INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Anabelle Alfaro  
CREDITS: 4

COURSE DESCRIPTION  
The Health System in Costa Rica is considered one of the pillars of Costa Rica's democracy and has impacted the human development indices achieved by the country. This course will allow students to get to know its historical development and current situation. It also explores the major challenges faced by the system, as there are changes in the epidemiological profile of the population, access of various sectors of the population to health care, and economic sustainability.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
- Learn the historical development, current status and challenges of the Costa Rican health system.
- Participate in the assigned study topics.
- Know the epidemiological profiles and the principal emerging diseases of Costa Rica.
- Carry out an internship related to health in a rural area.
- Perform a literature review of a health issue of Costa Rica.
- Compare and contrast the health model of Costa Rica with the United States.

REQUIRED TEXTS  
Anthology of Required Readings

COURSE CONTENT
- Historical development of social medicine in Costa Rica
- Great doctors who have contributed in the field of medicine in Costa Rica
- National Health System in Costa Rica objectives and structure
- Current status of Costa Rica health and epidemiological profile of the population
- Organizational services for patient care, according to levels of care or service networks of the Social System of Costa Rica
- Emerging diseases in Costa Rica: current situation, monitoring and management
- Financing of the health system in Costa Rica
- The role of the National Institute of Insurance in the Health Sector
- Epidemiological profile of chronic diseases in Costa Rica
- Comparison between the health system of the United States and Costa Rica
ASSESSMENT
The students will be assessed through the following activities:
• Presentation on doctors who have contributed in the field of health 10 pts.
• Report on the lessons learned during the rural volunteer internship 20 pts.
• Opinion article on what is observed in the tours and the review of the literature 20 pts.
• Oral presentation of a news article on health published in the newspaper 15 pts.
• Literature review on a topic of health 25 pts.
• Participation in the classes 10 pts.

ACM POLICY ON ACADEMICS
A complete listing of ACM policies can be found in your student handbook.

Class attendance and participation: You are expected to attend and participate fully in all classroom sessions, site visits, and field trips.

Academic honesty: Actions of dishonesty are destructive to the well-being of the academic community, and ACM staff respond to them vigorously. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic theft will result in a failing grade for that assignment and may result in failure for the course.

ACM POLICY ON NON-DISCRIMINATION
The Associated Colleges of the Midwest does not discriminate in the operation of its educational programs, activities, or employment on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, marital status, or disability.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT
Laptops, tablets and mobile phones are strictly forbidden during class time.