INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Hemant Apte

CREDITS: 4 semester credits

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Public Health has become visible as an important field all across the world due to constantly changing physical, social and cultural milieu that poses newer challenges. This course is meant to gain an understanding of the public health scenario in India in the changing physical and socio-cultural environment. Through the various modules of the course, the students will learn about the evolution and current status of public health in India. Due to the plurality of medical systems in India the course would have inputs about various systems of medicine and its integration in the mainstream health care delivery system in the country.

There are several policies and programs related to health that are formulated and implemented by the Government of India. The students will learn about them and would be in a position to gain an understanding about the problems of implementation and its impact of health of the citizens.

Some diseases are resurfacing in India and some new health issues are coming to the fore. The course would cover these issues through discussions with experts in the field. It would also make them think about the situation in their own culture and compare the same with its position in India.

Through discussions and interactions with people from different classes, the students would get first-hand information on their levels of knowledge, attitudes and practices about health behavior of the people. The course would give them a background about the social determinants of health that influence people’s health seeking behavior.

With a background of the omnipresent change in physical and socio-cultural environment, the course is expected to give the students an in-depth understanding of the current situation and importance of public health in India.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
• To understand the meaning and importance of Public Health in India in present times.
• To understand primary health care approach and health care delivery systems in India.
• To understand health problems in urban and rural areas in India.
• To understand current health issues in the changing environment.
• To understand health traditions in India.

COURSE CONTENT
Module 1 – Introduction to Public Health (3 sessions)
  1. What is Public Health?
  2. Health Care Delivery System in India
  3. National Rural Health Mission

Module 2 – Current Issues in Public Health (5 sessions)
  4. Abortions
  5. Tuberculosis
  6. Communicable & Non-Communicable Diseases
  7. Leprosy
  8. Mosquito Bourne Illnesses

Module 3 – Special Groups (3 sessions)
  9. Maternal Mortality
  10. Children’s Health
  11. Geriatric Health

Module 4 – Sexual Health (3 sessions)
  13. Prostitution in India
  14. Sexually Transmitted Infections including HIV

Module 5 – Diversity in Health Issues (3 sessions)
  15. Urban Health
  16. Rural Health
  17. Tribal Health

Module 6 – Other Important issues in Understanding Public Health (3 sessions)
  18. Ayurveda
  19. Suicides in India
  20. Cancers

(There will be one field visit during the course.)

REQUIRED READING
A course book will be given to each student. Additional readings would be suggested from time to time.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS/ASSESSMENT
All sessions would be interactive in nature and would encourage discussions on comparisons between the United States and India pertaining to the issue under discussion. The number of sessions might change depending on local situation.

Evaluation would be done in the following manner:
  1. A total of five assignments based on the contents of the syllabus. Submission dates would be announced at the beginning of the programme.

Assignments for the course
  1. What, as your experience in India, could be health hazards for American students coming to Pune under study abroad programs?
2. Talk to 10 persons (5 male and 5 females) about their views on effectiveness of traditional medical systems in India and modern medicine.

3. Compare and contrast the status of women's health in India and the United States with reference to knowledge and attitudes about health as well as availability, accessibility, affordability and acceptability.

4. Write a note on commonalities and differences in the reasons for suicides in the United States and in India.

5. Choose any topic (preferably beyond issues included in the syllabus) and prepare a Power Point presentation of 7 minutes with three minutes of discussion.

**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.