CIEE Khon Kaen, Thailand

Course name: Pre-Professional Healthcare Issues  
Course number: PUBH 3004 KKTH  
Programs offering course: Summer Community Public Health  
Language of instruction: English  
U.S. Semester Credits: 4  
Contact Hours: 60  
Term: Summer 2020

Course Description
This course takes a multi-disciplinary approach to examining theory and conceptual frameworks in public health, epidemiology, and healthcare administration. Students will examine the public health management system in Thailand, as well as make comparisons to the South-east Asian health care systems.

Foundational concepts, such as epidemiology, health system, and social determinants of health, are introduced early in the course. Health care reform, health care financing, and health care delivery are studied in more detail, using the Thai system as a case study. Trends in health and disease are explored by various topics such as tropical and infectious diseases, HIV/AIDS, non-communicable diseases, adolescent health, elderly health and mental health.

Classroom concepts are reinforced with site visits to local health service facilities, public health initiatives, and community locations where public health principles are applied.

Learning Objectives
Throughout the course, and by the end, students will be able to:

- Identify specific social determinants, epidemiological trends, and biological relationships related to health and illness in Thailand.
- Critically discuss the Thai public health and healthcare system, including financing, delivery, prevention, and promotion
- Identify burdens of diseases on individual and population health (including HIV/AIDS, infectious and tropical diseases, and non-communicable disease)
- Analyze ongoing reforms to the Thai healthcare system aimed to address challenges
- Experience and evaluate current public health initiatives occurring in Thailand

Course Prerequisites
None

Methods of Instruction
This course is taught through a combination of approaches, including interactive classroom lectures by Khon Kaen University (KKU) faculty and the course director; trips (site visits) to local healthcare facilities, public health initiatives, or locations where public health principles are applied; and student-
led discussion sessions. Weekly student-led discussion sessions will incorporate reading assignments, site visits, and lectures into a consolidated summary of that week’s lesson material. Students will also actively engage course material through in-class discussions and review of public health related current events. Students will be expected to complete assigned readings prior to lecture so that they can actively engage the lecturer with questions.

**Assessment and Final Grade**

1. Homework: ASEAN health service report  20%
2. Field visit brief report  15%
3. Midterm Exam (Units 1,2):  25%
4. Final Exam (Units 3,4):  25%
5. Class participation:  15%

**Course Requirements**

**Homework: ASEAN health service report**
Students will produce a “health system briefing paper” on a selected South-East Asian country (excluding Thailand). A report template and details on content will be provided in the first lecture. A class PowerPoint presentation of the briefing paper will be required in lecture 5 and final write-up and PowerPoint need to be submitted.

**Grading criteria**
The briefing paper will be assessed on:
1. Country demographics, socio-economic, cultural, political factors, etc. and comment on how these may influence health status and service development  30%
2. Overview of current health priorities/challenges  30%
3. Overview and evaluative comment on health service system  30%
4. Referencing, format, grammar, spelling, style (APA style)  10%

**Field visit brief report**
Students will discuss and produce a report on their learning from the 6 site visits. After the site visits, students will discuss on the key messages, the contributions to Thai health system, comments and recommendations. The final brief report will include summary of key finding from each site visits, problems and recommendations.

**Grading criteria**
The report be assessed on:
1. Summary/outline of health sites visited  50%
2. Evaluative comments and recommendation  35%
3. Referencing, format, grammar, spelling, style (APA style)  15%

**Midterm and Final Exam**
The midterm and final exam will be closed-book exams with a variety of question types, including short answer, multiple choice, matching, and computational. Exam questions will be based on assigned readings, homework assignments, and lecture material.

Class Participation
Attendance is required at all lectures, briefings, debriefings, site visits, and discussion sessions. Active class participation is required, particularly during the 3 discussion sessions. Arriving more than 15 minutes late will be considered absent. One unexcused absence is allowed. Each subsequent unexcused absence will result in a 20% reduction of your class participation grade.

