Course Title: Public Health Applications in Developing Countries

Course Number: HSAP 0619

Course Location: School of Public Health

Course Date & Time: Spring 2014 (March 15-22nd Trip)

Course Instructor: Lois Grau, PhD
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Office Hours: By Appointment

Pre-requisites: Permission of the instructor and faculty advisor required.

Required Course Text:


Additional/Supplemental Readings/Resources: Additional reading materials will be given throughout the course of the semester

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce students to basic issues confronting the public health of marginalized populations in developing countries. It addresses the socio-economic and political factors and conditions that place populations at risk for poor health. Although the general principles discussed and observed during the course apply to dislocated populations, such as refugees and illegal migrant workers, in general, the specific focus will be on Haitian communities of sugar cane workers living in the Dominican Republic.

The course consists of three phases. The first planning phase requires students to complete required readings and attend planning meetings for the implementation of public health interventions during the one-week field component of the course in the Dominican Republic. Students are required to develop materials and obtain resources (from contributions) necessary for project completion. Discussion of the reading materials and planning will be undertaken during three to four student meetings during the first part of the semester. Students will maintain on-going contact via e-mail to facilitate donation collection and other planning efforts. Completion of required readings and preparation of reports is required prior to the fieldtrip.
The second phase is a "hands on" field experience in the Dominican Republic (March 15-March 22, 2013) during which time students will work in a number of Haitian "bateyes", (former sugar cane worker camps) and with Haitian and Dominicans living in extremely poor barrios. Students participate in a range of programs such as "de-worming" clinics, health education programs, food distribution efforts and the provision of basic primary care and referral for specialty care. In addition, the project works with "Blanco's Kids", a group of 40 orphaned or impoverished children who live with mothers with no source of income or subsistence. Students participate in activities with the children, including participating in both health assessments and health education efforts.

During the field experience, students are housed in Costambar, a community just to the west of Puerto Plata on the North Coast of the Dominican Republic. Daily excursions will be made to bateyes and barrios in the Puerto Plata and Imbert areas. Other experiences may include a visit to the public hospital and local clinic. Generally, students are traveling two days, in the field for five days, and have one day to visit local attractions.

The third phase of the project is the completion of a research paper or project relevant to students' public health concentration.

The course grade will be based on level of participation in the planning and fieldwork component of the course, completion of assigned readings, and faculty evaluation of student's final papers or projects.

Selected Department Competencies Addressed: Each Department identifies competencies for each degree offered. The competencies addressed in this course for the MPH include:

- Assess community health needs, health disparities, and the health care delivery system within the context of social, cultural, political, legal, and economic forces
- Apply quantitative and qualitative research methods in the analysis of health service and policy issues
- Assess and delineate public health policies and practices recognizing legal and ethical implications for individuals and populations

Please visit the Department webpages on the School of Public Health's website at http://sph.rutgers.edu/ for additional competencies addressed by this course for other degrees and departments.

Course Objectives: By the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- To identify linkages between economic, social and political conditions and analyze their impact on the health and health risks of marginalized populations.
- To experience firsthand the barriers and opportunities associated with implementing grass roots public health projects without access to a public health or personal health care system.
- To identify and analyze the various steps involved in developing community empowerment and the role of public health in and during this process.
To research and analyze a public health problem and/or strategies specific to the student's academic interests.

Course Requirements and Grading:

The structure of the course includes team planning meetings, reports on required readings, field trip to the Dominican Republic for one week, and final project. Students will be actively involved in the learning process.

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Team planning meetings</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reports on Required Readings</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field trip</td>
<td>60</td>
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<td>Final Project</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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Assignments

1. **Team planning meetings.** Students will be required to attend 3-4 planning meetings in the semester—ahead of the trip.

2. **Reports on Required readings.** Students will be required to read three books ahead of the field trip which provide important historic background information on the plight of Haitians living in the Dominican Republic. Students are then required to submit brief summary reports of the readings. At least two of the three reports should be completed ahead of the trip.

3. **Field Trip to the DR.** Students will participate in a one-week field experience in the Dominican Republic (March 15-March 22, 2013) during which they will work in a number of Haitian "bateyes", (former sugar cane worker camps) and with Haitian and Dominicans living in extremely poor barrios. Students will participate in a range of programs such as "de-worming" clinics, health education programs, food distribution efforts and the provision of basic primary care and referral for specialty care.

4. **Final Project.** Students will prepare a final paper project at the end of the semester. Students are encouraged to select their topic prior to the field trip and to collect information, or at least insights relevant to their project during the field experience. Additional library or other necessary research will be conducted following return from the Dominican Republic.

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School of Public Health Honor Code: The School of Public Health Honor Code is found in the student bulletin (sph.rutgers.edu/academics/catalog/index.html). Each student bears a fundamental
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responsible for maintaining academic integrity and intellectual honesty in his or her graduate work. For example, all students are expected to observe the generally accepted principles of scholarly work, to submit their own rather than another's work, to refrain from falsifying data, and to refrain from receiving and/or giving aid on examinations or other assigned work requiring independent effort. In submitting written material, the writer takes full responsibility for the work as a whole and implies that, except as properly noted by use of quotation marks, footnotes, etc., both the ideas and the works used are his or her own. In addition to maintaining personal academic integrity, each student is expected to contribute to the academic integrity of the school community by not facilitating inappropriate use of her/his own work by others and by reporting acts of academic dishonesty by others to an appropriate school authority. It should be clearly understood that plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can lead to sanctions up to and including separation from the Rutgers School of Public Health.

Policy Concerning Use of Recording Devices and Other Electronic Communications Systems:
When personally owned communication/recording devices are used by students to record lectures and/or classroom lessons, such use must be authorized by the faculty member or instructor who must give either oral or written permission prior to the start of the semester and identify restrictions, if any, on the use of mobile communications or recording devices.