

**Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Global Health and Disease:  
Southeast Asia**

Population Health Sciences 644, section 040

Spring 2011, Illustrative Syllabus

Day, time and location TBD

**Course Description:**

This 2-credit semester course introduces students to health and disease in Thailand. Covering topics related to infectious disease and public health, the course takes an interdisciplinary approach, bringing in perspectives from medicine, veterinary medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health and the social sciences. The course provides an overview of Thai culture, presents basic health data, and describes the Thai health system. It also addresses both prevention and management of specific acute and chronic disease states. Faculty-led discussions related to community-based, participatory assessment, intervention and evaluation provide guidance for students in developing basic instruments and strategies to learn about the health of communities. Students will work individually and in small, interdisciplinary groups to explore health topics relevant to urban and rural communities in Thailand and develop tools to learn from community members about community strengths and needs.

The course will meet weekly for 2 hours. Each lecture will be approximately 50 minutes in length with 10 minutes for questions/conversation pertaining to the lecture. Remaining time will be used for faculty-led discussions regarding community-based, participatory assessment and time for students to work on group projects.

**Course Faculty:**

Karen Solheim, RN, PhD, School of Nursing, [kdsolheim@wisc.edu](mailto:kdsolheim@wisc.edu) 263-5176

Connie Kraus, PharmD, School of Pharmacy, [ckkraus@pharmacy.wisc.edu](mailto:ckkraus@pharmacy.wisc.edu) 262-8620

James Conway, MD, Pediatrics - Division of Pediatric Infectious Disease, UW School of Medicine & Public Health, [jhconway@wisc.edu](mailto:jhconway@wisc.edu) 263-9941

Lori Diprete Brown, MSPH, Assistant Director, University of Wisconsin Center for Global Health, [dipretebrown@wisc.edu](mailto:dipretebrown@wisc.edu) 262-4801

Robert Bickner, PhD, Professor, L&S Language and Cultures of Asia [rbickner@wisc.edu](mailto:rbickner@wisc.edu) 262-3915

**Student Assistant:** Bethany Hanke BSN, RN, [bjhanke@wisc.edu](mailto:bjhanke@wisc.edu)

## Course Objectives:

By the end of the course student will:

- Understand the **determinants of health and disease** in Thailand and how environmental, cultural, economic, and social factors influence these issues.
- Describe **infectious diseases** commonly found in Thailand and explain the etiology, epidemiology, clinical presentation in humans and animals, public health implications, and prevention and treatment strategies.
- Explore **public health approaches in Thailand** for maintaining health and preventing and treating illness in community settings, including surveillance, diagnostic activities, and interventions that address priority problems such as avian flu, HIV/AIDS and other acute and chronic emerging issues.
- Appreciate the interdisciplinary nature of public health by developing an understanding of the knowledge and values of various health professions involved with public health and by learning about skills needed for successful group work (communication, negotiation, respect for group dynamics, and conflict resolution).
- Apply information learned about methods used in community-based participatory research to design a basic tool to use in working with members of the **community** to discover strengths and needs regarding a core health concern

## Grading and Assignments:

Course grades will be based on the following assignments:

- 1) Take-home Essay (25%)  
Each student will identify a current health problem in **urban** Thailand. You should select an issue different from the one being addressed in your group project. You will need to use the skills learned from the session taught by the Ebling librarian to research the literature in order to:
  - a. Describe the health problem and its impact on the health of Thai people and, by comparison, its impact on health of United States citizens.
  - b. Describe the upstream health determinants that may contribute to this problem in both countries.
  - c. Describe interventions that are being used to improve the health problem both in Thailand and the United States, highlighting the roles of health professionals from multiple disciplines.

This essay is due no later than the beginning of class on **March 11, 2010**. Essays should be 3-5 pages, single-spaced, 12 point font in Times New Roman. Please include literature references at the end of the paper. All essays must be turned in by due date. **No credit will be awarded for late submissions.**

