CIEE Khon Kaen, Thailand

Course title: Public Health Management of Thailand
Course code: PUBH 3001 THPH
Programs offering course: Community Public Health
Language of instruction: English
U.S. semester credits: 4
Contact hours: 60
Term: Fall 2020

Course Description

This course takes a multi-disciplinary approach to examining health care services and public health priorities in Thailand and the Southeast Asian region in general. The Thai universal health coverage system is used as the main case study and compared with other Southeast Asian countries. The focus is on the development of, and current issues in, these health service systems with regards to equity, quality, efficiency, and social accountability criteria. Public health foundational concepts are front-loaded to emphasize social determinants of health, epidemiological disease burden profiles, disease prevention and health promotion and transition impacts of modernization and contemporary globalization on public health status. Southeast Asian region trends in health and disease are explored by via topics such as tropical and infectious diseases, HIV/AIDS, non-communicable diseases, women's health, environmental health, and nutrition. Classroom concepts are reinforced with site visits to local health service facilities, public health initiatives, and community locations where public health principles are applied. Thailand’s health services and public health priorities will be compared with those in a neighboring southeast Asian country via a one week international study trip to Vientiane, Lao PDR in late September.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Understand and apply foundational concepts of public health
- Identify culturally specific social determinants, epidemiological trends, and biological relationships related to health and illness
• Identify burdens of diseases on individual and population health (including HIV/AIDS, infectious and tropical diseases, and non-communicable disease)
• Understand WHO Universal Health Care model and underlying principles.
• Critically compare Thai and S-E Asian health systems and health and disease trends.
• Incorporate these concepts into discussions during site visits and study trip

Course Prerequisites

None.

Methods of Instruction

The course consists of classroom lecture/discussion sessions led by Khon Kaen University (KKU) faculty; site visits to local healthcare facilities and public health initiatives, and locations where public health principles are applied, and a 1 week study-trip to a Vientiane, Lao PDR to visit a range of health service settings.

There will be several faculty-led discussion sessions scheduled throughout the course. The discussion sessions’ purpose to provide a participatory forum to dive deeper into material from the lectures, site visits and topics of special interest that arise from time to time. Interweaved throughout the discussion series will be reference to ASEAN region health services and public health issues.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. ASEAN Health Services "Briefing Report" 20%
2. International Field Trip Report 20%
3. Final Exam 30%
4. Review Term Paper 30%
   TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

ASEAN Health Services "Briefing Report"

Students will work in groups of two to produce a “health system briefing paper” on a selected ASEAN country, excluding Thailand and Lao PDR. (ASEAN is a bloc of 10 states in Southeast Asia, see http://www.asean.org/asean/asean-member-states). A
report template and details on content will be provided in the first lecture. An in-class presentation of the briefing paper will be required in Lecture 11, and a final write-up and the PowerPoint file will be submitted by email by 5pm on Friday, September 21.

Grading criteria

The briefing paper will be assessed on:

1. Description of country demographics, socio-economic, cultural, and political factors and how these factors may influence health status and service development: 30%
2. Overview of current health priorities/challenges: 30%
3. Overview and evaluative comment on health system: 30%
4. Referencing (APA style), format, grammar, spelling, style: 10%

International Field Trip Report

Students will work in groups of two to produce a report on their learning from the one week field trip to Vientiane Lao PDR. The report will include summary of the aims, mission, role and functions of the health facilities visited and evidence of background exploration of each organization (e.g., written documents, brochures, online websites, etc.). The report will include evaluative comment on Lao sites’ apparent relative strengths and weaknesses and comparative comment between similar Thai and Lao facilities. Fuller details and report template provided before field trip.

Grading criteria

The report will be assessed on:

1. Summary/outline of health sites visited: 40%
2. Evaluative comment on Lao sites visited: 25%
3. Comparative comment on Lao vs. Thai facilities: 25%
4. Referencing (APA style), format, grammar, spelling, style: 10%

Final Exam
The exam will be a closed-book exam that may use a variety of question types, including essay, short answer, multiple choice, or matching. Exam questions will be based on assigned readings, homework assignments, and lecture material.

