**PUBLIC HEALTH MANAGEMENT IN THAILAND**

**Course Number: PUBH 3001 THPH**

**Language of Instruction:** English

**Course Meeting times:** Various

**Course Director:** Professor Supannee Promthet, Ph.D.

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**Office Hours:** TBA, or by appointment

**Contact Hours:** 60 classroom hours and 45 field hours

(at 3:1 ratio for field hours)

**Recommended Credit:** 4 semester/6 quarter hours

**Course Description**

This course takes a multi-disciplinary approach to examining theory and conceptual frameworks in public health, epidemiology, and healthcare administration. Public health foundational concepts are front-loaded to emphasize epidemiology, social determinants of health, burden of disease, and health promotion and are revisited throughout the duration of the course. Global trends of health and disease are explored by focusing on tropical and infectious diseases, HIV/AIDS, non-communicable diseases, women’s health, environmental health and nutrition. Control strategies for newly emerging health problems are also highlighted, and public health management of these issues are explored in depth.

Concepts related to healthcare system delivery are also covered with the Thai healthcare system as the main case study. More specifically, this course addresses development of health care systems, current problems of health care delivery systems, critical assessment of health care system reform (with regards to equity, quality, efficiency and social accountability), decentralization in health care, quality improvement, and quality assurance.

Classroom concepts are reinforced with six site visits to various healthcare facilities and public health initiatives. Students examine a number of case studies, with a primary focus on Thailand, and will compare Thailand’s public health situation with that of other Southeast Asian countries and the US system. This comparison is examined in significant depth during a one-week study trip to another Southeast Asian country to explore its public health and health care delivery system.

**Learning Objectives:**

Throughout the course, and by the end, students will be able to:

* Understand and apply foundational concepts of public health.
  + Develop the capacity to identify culturally specific social determinants, epidemiological trends, and biological relationships related to health and illness.
  + Identify and understand different burdens of disease on individual and population health (including HIV/AIDS, infectious and tropical diseases, and non-communicable diseases).
  + Understand the practical application of these concepts in the public health system during site visits and the study trip.
* Critically discuss and compare Southeast Asian and Thai trends of health and diseases: epidemics in transition, tropical diseases, chronic diseases & newly emerging diseases.
* Explore and evaluate current public health initiatives occurring in Thailand.
* Discuss the Thai public health/healthcare system at all levels.
* Analyze ongoing Thai health care system reform efforts.
* Comparatively assess successes and challenges of public health and health care system management in Thailand, the US, and other Southeast Asian countries.

**Course content:**

* Global, US, ASEAN, and Thai health trends
* Public health foundational concepts, epidemiology, and social determinants of health
* Health systems development and systems thinking
* Comparative health systems

**Course prerequisites:**  None

**Course requirements:** Course requirements involve four aspects: readings, written work, group presentations, and participation.

**Method of instruction:** The didactic elements of the course consist of classroom lectures by Khon Kaen University (KKU) faculty, trips to local health care facilities and public health initiatives, a study-trip to a Southeast Asian country, discussion sessions, and a writing workshop. Assignments include selected readings, participation, facilitation of activities during one unit, one interest paper, one final research paper, and two group presentations. In order to facilitate an interactive classroom, lectures will rely on readings, case studies, examples, and student participation in addition to instruction from lecturers.

**Assessment (Detailed grading rubrics are available for each assignment below):**

Interest Paper 15%

Group presentation about Thai healthcare system to Laos 15%

Group presentation about Laotian healthcare system to KKU 15%

Research Paper 30%

Unit Facilitation Grade 15%

Participation 10%

**Interest Papers:** You may choose any topic from the course content and elaborate on it in detail in a critical paper. This paper should be 2,000 – 3,000 words in length (excluding citations, of which you must include at least 10). You must list any key references that summarize the technical information that supports your writing. The paper should serve as a practical summary of key technical concepts being studied and follow APA formatting. This paper can either be a topic paper or a system paper.

**1. Public Health Topic Paper:**  You should examine a public health issue in Thailand. It should provide an overview of the scope of the problem [including concepts of epidemiology (global and national), social determinants of health, and burden of disease] and outline key components of any relevant intervention(s) or health policies that address the problem. Barriers, challenges, and progress related to this topic should be explored. Past examples include HIV/AIDS, cervical cancer & HPV vaccination, sanitation issues, liver fluke, pharmaceutical patenting.

