

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Course name: Costa Rican Health Care and Tropical Medicine

Course code: HIS-3293

Total contact hours: 60 hours

Pre-requisite: Must be a Health Sciences student

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Costa Rica’s health care system is unique due to the fact that it’s socialized and has achieved excellent health indicators. The course focuses on the history and development of the public health care system within the context of the Costa Rican sociopolitical and economical situation. It also gives a strong emphasis on how the system actually works and points out not only the strongholds of the systems, but also it’s weak points. A third objective, of fundamental importance in order to understand this system, is the study of Costa Rica as a tropical country. Students will learn about the prevention and transmission of relevant tropical diseases.

OBJECTIVES

1. To study the fundamental aspects of the health in a Latin American country
2. To analyze the structure of the Health System of Costa Rica
3. To recognize the main characteristics of the tropical pathology
4. To develop abilities to understand the binomial health and society within the Latin American culture

CONTENTS

Work Schedule:

Part I		
	Activity	Special Work
Section 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Course introduction - Costa Rica epidemiology, demography and anthropology. - Costa Rica’s Health Indicators 	Speech topics assignment
Section 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Costa Rica’s Health System History - Habitants from the original nation 	Costa Rica’s Private Medicine System
Section 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Debate: Costa Rica and USA Health Systems - Movie: “Sicko” by Michael Moore 	Movie analysis
Visit to the CIMA hospital		

Part II		
	Activity	Special Work
Section 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Physical Examination and Patient's interview - Test #1 (including health indicators) - Parasite Generalities 	Review on physical examination
Part III		
	Activity	Special Work
Section 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protozoaries and diseases - Helminths and diseases 	Case #1
Section 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tuberculosis - Malaria - Filariasis 	Case #2

Part IV		
	Activity	Special Work
Section 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Test #2 (including Malaria and Filariasis) - Leishmaniasis 	Case #3
Section 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ectoparasites - Chagas Disease - Larva Migrans 	Case #4
Field trip: the region will vary depending on the number of students and availability on the different health areas		
Part V		
	Activity	Special Work
Section 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ophidic accident - Dengue - Paragonimiasis 	Case #5
Section 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oral Presentations Final Test 	

METHODOLOGY

We intend to achieve the above objectives by a series of theoretical and practical exercises. Students will attend participatory lectures about the history and development of the social health care system and will also learn about the private health sector. Sessions will also include a debate that compares the health system in Costa Rica and in the United States. Discussions and debates will serve as tools, for students to gain some insight in to the differences in these two societies and their concepts of health. Lectures and discussion will be complemented with a visit to one of the main private hospitals in San José, and contrasted with a visit to one of the primary health care clinics of the public system.

The course develops a series of participatory lectures about tropical medicine. In order to build a common background, students will learn the most important concepts on clinical history and exploration, relevant to tropical medicine, as well as demographic, epidemiological and environmental concepts.

There are several units that focus on the study of patho-physiological concepts and specific diseases, all this, in order to understand the fundamentals of prevention and promotion of health in the context of tropical diseases.

Audience

This course is structured for International Students attending the Study Abroad program at Universidad Veritas. However, courses are not exclusive to foreigners so a few native student could enroll in this course.

Attendance

Students are only allowed 2 absences (justified or not). The student will fail the course if he/she has more than 2 absences. Students will have a 0 on any assignment evaluated in class (presentations, evaluations, field trips, etc.) if he/she is absent in this class, unless an official document is presented to justify the absence the class after the absence. In this case the assignment will be done this day. **An unjustified absence to a fieldtrip will immediately mean failing the course.** You can only have two total absences in your elective courses **HOWEVER, if you miss more than one day of class in a given month**, YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE CREDIT for that particular course.

Behavior

Professors have the right to expel a student from the classroom should he / she:

- 1) be disruptive in the classroom
- 2) be under the influence of alcohol or even smell like alcohol
- 3) Behave in a disrespectful way.

If you tend to be late for class, you will lose 25% of your total grade

EVALUATION SYSTEM

60% Practical work

- Debate about health care systems 20%
- Presentation (Subject will be assigned on the first day) 25%
- Participation and discussion in seminars 5%
- Homework and reading assignments 10%

30% Written Examinations

10% Participatory attendance

Final Exam

Evaluation of the ability of the student to face a health problem and be able to incorporate elements of public health and tropical medicine in the context of the Costa Rican health care system.

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