

Brazil

Public Health, Race, and Human Rights

Investigate healthcare realities, policy, and delivery systems among disadvantaged groups in the Brazilian state of Bahia.

Coursework

Please note: This program will have credit distribution and/or other curriculum changes beginning in the fall 2012 semester. Please visit www.sit.edu/BRH for details.

Public Health, Race, and Human Rights Seminar

IPBH 3000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in English and Portuguese with required readings and relevant educational excursions. The course examines public healthcare planning and practice in Brazil in the context of racism, poverty, and social exclusion. Lecturers typically include physicians and nurses; government health officials; sociologists, anthropologists, and professionals at multi-lateral agencies such as the United Nations; and Candomblé healers.

Seminar topics typically include:

Health, Society, and Culture

Historical overview of Brazilian society; examination of racial, religious, and regional diversity in Brazil; consideration of the health profile of the Brazilian populace; analysis of the economic, structural, and ideological determinants of public health planning and practices in Brazil.

Brazilian Public Health Policies

Critical study of the Brazilian model for public health—Sistema Único de Saúde; analysis of key Brazilian national health programs, including the Afro-Brazilian health program; reproductive health, maternal care, and child health; sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS; comparison of the Brazilian national health system to others in Latin America and the world.

Alternate Health Practices

Overview of different healthcare practices and conceptions of healing in Brazil; health concepts and practices used by Afro-Brazilian groups such as Candomblé practitioners; consideration of alternative treatment of psychiatric and other mental health issues; connection between healing and spiritual beliefs; economics and access issues related to alternative methods of health treatment.

Educational Excursions

Destinations include Ilha de Maré, where students visit a *quilombo* community. Short trips may include visits to public health services at the federal, state, and municipal levels; visits to health centers in rural areas; and visits to Afro-Brazilian religious centers, including a Terreiro de Candomblé. The program has two rural visits, in Cachoeira and Ilha de Maré.

Intensive Language Study: Portuguese

PORT 1000–4000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

Emphasis on speaking and comprehension skills through classroom and field instruction. Special attention is given to medical and health terminology in Portuguese. Based on in-country evaluation, including oral proficiency testing, students are placed in beginning or intermediate classes. Special arrangements are available for advanced speakers of Portuguese.

Public Health Field Study Seminar

ANTH 3500 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

An introductory course in research methods in both the social and health sciences, focusing on how to collect, analyze, integrate, and report social and public health data to critically understand and evaluate program-related public health issues. The course provides an introduction to the Independent Study Project and includes observation and participation in community health projects. Field studies may include designing a research project; writing a research proposal; interviewing; designing surveys; and maintaining a field journal. Specific public health field study methods include concepts and objectives of scientific research; basic techniques used in public health research; data collection and analysis; epidemiology and considerations in the Brazilian context; ethical issues related to public health projects and research and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy.



Credits 16

Duration Fall/Spring 15 weeks

Program Base Salvador

Language Study Portuguese

Homestay Salvador, 7 weeks

Rural Visit/Homestays Ilha de Maré, 3 days; Cachoeira, 4 days

Other Accommodations Hostels, private homes, or small hotels

Independent Study Project 3½–4 weeks

Prerequisites None, although a background in Portuguese, Spanish, or another Romance language is highly recommended.

Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

Conducted in Salvador, elsewhere in the state of Bahia, or in another approved location appropriate to the project in the Brazilian northeast. **Sample topic areas:** the health of adolescent mothers and their offspring; Afro-Brazilian health issues; factors affecting well-being in a *quilombo* community; healing in the Candomblé tradition; psychiatric illness and community outreach; geriatrics; drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs in Salvador; Brazilian AIDS policy; empowerment of women; policy issues in access; pre- and postnatal care.