- 2) Take-Home Quiz (25%)  
Quiz questions will reflect a basic understanding of core concepts taught in lectures as well as general information gathered from readings. The quiz will be distributed in class on **April 22, 2010** and must be returned by the beginning of class on **May 1, 2010**. Each student is expected to complete the take-home quiz independently. It is responsibility of the student to obtain and return the quiz at the appropriate times. **No credit will be awarded for late submissions.**
- 3) Class attendance and participation (20%)  
It is expected that students will regularly attend class and actively participate. Several discussion sessions have been set aside for students to work on group projects.
- 4) Group Project Presentations (30%)  
Students will be assigned to an interdisciplinary working group. Each group will focus on an issue related to health in **rural** Thailand.
  1. Description of a health problem in Thailand in terms of incidence/prevalence, and populations affected, as well as cultural and socio-economic factors.
  2. A review of interventions/best practices that are being implemented in Thailand or other countries to address the problem.
  3. A plan for an intervention to address the problem in Thailand that describes the intervention and discusses strategies for introducing the intervention, monitoring implementation, and evaluating outcomes.
  4. Each group should describe the disciplinary expertise required for successful implementation of their plan and how their understanding of Thai economic, environmental, social, and cultural factors influenced the construction of the plan.
  5. Each group will design a tool and strategy for dialoging with members of the community.

Each group will prepare a PowerPoint presentation and will be given 30 minutes for the presentation and discussion (e.g. 20 minute presentation and 10 minutes for Q/A). Each group should submit a copy of the PowerPoint presentation, literature references and a copy of the tool used for collecting information from the community to the course instructor. Course grade will include group and individual components. Teams are asked to identify the individual contributions of team members in their presentations.

**There is no final examination in this course. The grading scale for the course will be: 90-100 A, 85-89 AB, 80-84 B, 74-79 BC, 69-73 C, 64-68 D, 63 or below F.**

**Course Lecture Schedule (5:30-6:30pm):**

**Unit I: Public Health Approaches**

**January 21:** Course Overview, Perspectives on Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Glimpses of Thailand  
Course faculty

**January 28:** Global Health Information Resources—Ebling Library  
Erika Severson, MS, and Health Science Librarian Health  
(**Note: Please meet in room 2121 HSLC for this session**)

**February 4:** The Thai Healthcare System/State of Health in Thailand  
Jo Nord, M.D.

**Unit II: Determinants of Health and Disease**

**February 11:** Historical Context for Health and Disease in Thailand  
James Conway, M.D.

**February 18:** Thai Culture: Implications for Health Interventions and International Collaboration  
Robert Bickner, PhD

**February 25:** Health Issues in Immigrant and Refugee Populations  
Karen Solheim, RN, PhD

**Unit III: Infectious Disease**

**March 4:** Malaria  
William Weidanz, PhD

**March 11:** Vaccine Preventable Infections (Including Tuberculosis and Hepatitis B)  
James Conway, MD

**March 18:** Waterborne and Fecal/Oral Infections  
George Mejicano, MD MS

**March 25:** The Role of Animals in Human Health and Disease  
Christopher Olsen, DVM, PhD

**April 1:** **Spring Break (no class)**

- April 8:** Arbovirus Infections--Dengue Fever, Japanese Encephalitis  
Tom Yuill, PhD
- April 15:** Influenza  
Christopher Olsen, DVM, PhD
- April 22:** Prevention of Sexually-Transmitted Infections (including HIV)
- April 29/May 6:** Student presentations

**Course Discussion Schedule (6:30-7:30pm)**

- January 21:** Introduction to Public Health  
Lori Diprete Brown, MSPH
- January 28:** Determinants of Health and Disease: Public Health in the Tropics  
Connie Kraus, PharmD  
Channin Charoenkul, PhD (Mahidol University)
- February 4:** Statistics and the Thai Health/Public Health System  
Student-led presentation
- February 11:** Traditional Therapies and Herbal Pharmaceuticals in Thailand  
Connie Kraus, PharmD; Dr. Siripan, Chulalongkorn University  
Faculty of Pharmacy
- February 18:** Cultural Humility  
Alyson Williams, Morgridge Center fellow
- February 25:** Chronic Disease  
Karen Solheim RN, PhD
- Unit IV: Community Assessment and Intervention**
- March 4:** Ways of Learning from/with Communities  
Lori DiPrete Brown, MSPH
- March 11:** Ways of Learning from/with Communities  
Lori DiPrete Brown, MSPH
- March 18:** Community-based Participatory Research Model in Rural Wisconsin  
Alexandra Adams, MD, PhD
- March 25:** Student planning session

- April 1:**                   **Spring break (no class)**
- April 8:**                   Select Zoonotic Infections (Rabies, Leptosporosis, etc.)  
Tom Yuill, PhD
- April 15:**                  Student planning session
- April 22:**                  Student planning session
- April 29**                    Student Presentations
- May 6:**                    Student Presentations; Language session, Robert Bickner, PhD