CIEE Global Institute - Buenos Aires

Course name: Community Health Practicum: Theory and Practice
Course number: PUBH 3004 APHU
Programs offering course: Community Public Health, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Language of instruction: Spanish
U.S. Semester Credits: 3
Contact Hours: 45
Term: Summer 2019

Course Description:
An integrated and multidisciplinary focus will be applied to various categories and concepts within the social and medical sciences facilitating students the observance of the primary care level of the public health system of Argentina and Uruguay. Students will cover measurements of the health status within the population and will incorporate a broader population within their solutions to health problems, among other issues in the sector participate of range of activities in the field of the primary care health. Students will be split into small groups for the field work experience, based on their preferences, background and the onsite staff recommendations. Field works sites are placed in: Argentina: Mendoza (Mendoza Province) and Concepción del Uruguay (Entre Ríos Province) and in Uruguay: Montevideo City.

Learning Objectives
By the end of the course, students will be able to:
- Highlight and compare the strengths and weaknesses of the health system in each local setting related to global topics.
- Analyze the difference between the contexts of socio-economic and environmental risks and their relation to the problems surrounding the health of the population.
- Recognize the various models of primary care and health promotion associated with the health issues that is dealt with in each context.
- Analyze different intervention strategies from primary care and health promotion in the community.
- Be able to apply health diagnostic tools and quality of life in the community.
- Highlight the impact of the social determinants of health in to the local settings.
- Integrate the conceptual and theoretical concept to the ground activities at each branch.

Course Prerequisites
No prerequisites are necessary for taking this course. However, a previous study on Community and Public Health, Healthcare Systems, Public Health Analysis or Community Health in Practice are recommended.

Methods of Instruction
The course is centered in out of class activities for observance and data analysis. Students will participate in several activities planning and organizing under the supervision of different health professional to observe and analyze how the health system works into
variety of social and health settings. Attendance of these activities is mandatory and will require the active participation of students in the observance and practices presented by the site facilitator. Students will work in “shadow” of actual practitioners in rural areas, communal centers or health service institutions according to the facilities given in each site. An active participation in Canvas and online forums will be required so that all sites are sharing learnings and information.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Group oral presentations 30%
2. Evaluation of individual duties during the fieldwork experience 20%
3. Blog entries (6) 15%
4. Final Written report 15%
5. Participation 20%

Course Requirements

Group Oral Presentations
Students will deliver a final group oral presentation with their findings, the readings done and their observation. This will be 15 minutes long and should have a multimedia component. Group presentations will be assessed on each individual performance and the group organization.

Evaluation of individual duties during the fieldwork experience
Students will evaluated on the way they perform the activities and comply with the requirements of the fieldtrip supervisor. The quality of the activities and the ability to adapt to the community will be expected as part of their duties.

Blog Entries
Students will have to write at least 6 blog entries in the common platform to share with other students from other sites. The blog entries should be at least 100-200 words. An estimate of twice a week is expected.

Final Written Report
Students will present a final written report about their experience, observances and involvement in the fieldwork. This report will be 1500-1800 words long and should be presented at the end of the stay to the field supervisors.

Participation
Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities. Each student is expected to actively participate in class, and this is necessary for the effective functioning of the course as well as for individual progress. Participation and the investment of an appropriate amount of time in the preparation of each session will be
considered in the determination of final grades.

**Attendance Policy**

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all unexcused absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Unexcused absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a written warning. Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent. Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to Internship, Service Learning, or required field placement. Students who miss class for personal travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent and unexcused. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided. Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

**Weekly Schedule**

NOTE: The weekly schedule is presented for each site. This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to take advantage of current experiential learning opportunities.

**Branch: Province of Entre Ríos: City of Concepción del Uruguay**

**Week 1: Analysis of the local situation and health problems**
1.1. Orientation and introduction to the program
1.2. Presentation of Concepción del Uruguay City. Geographic inequalities of health: Living conditions and geographical occupation of space.
1.5. Local hospital health system. Neighborhood and community contexts where each component is carried out.
1.6. Site Visits to primary care centers.
   Due: 2 blog entries & evaluation of duties.

**Week 2: Analysis of the local situation and prioritizing health problems**
2.1. Primary Health Care: Perinatal health in community health centers.
2.2. Construction of the social determinants for maternal-infant health.
2.3. Analysis of social environment risk factors.
2.4. Information technology to evaluate maternal-infant health situations.
2.5. Construction of the social determinants for maternal-infant health.
2.6. Site visits to community organizations.
   Due: 2 blog entries & evaluation of duties.

