CIEE Amsterdam Study Center

Course name: Public Health in the Netherlands  
Course number: PUBH 3001 NETU  
Programs offering course: Summer Comparative Public Health Systems  
Language of instruction: English  
U.S. Semester Credits: 3.00  
Contact Hours: 45  
Term: Summer 2018  
Course meeting times: Mondays through Fridays and scheduled fieldtrips  
Course meeting place:  
Professor:  
Program Coordinator:  
Contact Information:  
Office address: CIEE Amsterdam Study Center, Roetersstraat 8HS, 1018 WC Amsterdam  
Office hours: By appointment

Course Description

The Netherlands, as many other Western countries, is facing today’s challenges of rising health care costs and an ageing population. In this course students will develop a better understanding of the Dutch approach to norms and standards in today’s public health and health care system. The course will touch upon culturally sensitive issues such as euthanasia, public insurance, and home birth, as well as global issues such as elderly care and children’s health. Through a series of thematic lectures, including guest lectures from professionals in the field, and guided site visits, students are able to place these challenges in a specific context, critically analyzing and comparing them to other countries.

These are the course themes:

- History of Dutch Public Health  
- Politics, costs & insurance matters  
- Primary & secondary care  
- Euthanasia  
- Maternal & Child health  
- Elderly care  
- Psychiatry  
- Drugs, alcohol & tobacco  
- Ethnicity in healthcare

Learning Objectives
The course aims to motivate students to develop leadership on matters critical to health and to form ethical and evidence-based policy opinions by looking at public health care through a Dutch lens.

The course will run for 4 weeks, meeting each day and will be arranged. The first week will involve a general overview of public health in the Netherlands in order to provide a broader context in which students can better understand the themes at hand. Each unit following the introduction will focus on specific themes related to public health with readings related to each topic. In turn, these themes will be reflected in guided site visits. At the end of the course, all students are tested on their acquired knowledge through a final exam.

Course Prerequisites

No prerequisites

Methods of Instruction

● The course meets every day for a total of 4 weeks.
● Each theme will include a two-hour introductory lecture. Some of these lectures will be supplemented with guest speakers who are professionals in that specific field. Usually the afternoon involves a group guided site visit or group project related to that specific theme.
● In the afternoons and evenings, students are given time to study and prepare their assignments and study for the final exam.
● At the end of the course all students will take a final exam.
● The course is worth 3 US credits (4.5 quarter hours)

The last lecture of the course will be a summary of all the themes discussed in order to help the students understand how these social issues are interrelated. Time will be given for questions about any of the themes or regarding the final exam.

Assessment and Final Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 2x</td>
<td>40% (each paper counts for 20%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Course Requirements

Participation = 10%

Each student is required to attend all sessions of the course and to participate actively in class discussions and during guided site visits.

Group Presentations 20%

The course encourages students to do presentations through the eyes of the discipline in which they are majoring. For example, if a student is discussing the theme of drugs: the sociology major could approach the issue by looking at the reasons that addicts as a social group resort to drug abuse. The psychology major could approach this by looking at the effects of drug abuse on the individual and the psychological effects.

Student groups (maximum of 2 students per group) must conduct a 15-minute presentation on a public health theme of their own choice and may use other audio visual equipment such as a film if this a way the student is used to expressing himself/herself. Students choose their own topics for the presentation. Some examples of topics that can be covered within the presentation are health issues faced by refugees, childhood obesity prevention, or clean needle exchange and other harm reduction programs. Students are encouraged to discuss their ideas with the instructor.

Paper = 2x20% = 40%

During the course students have to complete two papers about public health in general, in the context of the discipline students are majoring in or a topic that is of interest to them. Students choose their own topics for the paper and topics are NOT assigned by the instructor. Previous topics for papers have included Health Effects of Cycling, Ethical Issues Relating to Euthanasia, Sexual Education in Dutch Schools, and Maternity Leave Policies and Effect on Health. These are just some examples, other topics are also possible of course. Students are encouraged to discuss their ideas with the instructor. The writing style of the papers should be a scientific essay. The papers must have about 800-1000 words and must contain a list of references of at least three scientific sources.

Final Exam = 30%

The final exam will have both essay and multiple choice questions about the topics being discussed in the readings, lectures and site visits.

In General

Students are expected to do their homework and to hand in their assignments before the given deadline (either in print or by email, unless communicated otherwise). A specific course schedule will
be distributed during the first class, outlining a weekly schedule of the lessons, homework and assignments.

All assigned homework is mandatory, including homework that does not have to be handed in. The teacher will check whether students have done their homework on a regular basis.

Plagiarism is strictly forbidden. If a student is found guilty of plagiarism, he or she will fail the course with no chance of a resit. All assignments will be assessed on Academic Standards (with regard to language, use of sources etc.) All of the papers can be written with double spacing.

Late assignments will be marked down with 1 point off. Assignments more than 3 days (72 hours) late will not be accepted.

**Attendance and participation**

Each student is expected to attend all sessions of the course and to participate actively in class discussion and during field trips. Attendance will be taken every week by the course instructor. Participation will be assessed according to the CIEE Amsterdam attendance policy:

1x absence = ok
2x absence = extra assignment (1 page in consultation with the professor)
3x absence = 1 point off final grade
4x absence = fail the course

- If a student comes in 15-30 minutes late to class, this counts as a ½ absence.
- At all times the student needs to inform the professor before the start of class in case of an absence. Failure to notify the teacher regarding an absence in advance will result in an extra assignment.

Students who make active connections to the concepts from the reading materials in class discussions, students who actively ask questions, and students who actively reflect on out-of-class experiences in class will receive extra points for participation. Participation points will be deducted when students do not participate in class or who have not read the materials before coming to class.

**Important:** please note that in case you cannot attend a graded examination or assignment (e.g. midterm exam, final exam, presentation, graded fieldtrip) because of illness, it is required to hand in a written doctor’s note with your teacher.

**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1:**
Introduction + history of Dutch public health
Evolution of the health care system
Obesity and nutrition

Week 2:
An ageing population
Sexual health
Drugs and substance abuse

Week 3:
Minority health disparities
Prescription drugs
Primary and secondary healthcare
Euthanasia

Week 4:
Women and children’s health
Preventive healthcare
Review session + final exam

Readings

The course will use a compilation of articles and statistics taken from academic articles and other journalistic sources (this is called a reader). The articles will be sent to you at the beginning of the course, with the same numbering as below, via Wetransfer.

Required reading:

1. Framing Disease: Illness, Society and History Rosenberg
2. A healthier Netherlands
3. Brochure GGD
4. The national immunisation programme in the Netherlands (Comprehensive summary)
5. Lancet euthanasia 1 en 2
6. How does legal regulation of cannabis compare to that of other illicit drugs? The merit of health arguments in the legalization debate
7. Medicalization can only be part of the solution
9. In coalitieverdrag over zorg in de toekomst - Bringing care closer to home
10. Swan E et al 2015 Profiling Healthy Eaters