Review Term Paper

Each student will write a paper that discusses and analyzes a relevant health topic in Thailand. The paper may take one of two forms:

1. a literature review paper, in which a claim or argument is proposed and justified through critical examination of evidence from recent research or best practice papers, or
2. an article that examines a topic through the perspective of a local individual.

The review paper should conclude its opening paragraph with a thesis statement. The body of the paper will support this statement using literature review and contextual discussion of statistics or other relevant evidence.

The personal perspective paper will involve exploring a topic through first-hand account, such as interviewing an individual about his/her experience while receiving health care at a government health care facility.

In either case, the paper should focus on a specific topic (e.g., peer education of male sex workers, rural community utilization of primary health care facilities), rather than a broad topic (e.g., HIV/AIDS or health insurance in Thailand). In other words, the paper should strive for depth, rather than breadth.

Assessment

- Students will email a draft title, paragraph describing their idea, and an outline of a plan to complete the research to instructor for feedback. Students can consult with instructor as they further develop their paper through the semester.
- The final paper will be due via email.

Grading criteria

The final review paper will be assessed on:
1. Opening statement/justification 25%
2. Body of paper: presentation/review/critique of literature, or, presentation/organization/analysis of interview material. 35%
3. Conclusion: Summary of pertinent issues, critical reflections and implications for future, research, practice, policy etc. 30%
4. Referencing (APA style), format, grammar, spelling, style, etc.: 10%

Requirements

- The final paper must be between 2000 and 4000 words, excluding references.
- The paper must reference at least 8 reliable sources.
- The paper must use APA format/style for text and referencing.
- All citations must reference the primary source (i.e., the original source of the data).
- The paper must use headings and subheadings to organize the paper.

Homework tasks

There are background readings for each session. Consider these as guides to assist your in-class participation. Bring to each class at least 3 discussion points from your readings to share with the class (questions, comments, request for clarification, etc.).

Particular readings to emphasize will be discussed as the course progresses.

Attendance

Attendance is required at all lectures, briefings, debriefings, and site visits, unless prior consent has been obtained from the instructor.

N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1
Class: 1.1 Academic Overview

Week 2
Class: 2.1 PHMT Lecture 1

Course Introduction & Thai Health System

Readings:

- History and evolution of western medicine in Thailand (Charuluxanananan 2007, 97-101)
- Shifting paradigm regarding illness and medical practices in Thai society (Wongchalee 2007, 429-433)

Class: 2.2 PHMT Lecture 2

Comparative Health Systems

Readings:

- Universal health coverage data portal (WHO, Universal health coverage data portal, 2016)

Week 3
Class: 3.1 PHMT Lecture 3

Health Systems in ASEAN

Readings:

- Health and health-care systems in southeast Asia: diversity and transitions (Chongsuvivat 2011, 429-437)
Health in Southeast Asia (Summerskill 2011, 355-356)
Health-financing reforms in Southeast Asia: challenges in achieving universal coverage (Tangcharoensathien 2011, 863-873)

Class:  3.2  PHMT Lecture 4  
Diabetes in Thailand

Readings:

• Diabetes management in Thailand: a literature review of the burden, costs and outcomes (Deerochanawong, 2013)
• Urban and rural variation in clustering of metabolic syndrome components in the Thai population: results from the fourth National Health Examination Survey 2009 (Aekplakorn W, 2011)

Class:  3.3  PHMT Site Visit 1  
Primary Care: Khon Kaen Hospital 7 Clinic

Week 4  
Class:  4.1  PHMT Lecture 5  
HIV/AIDS in Thailand

Reading:

• Thailand’s Response Progress report (UNAIDS, 2015)

