

DESCRIPTION

This program is intended to create a unique interdisciplinary professional experience for students interested in Latin American and Caribbean Health issues. Within the field of public and private health, its particular focus is on public health assessment strategies. Through this program, students will be exposed to current challenges facing Latin America and the Caribbean and reach an understanding of the way global public health issues unfold in the region.

The course will provide students with definitions and updated material that would open them to opportunities such as examining issues related to the people, places and politics to assess the delivery and quality of health care in Latin America. Students prepare for each class by first reading and reviewing chapters from the text. The instructor will give highlights in class of major concepts for each week's material. With classes involving formal and interactive sections where students will work independently or in groups to develop investigative, writing and presentation skills, as well as participate in open class discussions and visit healthcare settings that will provide realistic view of the material seen in class.

COURSE LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Readings provided digitally (*Google Drive*).
- Analytical Sessions— Students will work in small groups to understanding health care issues in Latin-American settings.
- Tests and essay: Students will have an opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned via one essay and test.
- E-mail: Instructor will make use of email to complement coursework; students will have to check as often, as we will be tracking current health care issues of the week.
- Latin American Analysis Paper: Students will work on a culminating project that analyzes and makes recommendations on a current health issue in Latin America.

TOPICAL COURSE OUTLINE

1. Introductory concepts
 - 1.1. Universal issues of Latin America and Costa Rica
 - 1.2. Health concepts
 - 1.3. Social security concepts
2. The institutional framework of health in Costa Rica

- 2.1. Health: A constitutional right (Universality vs. Selectivity)
3. Health programs and services in LA and Costa Rica
 - 3.1. Primary health care
 - 3.2. Secondary health care
 - 3.3. Terceray health care
 - 3.4. Private health
 - 3.5. Community participation
 - 3.6. Medical Tourism/Global Medicine
4. Health care reforms and their effects in LA and Costa Rica
 - 4.1. The political symbolism of health in LA and Costa Rica
 - 4.2. The state of pensions in LA and Costa Rica
5. Social security reform in Latin America
 - 5.1. A Comparative analysis of health care reform in Chile, Brazil, and Mexico
6. Millennium Development Goals (UN)
7. Towards a better social security in the future

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING POLICY

The final grade for this course will be determined by the total percentage of credit awarded (100% maximum) for your participation and productivity as follows:

- Class Participation and Group Work (20%)
- Field trip survey (15%)
- Essay (15%)
- Final paper, Millennium Development Goals (30%)
- Final examination (20%)

STUDENT'S RESPONSABILITIES

- **Drop/Add/Withdrawal Policy**

Once a student is registered, it is his/her responsibility to attend the course, drop the course, or withdraw from the course. Dropping and withdrawing are distinct actions that impact your course enrollment status. In either case, a form with signatures is required.

- **Academic Integrity**

We are committed to a learning environment that embraces honesty. Faculty, students, and administrators share responsibility for maintaining this environment of academic honesty

and integrity, accepting responsibility for all actions, personal and academic. Each member of our community is expected to read, understand, and uphold the values identified and described the Centers and Hospital statement of academic integrity, which will be handed out on the first day of classes.

Plagiarism is considered a serious offense and will not be tolerated. If you have questions about using citations refer to the American Psychological Association (APA) manual or website. If you are unsure of the proper citation, contact your instructor.

- **Attendance Policy**

Attendance and full class participation is important for our collaborative learning group in this pre-professional level course. Students are expected to attend all classes unless a reasonable absence is warranted. All absences are to be communicated to the instructor immediately upon the student realizing that he/she will not attend class. Alternate assignments may be given to make-up the class time missed. Naturally attendance is part and parcel to the assessment given to your class participation (15% in this course.) Excessive absences will lower an individual's grade.

The student acknowledges receipt of this syllabus and the information herein contained by continuing to attend this course. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus if circumstances warrant such change. All major changes will be provided to the students in writing.