**2. Public Health System Paper:** You should examine an aspect of the Thai healthcare system or the entire Thai system itself by describing strengths and weaknesses of the system. For example, topics may include the mental health system, Thai traditional medicine system, emergency medical services, hospital administration at any level, etc.

**Research paper:** The research paper should be 2,500-4,000 words long. It may be on any aspect of public health or the health care situation/system in Thailand. It may also be a comparison between Thailand’s healthcare system/situation and that of another country. The research paper should have a clear thesis or research question it is trying to answer. The paper will be graded on the following criteria: presentation of the argument/thesis, the coherence and development of the paper’s structure, the quality of the theoretical framework used, the quality and use of evidence, clarity in writing, and adherence to APA formatting.

**Grading** for the **Interest Papers and the Research Paper** will follow the criteria below:

-Introduction 10%

-Content 35%

-Conclusion 10%

-Focus and Sequencing 30%

-Citations 10%

-APA Style 5%

**Group Poster Session and Presentation about Thai Healthcare/PH System to Laos:** There are two poster sessions and associated presentations during this course. The first poster and presentation provide an analysis of the Thai healthcare system and ongoing public health initiatives and will be presented to students and faculty in Laos. Key features include- but are not limited- to: country background profile, healthcare system overview, structural setup, any successful country or local-level health care responses, challenges, interesting observations, and conclusions. Unit facilitators will assist the entire student group in the planning process of the poster session. Students will work as they chose to produce a minimum of 5 posters for the poster session, which will occur while in Laos. Prior to this session, all posters will be presented together at KKU as one long presentation. An appropriate introduction and conclusion should be included and the various topics are expected to combine to form a cohesive overall presentation. Each poster should be 36” by 48” with font size 36 for text and 66 for sub-headings. Posters should be submitted for printing in PDF format but presented as a PowerPoint

**Group Poster Session and Presentation about Laotian Healthcare/PH System to KKU:** This second poster session and presentation is a system analysis of the Laotian healthcare system based on information obtained during the study visit. This assignment will follow the above guidelines for the previous poster assignment and is presented to KKU faculty and other interested parties. Unit facilitators will assist the group as in the above description.

**Grading** for the two **Group Presentations** will follow the criteria below:

-Introduction 5%

-Content 40%

-Conclusion 5%

-Focus, sequencing, and speed 30%

-Question and Answer 10%

-Presentation Format 10%

**Grading** for the two **Group Posters** will follow the criteria below:

-Preparation 10%

-Title 5%

-Content 35%

-Spoken Presentation of the Poster 20%

-Presentation Format/Design 15%

-Question and Answer 15%  
**Unit Facilitation:** Students work in groups of 2 or 3 to plan and facilitate all educational activities that occur during their assigned unit. These activities include lectures, site visits, discussion sessions, briefings, debriefings, and other scheduled activities. The broad goal of the student facilitators are to plan and direct activities in order to meet the student group’s educational goals and to help the student group to work smoothly together. The unit ends with a discussion session, which fosters fellow classmates’ understanding of the classroom content for that week. The broad goal of discussion sessions is to ensure that students are mastering the material from lectures and readings. The general form of the discussion session is to review what has been covered since the previous discussion session, provide supplemental information, fill in any gaps from the lectures, and/or provide more context to the content that students are learning in the classroom. Grading for facilitation activities is based on evaluation from the student group, fellow facilitators, CIEE staff, and KKU faculty.

**Participation:** There are two levels of expected participation: individual and group. You are expected to be on time and dressed appropriately when attending regularly scheduled sessions, complete required readings before each class session, and engage in and out of class discussion. Additionally, you are expected to act respectfully and culturally-appropriately at all times. Computers may be used during lectures, but under no circumstances may they be used for emailing, checking Facebook, or general web surfing. In past semesters, considerable points were deducted from the participation grade for misuse of KKU wifi. You will also meet as a group outside of class to complete group work as needed.