**Week 3: Health promotion as a strategy to approach a community**
3.1. Primary Health Care: Perinatal health in community health centers.
3.2. Strategic planning: situation room in health
3.3. Perinatal information system. Tools and technologies to improve maternal and perinatal health.
3.4. Reproductive health and contraception.
3.5. Review of the experience and final project proposal.
3.6. Due: Oral presentation Final project proposal.
   2 blog entries & evaluation of duties.
   Final Written Report.

Branch: Province of Mendoza: City of Mendoza

Week 1: Analysis of the local situation and health problems
1.1. Introduction to the program. Presentation of the Mendoza’s Healthcare system.
1.2. Prevalent problems and determinants for health in Mendoza
1.3. Main characteristics and environmental problems in Mendoza
1.4. Prevalent health problems in the Province of Mendoza
1.5. Primary Health Care in complex contexts
1.6. Guided Site visit to primary care centers
   Due: 2 blog entries & evaluation of duties.

Week 2: Analysis of the local situation and prioritizing health problems
2.1. Health at the National University of Cuyo.
2.2. Vulnerability and access to the health system.
2.3. Requirements of a community health plan based on a Health Situation Analysis
2.4. Health of homeless and people living in extreme poverty
2.5. Homelessness and mental illness
2.6. Guided Site visit to community organizations
   Due: 2 blog entries & evaluation of duties.

Week 3: Social determinants in local health practices.
3.1. Socio-economic and environmental risks and their relation to the problems surrounding the health of homeless population.
3.2. Homelessness and health related problems
3.3. Intervention strategies from primary care and health promotion in the community.
3.4. Review of the experience and final project proposal.
3.5. Due: Oral presentation Final project proposal.
   2 blog entries & evaluation of duties.
   Final Written Report.

Uruguay: City of Montevideo

Week 1: Analysis of the local situation and health problems: overview of health in Uruguay
1.1. Orientation. Introduction to the program
1.2. The national context: rural and urban context.
1.3. Health in Uruguay: The situation, challenges, and approaches.
1.4. Uruguay Health System
1.5 National policies and programs: Sexual and functional diversity
1.5. Guided site visit to community organizations  
Due: 2 blog entries & evaluation of duties.

**Week 2: Analysis of the local situation and prioritizing health problems**

2.1. Social determinants and the local health practices.  
2.2. Population with disabilities and health issues.  
2.3. The perspective of sexual diversity.  
2.4. Educational strategies involving vulnerable populations.  
2.5. Drugs: prevention of consumption from a rights perspective. A New paradigm  
2.6. Guided Site visit to health care facilities.  
Due: 2 blog entries & evaluation of duties.

**Week 3: Health promotion as a strategy to approach a community**

3.1. Health promotion and community participation  
3.2. Site visit to community organizations  
3.2. Review of the experience and final project proposal.  
3.3. Due: Oral presentation Final project proposal.  
2 blog entries & evaluation of duties.  
Final Written Report.

**Course Material**

The course material is specific to the themes and activities proposed on each branch. Reference material will be provided by the fieldwork supervisor. Resources from the Internet, such as articles from Argentine and Latin American newspapers, relevant sites, videos, etc. will also be provided by the instructor.

**Reference material**

- CASADO, M., New Dimensions to Bioethics for the 21st Century: Toward a Flexible Conception of Bioethics, Supplementary material for the Masters in Bioethics y Law, [www.bioeticayderecho.ub.es](http://www.bioeticayderecho.ub.es)  
- Castro R. (1996) “In search of meaning: assumptions, limits and attainable goals of qualitative analysis”, in Szasz I, Lerner S. Understanding Subjectivity. Qualitative research in
- Cepis/PAHO, Health promotion, found at: http://www.cepis.opsoms.org/bvsdeps/fulltext/conf1.pdf, último acceso 15 de Marzo 2010
- Faur E. “Gender Equality as it fits into the Development Objectives of the Millennium”.
- Hiebra M, Melamed, Irene, Guides to Supervising Health in Adolescents, SAP 2002.
- NIRENBERG, OLGA, Adolescent Participation in Social Projects, Paidós 2006
- Paulo Marchiori Buss, An introduction to the concept of health promotion, in Health Promotion, Concepts, Reflections, and Tendancies, Dina Czeresnia, Carlos Machado de Freitas, editorial lugar, Bs. As. 2006
- Recent History: http://www.elhistoriador.com.ar/ ISSN 1851-5843, released by the Argentine Center for Scientific and Technological Information (CAICYT), of CONICET.
- The Renewal of APS in the Americas, position paper by the Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), Washington, DC, 2007