The Netherlands, as many other Western countries, is facing today's challenges of rising health care costs and an ageing population. In this course students will develop a better understanding of the Dutch approach to norms and standards in today's public health and health care system. The course will touch upon culturally sensitive issues such as euthanasia, public insurance, and home birth, as well as global issues such as elderly care and children's health. Through a series of thematic lectures, including guest lectures from professionals in the field, and guided site visits, students will be able to place these challenges in the specific context of the Netherlands, while also critically analyzing and comparing both the health care challenges and outcomes to those of other countries (chiefly, the United States and neighboring European countries).

By completing this course, students will:

- Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the current structure and the historical evolution of the Dutch health care system and its principal stakeholders;
- Outline and critically assess the differing public policy approaches on health care policy that characterize both the Dutch health care system and its analogues in the United States and select European countries;
- Formulate informed and policy-based evaluations of the Dutch approach to specific health care concerns (ranging from euthanasia and abortion to women's and children's health and obesity);
- Articulate clearly the principal challenges that face both the Dutch and American health care systems, both currently and in the future, and weigh the efficacy of proposed health care solutions.

The last lecture of the course will be a summary of all the themes discussed in order to help students understand how all of the topics are interrelated.

Your performance in this course will be graded in accordance with the CIEE course grading scale and rubric adopted for all CIEE courses, both of which are posted in Canvas.

Assessment and Final Grade

- Presentation 20%
- Paper 1 20%
- Paper 2 20%
4. Final Exam 30%
5. Participation 10%
TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Presentation

The course encourages students to do presentations through the eyes of the discipline in which they are majoring. For example, if a student is discussing the theme of drugs: the sociology major could approach the issue by looking at the reasons that addicts as a social group resort to drug abuse. The psychology major could approach this by looking at the effects of drug abuse on the individual and the psychological effects.

Students must conduct a fifteen-minute presentation on a public health theme of their own choice and may use other audiovisual equipment such as a film if this a way the student is used to expressing himself/herself. Examples of topics that may be covered within the presentation are the effectiveness of the policies or the effect they have on the image of Amsterdam.

Paper 1

Paper 2

During the course students have to complete two papers about public health in general, in the context of the discipline students are majoring in. The papers must be 1,500 words in length and must contain a list of references of at least three scientific sources.

Final Exam

The final exam will test students’ cumulative understanding of the Dutch health care system by asking them to produce cogent and well-structured responses to four essay-length questions that together cover the principal subjects discussed in class.

Participation

Each student is required to attend all sessions of the course and to participate actively in class discussions and during guided site visits.

Students who make active connections to the concepts from the reading materials in class discussions, students who actively ask questions, and students who actively reflect on out-of-class experiences in class will receive extra points for participation. Participation points will be deducted when students do not participate in class or have not read the assigned reading materials before coming to class.

Since we will be discussing culturally sensitive issues in class, the classroom must be a safe space in which students are able to express their opinions openly. Discriminatory comments or language of any kind will not be tolerated.

Attendance

Each student is expected to attend all sessions of the course and to participate actively in class discussions. Attendance will be taken every class session by the course instructor. Absences will be penalized according to the CIEE Amsterdam attendance policy outlined below:

1 or 2 absences = complete 1,500 word make-up assignment
3 absences = 10 points deducted from the student’s final grade
4 absences = the student fails the course (F is listed on the transcript)

- If you arrive to class 15+ minutes late, this counts as a ½ absence.
- At all times, you need to inform the instructor – before the start of class – of any absences. Failure to notify the teacher in advance will result in an extra assignment.
- If you are sick (i.e. physically incapable of attending class), you may miss class, but you will have to complete a makeup assignment
- Going on/returning from a trip are not valid excuses for missing or showing up late to a CIEE class
- Note about all assignments: Late assignments will be marked down by 1 point (out of 10) for every day the assignment is late. Assignments that are more than 3 days (72 hours) late will not be accepted.
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 Introduction and History of Dutch Public Health; Evolution of the current system
- Class: 1.2 Guest lecture: Public health in transition: politics, costs and health insurance

**Week 2**
- Class: 2.1 Dutch health system vs the rest of the world
- Class: 2.2 Guest Lecture: Migrants experience and health in the Netherlands

**Week 3**
- Class: 3.1 Politics of health: WTO/TRIIPS and Dutch health care
- Class: 3.2 Sex work in the Netherlands, a model for the world?

**Week 4**
- Class: 4.1 Social determinants of health

**Week 5**
- Class: 5.1 Human rights approach to health (the Dutch vs the rest of the world)
- Class: 5.2 Euthanasia

**Week 6**
- Class: 6.1 Neoliberalism and health, how has it affected the Netherlands vs the world

**Week 7**
- Class: 7.1 Obesity and nutrition and the Netherlands’ situation
- Class: 7.2 Mental health

**Week 8**
- Class: 8.1 Aging and elderly care in the Netherlands
- Class: 8.2 Sex work in the Netherlands vs the rest of the world

**Week 9**
- Class: 9.1 Recreational drug use
- Class: 9.2 Guest lecture: Psychiatrist from the GGD and Netherlands Drug Policy Foundation

**Week 10**
- Class: 10.1 Antibiotics in the Netherlands
- Class: 10.2 Conclusion, revision and exam preparations

**Week 11**
- Class: 11.1 Presentation (part one)
Course Materials

Readings

The course will use a compilation of articles and statistics taken from academic articles and other journalistic sources (together referred to as the course reader). These articles will be uploaded to Canvas.

All reading materials will be uploaded to Canvas.