

Mali

Health, Gender, and Community Empowerment

Explore the links between health, economic development, and social issues—including gender, religion, and community empowerment—in contemporary Mali.

Coursework

Healthcare and Health Policy in Mali

IPBH 3000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours

Conducted primarily in French, this interdisciplinary course introduces students to major health concerns in Mali, the history and current state of Mali's healthcare industry and healthcare delivery, and the effectiveness of healthcare providers in managing illnesses, followed by more in-depth studies related to gender roles, reproductive health, and public health initiatives. Students are also exposed to a variety of health perspectives from community health centers, government health organizations, directors of nongovernmental organizations working in the health field, and grassroots workers. Seminar topics typically include social and behavioral factors and health; malaria; nutrition; an overview of Mali's health systems; vaccination programs; and traditional medicinal practices.

Gender and Community Empowerment

GEND 3000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours

Conducted primarily in French, this interdisciplinary course introduces students to development and empowerment initiatives, ethnography, and culture. Students examine development issues with a particular emphasis on community empowerment through the interplay of gender dynamics and health in Mali. Seminar topics typically include youth empowerment in Mali; women's struggle for emancipation; women and sustainable development; the politics of development; formal education in Mali; and stages in the process of community empowerment. The course includes an introductory module encompassing the general principles of Malian culture and Bambara language.

Educational Excursions

To allow students to explore a variety of Malian cultures and ways of life, the program includes visits to Teryabougou, a well-known Bambara village and successful example of

strong community organization; Koulikoro, home to a rural polytechnic institute where agro-technology is being used to produce new varieties of potatoes, and plants are being developed to help kill worms that damage vegetables and other plants; and Sikasso and Selegue.

Intensive Language Study: French

FREN 2000–3000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours

Emphasis on speaking, reading, and writing skills through classroom and field instruction. Based on in-country evaluation, including oral proficiency testing, students are placed in intensive intermediate or advanced classes, with further language practice in homestays, lectures, and field visits.

Topics in Social and Health Research

ANTH 3500 / 3 credits / 30 class hours

Conducted primarily in English, this is a course in the concepts of learning across cultures and from field experience; it also provides students with the basic theoretical principles and methodological tools essential for public health research. 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 resources; developing skills in observation and interviewing; gathering, organizing, and communicating data; maintaining a field journal.

Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours

Conducted in Bamako or in another approved location in Mali appropriate to the project.

Sample topic areas: women's roles in family healthcare; literacy and Malian women; feminization of the workplace; traditional healing and birthing practices; nonformal education from mother to child in Sanankoroba; division

AFRICA, SOUTH OF THE SAHARA



Credits 16

Duration Fall/Spring 15 weeks

Program Base Bamako

Language Study French, Bambara

Homestay Bamako, 6 weeks

Rural Visit/Homestay Sanankoroba, 1 week

Other Accommodations Hostels, small hotels, or additional stays with homestay families

Independent Study Project 4 weeks

Prerequisites Three recent semesters of college-level French or equivalent and the ability to follow coursework in French, as assessed by SIT.

of labor in Ségou's kitchen gardens; nutrition and health choices in Bamako's marketplace; training midwives for rural delivery support; Islam and health in Bamako's Islamic center.