



Traditional Medicine and Community Health

IPBH-3005 (3 Credits / 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:

Chile: Public Health, Traditional Medicine, and Community Empowerment

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus is representative of a recent semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Course Description

The Traditional Medicine and Community Health seminar focuses on alternative health concepts, traditional practices, and the realities of contemporary Aymara and Mapuche healthcare. Course content includes indigenous visions of health and healing and community health. Students examine the Chilean Intercultural Health System and the integration of traditional medical practices into the formal public health care system. Concepts of community health and the role of community in health promotion and prevention in the rural context are also explored. Students learn about these topics through lectures, reading materials, discussion, and field experiences.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify alternative conceptualizations and visions of health as embraced by rural and indigenous groups in Chile.
- Discuss the achievements and challenges of the Intercultural Health System and the mainstreaming of traditional health practices.
- Relate the importance of meeting community health needs through the articulation of community within an appropriate cultural context.
- Assess Chilean public health policy as it relates to equitable access for indigenous peoples and marginalized groups.

Language of Instruction

This course is taught in Spanish.

Course Schedule

***Please be aware that topics and excursions may vary to take advantage of any emerging events, to accommodate changes in our lecturers' availability, and to respect any changes that would affect student safety. Students will be notified if this occurs.**

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Module 1: The Chilean Rural Health System

Module 1 offers an overview of the Chilean rural health sector. Students will learn about healthcare structures and systems in rural Chile, and study the epidemiological profile of the rural population.

Session 1: Introduction to Rural Chile

Session 2: Rural Chile and the Health Sector – An Introduction

Session 3: The Population Profile of Rural Chile

Required Readings:

- Ministerio de Planificación y Cooperación. (2003). *CENSO, 2002*. Santiago: Gobierno de Chile.
- Ministerio de Planificación y Cooperación. (2003). *Estadísticas sociales de los pueblos indígenas de Chile. CENSO, 2002*. Santiago: Gobierno de Chile.
- Ministerio de Planificación y Cooperación. (2000). *Informe final grupo de trabajo para los pueblos indígenas*. Santiago: Palacio de la Moneda.
- Ministerio de Planificación y Cooperación. (2003). *Encuesta de Caracterización Socioeconómica Nacional y Población Indígena. CASEN 2003*. Santiago: Gobierno de Chile.

Module 2: Community Health

Module 2 introduces concepts of community health. The module explores the ways in which community health is approached in Chile and how concepts are applied. Excursions to rural communities provide firsthand learning experiences during this module.

Session 1: Concepts of Community Health

Session 2: Community Organization and Health

Session 3: The Role of the Community in Health Promotion and Prevention

Required Readings:

- Ministerio Secretaría General de Gobierno. División de Organizaciones Sociales. (2001). *Bases generales del Plan Nacional para superar la discriminación en Chile*. Santiago: Gobierno de Chile.
- Ministerio de Salud. (2002). *Objetivos sanitarios y modelo de salud para la década 2000-2010*. Santiago: Gobierno de Chile.
- Ministerio de Salud. División de Salud de las Personas. (1997). *Marco de referencia para la acción regional en Promoción de Salud: Documento de trabajo*. Santiago: Gobierno de Chile.
- Ministerio de Salud. División de Atención Primaria. Unidad de Promoción de la Salud. (1999). *Promoción de la salud para Chile. Plan nacional de promoción de la salud*. Santiago: Gobierno de Chile.

Module 3: Formal and Non-Formal Traditional Health Practices in Chile

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Module 3 explores traditional healthcare in Chile. Indigenous healthcare systems are discussed. Students will examine the formal integration of traditional practices into the Chilean public healthcare system.

Session 1: The Chilean Intercultural Health System

Session 2: The Indigenous Cosmivision of Health

Session 3: Multiculturalism and Religious Aspect Related with Health

Session 4: Concepts and Practices of Health Used by Aymara People

Session 5: Concepts and Practices of Health Used by Mapuche People

Session 6: Access Issues Related to Alternative Methods of Health Treatment

Required Readings:

- Ministerio de Salud. (2001). *Políticas de salud y pueblos indígenas*. Santiago: Gobierno de Chile. Public Policy and Health Program. Pan American Health Organization. (2001). *Equidad en salud: Una mirada desde la perspectiva de la etnicidad*. Washington, D.C: Organización Panamericana de la Salud.
- Aylwin, J.(2003). *Los derechos de los pueblos Indígenas en Chile*. Temuco: Universidad de la Frontera Instituto de Estudios Indígenas.
- Cáceres, E.(2002). De mi corazón no más he aprendido. Formación y educación de los curanderos en el sur andino. *Revista Electrónica Volveré*, 1 (2). Retrieved from http://www.unap.cl/iecta/revistas/volvere_3/articulos.htm
- Citarella, L., Conejeros, A. M., & Espinossa, B. (1995). *Medicinas y culturas en La Araucanía*. Santiago, Chile: Editorial Sudamericana.
- Van Kessel, J. (1998). Los Aymara contemporáneos en Chile. In L. J. Hidalgo (Ed.), *Etnografías: Sociedades Indígenas Contemporáneas y su Ideología* (47-68). Santiago: Editorial Andrés Bello.
- Van Kessel, J. (1998). La cosmovisión Aymara. In L. J. Hidalgo (Ed.), *Etnografías: Sociedades Indígenas Contemporáneas y su Ideología* (169-188). Santiago: Editorial Andrés Bello.

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Description of Assignments:

Module paper: Write a five-to-seven page paper based on a topic of your choice from one of the three modules. The paper should include bibliographic references as well as references from your class and field-based learning during the course.

Excursion paper: With your group, write a three-to-five page paper based on the assigned group excursion topic. Group and individual points of view and arguments should be included and substantiated. The paper should include bibliographic references.

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Exam: The course exam is cumulative. It includes essay and short-answer questions.

Participation: Participation refers to attendance, punctuality, attentive listening, and active engagement in all lectures, discussions, field trips, and other activities. It includes culturally appropriate, polite, and respectful behavior.

Assessment:

Module paper	30%
Excursion paper	30%
Exam	30%
Participation	10%

Grading Scale

94-100%	A	Excellent
90-93%	A-	
87-89%	B+	
84-86%	B	Above Average
80-83%	B-	
77-79%	C+	
74-76%	C	Average
70-73%	C-	
67-69%	D+	
64-66%	D	Below Average
below 64	F	Fail

Expectations and Policies

- **Assignments:** Timely completion of all assignments is expected. Late hand-ins will be penalized. All assignments are evaluated according to organization, analytical quality, depth of understanding, argumentation, and presentation of evidence.
- **Excursions:** Many of the visits will be to underprivileged areas, challenging students to understand how historical oppression and public policies affect the lives of peoples today. Please be respectful and open to listening to a variety of viewpoints.
- **Readings:** Students are responsible for all of the required readings, and should be prepared to bring them to bear in class. The readings will help place the classes in context, engage lecturers, generate questions for class discussions, and deepen student knowledge of particular issues discussed in class.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad Handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment, and the academic appeals process.

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