Class:  4.2  PHMT Lecture 6  
Globalization and Public Health Impacts
Reading:

- The new Global Health (De Cock 2013, 1192-1197)
- Unhealthy Health Governance. Economic and Political Weekly, XLVIII, 20 (Duggal 2013, 29-32)
- The health impacts of globalization: a conceptual framework (Huynen 2005, 1-12)
- London Declaration on Neglected Tropical Diseases (London Declaration on Neglected Tropical Diseases, 2012)

Class: 4.3 PHMT Lecture 7

Neglected Tropical Diseases: Liver Fluke Case Study

Readings:

- Toward integrated opisthorchiasis control in northeast Thailand: The Lawa project (Sripa B. T., 2015)
- The Lawa model: A sustainable, integrated opisthorchiasis control program using the EcoHealth approach in the Lawa Lake region of Thailand (Sripa, et al., 2016)
- Role of socio-cultural and economic factors in cyprinid fish distribution networks and consumption in Lawa Lake region, North-East Thailand: Novel perspectives on O. viverrini transmission dynamics (Sunyoung Kim, 2017)

Class: 4.4 PHMT Site Visit 2

Lawa Model: Community Integrated Infection Control

Week 5

Class: 5.1 PHMT Lecture 8

Community Health Development

Top and Plan Term Paper Submission: Discusses and analysis of a relevant health topic in Thailand
Readings:

• Societal Determinants of Health and Social Inequalities in Health. In Textbook of International Health: Global Health in a Dynamic World (Birn 2009, 309-364)
• Health for More: Health Disparity and Health Education (Cristobal 2016, 35-48)
• Principles of dental public health practice (Daly 2002, 1-45)
• Health and social inequalities: Issues of justice and fairness (Smith 2006, 1-4)

Class:  5.2  PHMT Lecture 9

Sexuality and adolescence in Thailand

Class:  5.3  PHMT Site Visit 3

Khon Kaen Hospital & KK2

Reading:

• Shifting paradigm regarding illness and medical practices in Thai society (Wongchalee 2007, 429-433)

Week 6
Class:  6.1  PHMT Lecture 10

Community Nutrition and Public Health

Class:  6.2  PHMT Lecture 11

Student Presentations: ASEAN

Report submission: Health system on a selected ASEAN country

Class:  6.3  PHMT Site Visit 4
Nam Phong District Hospital

Week 7
Class: 7.1 PHMT Lecture 12

Environment and Lifestyle Transitions and Community Health

Readings:

- Behind the smile: Voices of Thailand (Ekachai 1996, 17-80)
- Health and development: knowledge systems and local practice in rural Thailand (Lyttleton 1996, 25-48)
- 9,999,999 Trees: A comprehensive approach to sustainable rural development (Thamrongwaranggoon 2017, 63-76)

Class: 7.2 PHMT Lecture 13

One Health/Eco Health and Public Health

Readings:

(Same as Lecture 12)

Class: 7.3 PHMT Site Visit 5

Nam Phong National Park and Farming Community

Week 8
Class: 8.1 PHMT Lecture 14

Lao PDR Prep

Week 9
Class: International Field Trip

Week 10
Class: 10.1 PHMT Assignment Check-in
Report submission: International Field Trip

Week 11
Class: 11.1 PHMT Lecture 15

Final Exam

Course Materials

Readings

Readings are an important component of this course. The amount of material listed below is substantial; therefore, it is important to make it a routine to read for the course. All assigned readings should be completed BEFORE the lecture. Readings will be made available via Google Drive and Google Classroom.

A collaborative network of health researchers, practitioners, and organizations for inclusive health development in Asia. Has information on conferences, scholarships, research projects, funding agencies etc. (n.d.). Retrieved from Health Space Asia: http://healthspace.asia/


People’s Health Movement: A network of health activists, civil society organizations and academic institutions building capacity to address global health issues. (n.d.). Retrieved from http://www.phmovement.org/