**PHMT Schedule of Lectures and Site Visits**

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|  | **No.** | **Spring 14 Lectures and Site Visits** | **Date & Time** |
| **Unit 1: Basis of Thai Health Care System (19 Jan- 2 Feb)** | | | |
|  | 1 | Overview of Thai Healthcare System / Syllabus Review | 19 Jan. 6-8PM |
|  | 2 | US Health Care System | 28 Jan. 2-5PM |
|  | 3 | Development and Overview of Thai Healthcare System and Financing Insurance Schemes | 30 Jan. 10-12 |
|  | **SV1** | **--Health Promoting Hospital with VHV Exchange**  **--District Hospital** | 31 Jan.  8AM-4PM |
|  | DS1 | Discussion Session 1 | 3 Feb 9-12 |
| **Unit 2: Introduction to Field of Public Health (3 Feb-10 Feb)** | | | |
|  | 4 | Intro & History of Public Health and Epidemiology | 4 Feb. 9-12 |
|  | 5 | Basic Concepts of Epidemiology & Social Determinants of Health | 5 Feb. 1-4PM |
|  | **SV2** | **Khon Kaen Regional Hospital** | 6 Feb. 1-4PM |
|  | 6 | Intro to Health Promotion in Thailand | 7 Feb. 9:30-11:30AM |
|  | DS2 | Discussion Session 2 | 10 Feb 9-12 |
| **Unit 3: Communicable Disease in Thailand (10 Feb- 17 Feb)** | | | |
|  | 7 | Overview of Communicable Diseases in Thailand | 11 Feb. 9-11 AM |
|  | 8 | Liver Fluke at Tropical Disease Research Lab | 11 Feb 12-3:15 |
|  | 9 | HIV/AIDS in Thailand (TNP+) | 12 Feb. 9-12 |
|  | 10 | Sex Work in Thailand | 13 Feb.10:30-12 |
|  | **SV3** | **Sex Worker Interview** | 13 Feb. 7pm |
|  | DS3 | Discussion Session 3 | 17 Feb 9-12 |
| **Unit 4: Non-Communicable Diseases in Thailand (17 Feb. – 24 Feb.)** | | | |
|  | 11 | Non-Communicable Diseases & the Epidemiological Transition | 18 Feb. 9-12 |
|  | 12 | Nutrition Trends in Thailand | 19 Feb. 9-11AM |
|  | **SV4** | **Srinagarind Hospital** | 20 Feb. 9-4PM |
|  | 13 | Environmental Health Issues in Thailand | 21 Feb. 9-11AM |
|  | DS4 | Discussion Session 4 | 24 Feb 9-12 |
| **Unit 5: Special Focus (17 Feb. – 24 Feb.)** | | | |
|  | 14 | Mental Health in Thailand | 21 Feb.  1:30-3:30PM |
|  | **SV5** | Psychiatric Hospital | 25 Feb. 8-12 |
|  | 15 | Women’s Health in Thailand | 25 Feb. 1-3PM |
|  | **SV6** | **Wat Pho (Thai Traditional Medicine)** | 26 Feb 3PM 🡪 27 Feb 1:30PM |
|  | DS5 | Discussion Session 5 | 28 Feb 1-4PM |
| **Unit 6: Laos Unit (1 March – 10 March)** | | | |
|  | 16 | Thailand HCS Presentation Run-Through/ PH & Healthcare in Laos 101 | 28 Feb. 9-12 |
|  | 17  DS6 | **Laos Study Trip**  Intro to PH and HCS in Laos (TBA)  Thai HCS Student Presentations  Discussion Session 6 | **1 March🡪 7 March**  3 March 9-11AM  7 March 9-12 |
| **Unit 7: Comparative Health Care Systems Critique (10 March- 17 March)** | | | |
|  | 18 | Measuring the Quality of Healthcare Systems and PH Interventions/ Current Problems with Health Care Systems | 11 March 9-12 |
|  | **SV6** | **Helen Caldwell (Interview with Nutritionist from Srinagarind)** | 12 March 9-11AM |
|  | 19 | Southeast Asian Health Care Systems/US Health Care System | 13 March 9-12 |
|  | 20 | Laos Student Presentations | 13 March  1-2:30PM |
|  | DS7 | Discussion Session 7 | 14 March 9-12 |
|  | 21 | Course Sum Up | 14 March 1-2pm |