

Health and Community

Globalization, Culture, and Care

Investigate how communities can ensure the health and well-being of all citizens amid mounting challenges created by changing economic, environmental, and social forces.

Coursework

Globalization and Health

IBPH 3500 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

Nations at all levels of development vary in their commitment and capacity to define healthcare as a human right and provide healthcare to their citizens equitably. Some have created systems to provide basic healthcare, yet struggle with other factors that influence health, while others position healthcare as an economic commodity subject to market forces. This course provides a framework for comparing the organization and financing of health systems and health policymaking across the countries visited. It examines the political economy of health, with special attention to the impact of international governance, economic, and trade policies. Students gain skills in critical thinking, policy analysis, and debate, supported by research, observation, and exposure to varied perspectives among in-country experts.

Health, Culture, and Community

ANTH 3050 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

Medical anthropology serves as the theoretical foundation for this course. It seeks to strengthen students' ability to understand, interpret, and compare how personal and community identity, health and well-being, illness, and healing are understood within diverse cultural contexts. The course examines the philosophy and practices characteristic of biomedicine and a wide range of traditional and other systems of health and healing, as well as the reality of medical pluralism in the lives of individuals. In so doing, the course covers themes of health and healing pertinent across the life span—from birth to death. Throughout, students are encouraged to support their comparative understanding with an exploration of their own assumptions and practices related to identity, health, and healing.

Public Health: From Biology to Policy

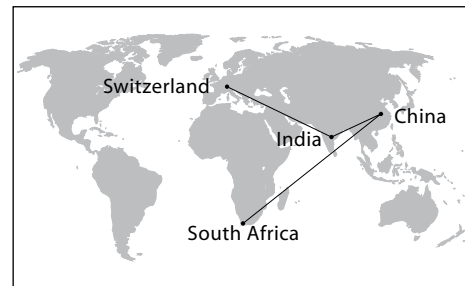
IBPH 3505 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

This course begins with an overview of global and national health trends in the context of demographic shifts and development. In each country visited, a significant health condition will be addressed: How is disease distributed in the country's populations? What public health interventions are supported by empirical evidence? In light of social, cultural, economic, and political conditions, how can such evidence be applied in the local context? Specific considerations studied range from infectious to "lifestyle" and chronic illnesses such as diarrheal diseases of early childhood, adult mental health, cervical cancer, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis.

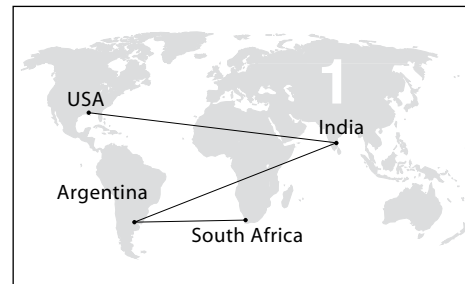
Community Health Research Methods

IBPH 3510 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

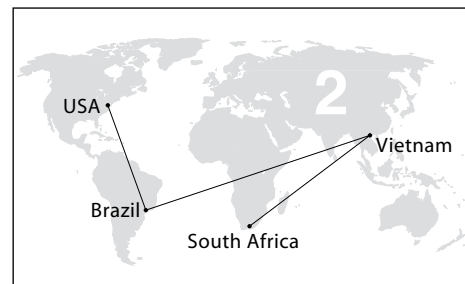
This course seeks to strengthen students' competence in inquiry-guided learning through field-based Case Studies. The course begins with an introduction to the philosophic traditions of ethnography, epidemiology, and health services research—complementary and sometimes conflicting. It then teaches and gives students the opportunity to apply the chief tools of each tradition (e.g., participant observation, in-depth interviewing, community surveys, mapping, interpreting data analyses, and oral presentation of findings). In each country, students will choose from a range of available field Case Study topics/sites as the primary venue for demonstrating their field research and presentation skills.



Fall



Spring 1



Spring 2

Credits 16

Duration Fall/Spring 16 weeks

Program Sites

Fall: Switzerland, India, China, South Africa

Spring Option 1: United States, India, Argentina, South Africa

Spring Option 2: United States, Brazil, Vietnam, South Africa

Homestay 2–4 weeks in all locations other than the first country

Other Accommodations Hostels and hotels

Prerequisites None, but previous college-level coursework and/or other preparation in public health, anthropology, biology, or other related fields is strongly recommended.