade average is at that point in time; the only legitimate excuse accepted is a doctor’s written testament that you were hospitalized at the time of an absence. Plagiarism is also cause for failure, no matter what your grade average is at the point in time when the plagiarism is discovered.

Note that if you are absent the day of a presentation quiz, or the due date of a report, final essay, mid-term exam, or final exam, you will receive an F on said presentation, report, essay, or exam. Any late papers or reports will be marked down 5% after the first day and 1% every day afterwards. No coursework or final papers will be accepted after the last day of class.
Weekly Schedule

Unit I. Introduction to Public Health Priority Programs
1. General orientation.
2. Birth control and prevention of teenage pregnancy.
3. Extended vaccination program and integral treatment for children and teenagers.
5. Sexually transmitted diseases and HIV prevention.

Unit II. Inspecting the area of practice and handling tools to implement the Analysis of Health Status
1. Tour around the CPN and the assigned community.
3. Handling the tools to implement the program’s Analysis of Health Status.
4. Meeting with community leaders.

Unit III: Diagnosis of the Community and its connection with the three levels of health care in the public and private sectors
1. Making an Analysis of Health Status of the selected program in the urban CPN.
2. Establishing an action plan to be implemented on the 4th and 5th weeks.
3. Inspecting second and third level private and public health centers.

Unit IV: Health promotion and its effect on Primary Health Care
1. Implementation of health promotion activities, as established in the Project.
2. Reflective analysis of home visiting programs and their benefits in preventive medicine education.

Unit V. Final Report
1. Analytical Summary about the development of the assigned program, achievements, and limitations found in the process.
2. Submit final written report.
3. Oral presentation of the implemented Project.

Unit VI. Rural Stay (Students to be divided in 5-6 groups in rural communities)
1. Analysis of the local situation and health problems.
2. Health promotion as a strategy to approach a community and improve its health level.

Unit VII. Urban Stay (Includes cultural activities)
1. Guided site visits to hospitals and clinics highlighting the various levels of care: primary, secondary, tertiary, private/public

Unit VIII. Final Presentation and Research
1. Evaluation of individual duties during the fieldwork experience
2. Completion of final work, including essay group presentation
Readings