



HSPH 300 Public Health
Dr. Hemant Apte
Spring 2009 Syllabus

Course Description:

This course will discuss the health needs and aspirations of communities and the interactions between different health systems, both traditional and Western. At the conceptual level, health will be discussed not only as a bio-medical but also as a bio-psycho-socio-cultural phenomenon as it relates to Indian society.

The course will include field observations and interactions with government sponsored programs and NGOs that work on community health issues. The impact of public health issues such as gender inequality, medical education, pharmaceutical industry initiatives, and the WHO Primary Health Care approach for community development will be evaluated.

After an overview of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Naturopathy, and Yoga, students will focus on either a traditional practice or the application of modern public health initiatives in rural India.

The readings and discussions will probe historical and current holistic concepts of body and physiology encompassing mind and intellect, senses and soul, nutrition and diet, and cultural life styles. Students will perform in-depth fieldwork and will contribute their field experiences to classroom discussions. Grading will be based on assignments, classroom participation, fieldwork, a classroom presentation, a research proposal, and a detailed journal of field activities and observations.

Learning Outcomes and/or Expected Student Competencies:

The course objectives are:

- to understand traditional and contemporary Indian society through health perspectives.
- to understand how the traditional medical therapies such as Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Naturopathy and Yoga are conceptualized and are practiced as plural systems of medicine in India.
- to understand that at the conceptual level, Health as not only a bio medical phenomena but also as bio-psycho-socio-cultural phenomena. The traditional culture of health, disease and treatment hinder successful implementation of health programs based on modern biology and modern medicine.
- to understand the government programs on community health and disease control and overall development.

- to understand approaches and contribution of voluntary organizations working in health and community development.

Course Requirements / Evaluation:

The lectures would be both informative and analytical. There would be a lot of scope for discussion. The lectures would flow along the lines that discussion takes place in the classroom on the topic under consideration. The number of lectures specified for each section may change depending on the discussions in the classroom.

The evaluation would be done as follows:

A.	Term Paper	30%
B.	Journal	20%
C.	Field work and field work notes	10%
D.	Four short essays to be presented every Thursday	30%
E.	Class attendance and discussion	5%
F.	Presentations in the last week	5%

Attendance requirements

Class attendance is mandatory. As this is an intensive program, it is essential that students participate fully in coursework and all required academic activities. Excused absences may only be approved by the Resident Director, and students are expected to make up any missed work. Students may not make up for unexcused absences, and will be given a grade of zero for any missed work.

Reading material:

- Chauhan, D., N.H. Antia and S. Kamdar. Health Care in India: A Profile, The Foundation for Research in Community Health, 1997.
- Das Gupta, Monica, Lincoln C. Chen, and T. N. Krishnan (eds). Health, Poverty and Development in India - Oxford University Press: 1996.
- Nichter, Mark and Mimi Nichter. Anthropology and International Health: Asian Case Studies. Gordon and Breach Publishers, 1996.
- Basham, A L. The Wonder that was India. New Delhi: Rupa & Co. Publications, 1999 (34th edition Chapter V).
- Dube S.C. Indian Society. New Delhi, National Book Trust, 1990 (Chapter V).
- Antia, N.H and Kavita Bhatia. People's Health in People's Hands: A Model for Panchayatiraj, Inidan Journal of Social Work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, 1995.
- Pachauri, Saroj. Reaching India's Poor: Non-Governmental Approaches to Community Health. Sage Publications, 1994.
- Helman, Cecil. Culture, Health and Illness Anubhav Series published by VHAI; Park and Park, Cecil G Helman Butterworth Heinemann, 4th edition.

Course Syllabus:

Unit ONE: Holistic concepts of Health:

Concept of body and physiology, mind, intellect, senses and soul. Concept of individual constitution and its effect on health and disease. Culture and its impact on mental health. Basic structure as a function of Indian society and its impact on day to day living and health. Rural and urban health issues.

Theory lecture and discussion on observations / readings

Total 3 sessions

Unit TWO: Traditional System of Medicines in India:

Basic concepts in Ayurved and Yoga. Introduction to other systems of medicines. Institutionalization and professionalization of plural systems of medicine.

Discourse on Ayurved by Guest Speaker

Total 2 Sessions

Unit THREE: Gandhi's Constructive program and its use in current development programs:

Gandhi's contribution on 'Sanitation, Health and Nutrition, Women's issues, and other developmental issues'. Gandhi's work on leprosy, Programmatic implications of Gandhi's ideas as reflected in Indian constitution and governance.

Lecture followed by class discussion

Total 3 sessions

Unit FOUR: Primary Health care and Health care delivery system:

WHO Primary Health Care approach and community development perspectives. Government's initiative with special reference to control and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases. National Health Policy, evolution, current goals and achievements. Health care delivery systems in India. Structure and function of Primary Health Care Centre, CHC and District hospitals.

Theory lecture and discussion

Total 4 sessions

Unit FIVE: Prominent issues in health and development:

Population ageing, population control, gender issues and reproductive health, adolescent health and HIV/AIDS, emerging diseases and other health issues in India and the strategies to address them.

National Rural Health Mission and Field Visit

Total 5 sessions

Unit SIX: Approaches to health and development:

Voluntary sector in health and overall community development, case studies of NGOs working in the field of health and community development.

Case study, field visit and discussion with concerned NGOs

Total 3 sessions

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