Academic Dishonesty
Cheating or plagiarism in any course assignment or exam will not be tolerated and may result in a student failing the assignment or course or being expelled from the class and/or program.

Weekly Schedule

**Week 1**
- Orientation
  1.1 Academic Overview

- Lecture 1: Course Introduction

- Lecture 2: Universal Health Coverage: Concepts and issues
  Reading:

- Lecture 3: Health Problems and Challenges of Thai Health Care System
  Reading:
  - The Kingdom of Thailand Health System Review. Health system in Transition (Pongpisut et al, 2015)

**Week 2**
- Lecture 4: Universal health coverage in Thailand: the evolution and comparative analysis with developed countries
  Readings:
  - Universal Health Care: Lessons From the British Experience (Light, 2003).

- Discussion Session 1

- Site Visit 1: Khon Kaen regional hospital

**Week 3**
- Site Visit Brief Report 1 due
3.2 Lecture 5: Health care system in SEA
Readings:
- Health in Southeast Asia (Summerskill & Horton R, 2011)
- Health financing reform in Southeast Asia: Challenges in achieving universal coverage (Tangcharoensathien et al, 2011).

3.3 Mid Term

Week 4
4.1 Lecture 6: DM in Thailand
Readings:

4.2 Site Visit 2: Accident and Emergency services/KK Regional Hospital

4.3 Site Visit 3: Ubonrat hospital

4.4 Lecture 7: Liver Fluke: Neglected tropical disease
Readings:
- Toward integrated Opisthorchiasis control in Northeast Thailand: The Lawa Project (Sripa, Tangkawattana, Laha et al, 2015).
- The Lawa model: A sustainable, integrated Opisthorchiasis control programme using the EcoHealth approach in the Lawa Lake region of Thailand (Sripa, Tangkawattana, & Sangnikul, 2016)

4.5 PPH Lecture 8: Accident and Emergency management system in Thailand
Readings:
- Road safety Institutional and Legal Assessment Thailand (WHO, 2016)
- Global status report on Road Safety 2015 (WHO, 2015)

Week 5
5.1 Site Visit Brief Report 2 and 3 due

5.2 Lecture 9: HIV/AIDS
Reading:

5.3 Lecture 10: Sexuality and adolescence in Thailand
Readings:
- Thailand’s Adolescent Health Situation: Prevention is the Key (Areemit, Suphakunpinyo, Lumbiganon et al, 2012).
- Parental Involvement, Health Behaviors and Mental Health among school-going Adolescents in Six Asian Countries (Pengpid & Peltzer, 2016).

5.4 Lecture 11: Environmental Health
Readings:
- Third National Environmental Health Strategic Plan 2017-2021 (Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Thailand, 2017)
- Fecal Bacterial Contamination in Natural Water Reservoirs as an Indicator of Seasonal Infection by Opisthorchis Viverrini in Snail Intermediate Hosts (Kaewkes et al, n.d.)

Week 6
6.1 Lecture 12: Primary health care in Thailand
Reading:
- The four Decade Development of Primary Health Care in Thailand (1978-2014) (The Primary Health Care Division, The Department of Health Service Support, 2014)

6.2 Site Visit 4: Community Medical Center in Nong Waeng

6.3 Discussion Session 2

Week 7
7.1 Site Visit Brief Report 4 due

7.2 Lecture 13: Elderly care system
Reading:
7.3 Site Visit 5: Natural resources and Environment

7.4 Lecture 14: Mental Health
Readings:
  • ASEAN Mental Health Systems (ASEAN, 2016)
  • Services for depression and suicide in Thailand (Kongsuk et al, 2018)

7.5 Discussion Session 3

Week 8
8.1 Site Visit Brief Report 5 due

8.2 Site Visit 6: Psychiatric Hospital

8.3 Final Exam

8.4 Site Visit Brief Report 6 due

Course Materials


