

South Africa

Community Health and Social Policy

Examine primary healthcare concerns from a South African perspective, exploring the roles of the South African state, the media, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), community structures, and traditional healers.

Coursework

Lecturers are drawn from institutions such as the University of KwaZulu-Natal, the Amatikulu Primary Health Training Centre, The Centre for Culture and Media Studies, and the Human Sciences Research Council.

Approaches to Community Health in South Africa

IPBH 3000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours

An interdisciplinary course introducing students to the social and historical features of South Africa, providing the requisite background knowledge to effectively engage in topics concerning healthcare promotion and provision in South Africa. Seminar topics typically include: social and political history of South Africa; education and urbanization; traditional and contemporary social structures; population and demography; ethnic diversity and political identity; maternal health and gender roles; social welfare; principles of primary healthcare; epidemiology and health indicators; globalization and the pharmaceutical industry; nutrition and sanitation; development theories; the media and health promotion; behavior change.

The Practice and Provision of Community Health in South Africa

IPBH 3005 / 3 credits / 45 class hours

An interdisciplinary course exposing students to the realities of healthcare provision in rural and urban contexts. Students are trained to give non-medical assistance in participant observation sessions in urban clinics, with due diligence regarding safety and infection control. During a rural excursion, students engage with rural homestay families, lecturers, and facilitators in a number of health facilities and nongovernment structures. These experiences are complemented by classroom-based lectures on specific diseases and health-related topics.

Seminar topics typically include:

Clinics and Hospitals

Health education; universal precautions and

first aid; screening and common tasks in clinics; data capture.

Rural Realities

Community health workers; rural schools and clinics; tuberculosis hospitals; daycare centers; home-based care; lifestyle centers.

Politics and Interventions in Practice

HIV; politicians and HIV; reproductive health; diseases of lifestyle; tuberculosis; cost-benefit analysis; universal healthcare.

Field Visits

The seminar generally includes several daylong field visits around Durban. These trips may focus on school- and home-based food programs, community-based programs for orphaned and vulnerable children, and health facilities.

Educational Excursions

The program includes educational excursions to Johannesburg and several areas in urban and rural KwaZulu-Natal. Students visit health institutions initiated by NGOs, missionary organizations, and government clinics and community program centers.

Intensive Language Study: Zulu

ZULU 1000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours

Emphasis on beginning speaking and comprehension skills through classroom and field instruction. Practice with host family members during the homestays augments formal instruction.

Social and Community Health Research Methods

ANTH 3500 / 3 credits / 45 class hours

A course in the concepts of learning across cultures and from field experience, with additional emphasis on research methods in public health studies. Introduction to the Independent Study Project. Material includes cross-cultural adaptation and skills building; project selection and refinement; appropriate methodologies; field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy; developing contacts and finding

AFRICA, SOUTH OF THE SAHARA



Credits 16

Duration Fall/Spring 15 weeks

Program Base Durban

Language Study Zulu

Homestay Township of Cato Manor (outside of Durban), 5 weeks

Rural Visit/Homestays Umthwalume, Impendle, and Amatikulu villages—3 days in each location

Other Accommodations Hostels, private homes, or small hotels

Independent Study Project 4 weeks

Prerequisites None

resources; developing skills in observation and interviewing; gathering, organizing, and communicating data; maintaining a field journal; basic statistics in epidemiology; methods for epidemiological studies; critical reading of medical trials; science in the media.

Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours

Conducted in an approved location appropriate to the project. Students choose between completing a practicum and writing an extended research paper. Practicum options include working at a health facility or on a social-science study project in a community.

Sample topic areas: prenatal healthcare; sociological consequences of HIV/AIDS; public health education campaigns; sustainable development and healthcare; local attitudes about access to healthcare facilities; indigenous healing practices; music and its effects on HIV-positive South Africans; mental health issues and available healthcare; reproductive health in rural South Africa.