SYLLABUS

Pro Health in Belize: An International Health Care Experience
Study Abroad 2010

HON 4280 – 3 cr.  with optional HON 3000 0 cr. (Honors Service Learning)
HON 4990 – 1 cr.  Participation in February 25 group meeting and March 12 – 21
travel only

Term:  Winter 2009
Location:  2100 UGL
Day and Time:  Group Meetings: Selected Thursdays
              5 – 8 pm (twice per month: 6 meetings minimum)
Instructor:  Liza Lagman Sperl, M.A.
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            Office hours TBA

Prerequisites:  minimum Sophomore standing and 3.30 GPA preferred; however, all
               students will be considered.  Students from all majors/disciplines are
               encouraged.

Course Objectives

At the completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Describe the health care issues and programs of Belize.
2. Develop and utilize critical thinking and inquiry skills while exploring topics related to
   health care.
3. Develop ability to reflect critically on classroom and outside experiences.
4. Describe and discuss the impact of diversity in the delivery of health care services,
   especially in developing countries such as Belize.
5. Identify, discuss and evaluate how health care services impact the role of the health
   care practitioner.

Required Texts

Schedule of Major Dates

January 14  Group meeting: course overview; introductions and ice-breakers; overview of first paper assignment about health issues in Belize.

January 28  Group meeting: Brief student presentations of the *single most important insight* gleaned from researching health issues in Belize.
  - Introduction of the journal assignment and its purposes

February 11  Group meeting: Form groups, selecting topics for final projects

February 25  Group meeting: Preparations for the trip
  - Conference call with Pro World site director
  - Applied clinical experience (taking histories and vital signs)

March 12-21  Travel to Belize
  Group or individual field projects as defined by ProWorld
  See Assignments below

April 1  ProHealth Belize Journals due by 5:00 pm;
  Group meeting: discussion of journals and evaluative feedback on ways of improving the ProHealth Belize experience.

April 15  Group meeting: presentation and discussion of student analyses of Belize healthcare challenges, based on final projects.
  - Student groups’ presentations of final projects.
  - Discussion

Additional meetings may be convened by groups to work on their projects as necessary.

Assignments

Paper: “A Sketch of Belize and its Health Care Issues”
This paper should provide a *brief* portrait of the history, politics, culture and significant social issues facing the country of Belize. The *majority* of the paper should, however, describe the *major* challenges facing Belize with regards to public health and its health delivery system.

Format: 8-10 pages, typed, double-spaced; any conventional form of reference citation may be utilized. Utilize 3 – 4 sources and include an annotated bibliography explaining why you selected this particular source and the author's credentials. You may not use a website as a primary source. Paper is due before class February 25.

Papers will be evaluated on the following criteria:
  - Clear theme(s) and organizational structure
  - Clarity of writing and proper use of grammar and syntax
  - Strength of argument and sources provided in support of same
  - Creativity and originality in addressing theme of the paper
  - Comprehensiveness and sophistication of references used
• The first section should clearly introduce the author’s main theme(s)
• Students are asked to employ subsections headings within the text to aid in organizing the paper
• Comprehensive citations of others' work must be properly noted (no plagiarism)

Journal: Individual journals may either use an 8.5x11 spiral notebook or weblog (comments must be enabled) to articulate the student’s objectives for the trip before departing for Belize and record major experiences and observations while in Belize. The journal will provide a vehicle for reflecting on important personal insights and learning experiences associated with the trip. Due April 1.

Journals will be evaluated on the following criteria:
• Insight into self and experience
• Demonstration of personal growth
• Evidence of entries reflecting day-by-day insights
• Progress in achieving learning objectives
• Creativity and originality
• Evidence of having read Mountains Beyond Mountains confirming that the book solidified a sense of commitment to healthcare

Study Abroad Experience
The typical field project day will be spent in a community or school working with a mobile clinic to, e.g., test community members for diabetes and other basic health issues, talking about treatment and health, and working with school children on nutrition, health and hygiene issues. Other details provided as they develop.

• Daily journal entries are required while students are in Belize.
• Students are expected to be present for all meals provided with housing; attendance and participation are part of the final grade.
• Though there will be time for recreation and some sight-seeing, the emphasis is on the STUDY in Study Abroad. Students are expected to remember that they are representatives of WSU and to conduct themselves accordingly.

Team Project – “An analysis of the healthcare challenges facing Belize”: The group will be divided into five, four-person teams. Each team will be assigned one of the following issue areas:

• Nutrition
• Infectious Diseases
• Infant mortality
• Healthy water and sanitation facilities
• Health facility infrastructure, finance, and insurance

This project should describe and analyze in-depth the assigned healthcare issue facing Belize. The project should do more than describe the problems. It should assess the scope and severity of the problem, diagnose the cultural-institutional origins of these problems and critique the strengths and shortcomings of the Belize health care system in responding to the issue. Each team will prepare a 15-minute multi-media presentation of the work for presentation to the class on April 15, and e-mail to the instructor in advance.
All teammates should participate in the development of the project and the oral presentation.

Team Projects will be evaluated on the following criteria:
- Clear theme(s) and organizational structure of presentation
- Clarity of slides
- Strength of argument(s) and sources provided in support of same
- Creativity and originality in addressing topic
- Insightfulness and depth of diagnosis and assessment
- Comprehensiveness and sophistication of references used and included in annotated bibliography.

Teams are encouraged to submit their final projects to the Digital Stories Film Festival. For more information, including registration and borrowing of digital equipment, please see http://www.langlab.wayne.edu/new-fltc/html-files/studyabroad.htm

Criteria for Final Grades

Final grades will be determined in the following way:

The numerical equivalent of letter grades will be assigned for each component and weighted as follows:
- Paper: 20%
- Team Project: 30%
- Journal: 30%
- Attendance/Participation: 20%

For each day late in turning in an assignment the student’s grade for that assignment will be reduced by one quality point. Attendance in all WSU classes is mandatory. Participation in all Belize projects is mandatory. Any missed classes or project days will result in the reduction of the attendance/participation component by one letter grade.

Academic Honesty

The principle of honesty is recognized as fundamental to a scholarly community. Students are expected to honor this principle and the instructors are expected to take appropriate action when instances of academic dishonesty are discovered. An instructor, on discovering such an instance, may give a failing grade on the assignment or for the course. The instructor has the responsibility of notifying the student of the alleged violation and the action being taken. Both the student and the instructor are entitled to academic due process in such cases.