

**Health and Disease in Thailand:  
Pathogens, Animals, People and Healing Plants in the Tropics**  
Population Health Sciences 650 section 40  
Spring 2008  
Thursday 5:30-7:30pm  
Room 1309 Health Science Learning Center

**Course Description:**

This 2-credit semester course introduces students to health and disease in Thailand. Covering topics related to infectious disease and public health, the course takes an interdisciplinary approach, bringing in perspectives from medicine, veterinary medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health and the social sciences. The course provides an overview of Thai culture, presents basic health data, and describes the Thai health system. It also addresses specific diseases ranging from malaria to HIV/AIDS to vaccine preventable diseases. Faculty-led discussions related to community-based, participatory research provide guidance for students in developing basic instruments and strategies to learn about the health of communities. Students will work in small groups to explore health topics relevant to rural communities in Thailand and develop tools to learn from community members about community strengths and needs.

The course will meet weekly for 2 hours. Each lecture will be approximately 50 minutes in length with 10 minutes for questions/conversation pertaining to the lecture. Remaining time will be used for faculty-led discussions regarding community-based, participatory research and time for students to work on group projects.

**Course Faculty:**

Connie Kraus, PharmD, School of Pharmacy, [ckkraus@pharmacy.wisc.edu](mailto:ckkraus@pharmacy.wisc.edu) 262-8620

James Conway, MD, Pediatrics - Division of Pediatric Infectious Disease, UW School of Medicine & Public Health, [jhconway@wisc.edu](mailto:jhconway@wisc.edu) 263-9941

Robert Bickner, PhD, Professor, L&S Language and Cultures of Asia [rbickner@wisc.edu](mailto:rbickner@wisc.edu) 262-3915

Lori Diprete Brown, MSPH, Assistant Director, University of Wisconsin Center for Global Health, [dipretebrown@wisc.edu](mailto:dipretebrown@wisc.edu) 262-4801

Alexandra Adams, MD, PhD-Department of Family Medicine, UW School of Medicine & Public Health, [Alex.Adams@FAMMED.WISC.EDU](mailto:Alex.Adams@FAMMED.WISC.EDU) 265-4671

Alyson Williams, Morgridge Center fellow, UW Madison, [akwilliams@wisc.edu](mailto:akwilliams@wisc.edu)

Karen Solheim, RN, PhD, School of Nursing, [kdsolheim@wisc.edu](mailto:kdsolheim@wisc.edu)

Erika Sevetson, MS, Health Science Librarian, [esevetson@library.wisc.edu](mailto:esevetson@library.wisc.edu)

### **Course Objectives:**

By the end of the course student will:

- Understand the determinants of health and disease in Thailand and how environmental, cultural, economic, and social factors influence these issues.
- Describe infectious diseases commonly found in Thailand and explain the etiology, epidemiology, clinical presentation in humans and animals, public health implications, and prevention and treatment strategies.
- Explore public health approaches in Thailand for maintaining health and preventing and treating illness in community settings, including surveillance, diagnostic activities, and interventions that address priority problems such as avian flu, HIV/AIDS and other emerging issues.
- Appreciate the interdisciplinary nature of public health by developing an understanding of the knowledge and values of various health professions involved with public health and by learning about skills needed for successful group work (communication, negotiation, respect for group dynamics, and conflict resolution).
- Apply information learned about methods used in community-based participatory research to design a basic tool to use in working with members of the community to discover strengths and needs regarding a core health concern

### **Grading and Assignments:**

Course grades will be based on the following assignments:

#### 1) Take-home Essay (25%)

Each student will identify a current health problem in **urban** Thailand. You should select an issue different from the one being addressed in your group project. You will need to research the literature to study and write about the following:

- a. Describe the health problem and its impact on the health of Thai people and, by comparison, its impact on health of United States citizens.
- b. Describe the upstream health determinants that may contribute to this problem in both countries.
- c. Describe interventions that are being used to improve the health problem both in Thailand and the United States, highlighting the roles of health professionals from multiple disciplines.

This essay is due no later than the beginning of class on March 27, 2007. Essays should be 3-5 pages, single-spaced, 12 point font in Times New Roman. Please

include literature references at the end of the paper. All essays must be turned in by due date. **No credit will be awarded for late submissions.**

2) Take-Home Quiz (25%)

Quiz questions will reflect a basic understanding of core concepts taught in lectures as well as general information gathered from readings. The quiz will be distributed in class on April 24, 2007 and must be returned by the beginning of class on May 1, 2007. Each student is expected to complete the take-home quiz independently. It is responsibility of the student to obtain and return the quiz at the appropriate times. **No credit will be awarded for late submissions.**

3) Class attendance and participation (20%)

It is expected that students will regularly attend class and actively participate. Several discussion sessions have been set aside for students to work on group projects.

4) Group Project Presentations (30%)

Students will be assigned to an interdisciplinary working group. Each group will focus on an issue related to the **health of young people** in Thailand.

1. Description of a health problem in Thailand in terms of incidence/prevalence, and populations affected, as well as cultural and socio-economic factors.
2. A review of interventions/best practices that are being implemented in Thailand or other countries to address the problem.
3. A plan for an intervention to address the problem in Thailand that describes the intervention and discusses strategies for introducing the intervention, monitoring implementation, and evaluating outcomes.
4. Each group should describe the disciplinary expertise required for successful implementation of their plan and how their understanding of Thai economic, environmental, social, and cultural factors influenced the construction of the plan.
5. Each group will design a tool and strategy for dialoging with members of the community.

Each group will prepare a PowerPoint presentation and will be given 30 minutes for the presentation and discussion (e.g. 20 minute presentation and 10 minutes for Q/A). Each group should submit a copy of the PowerPoint presentation, literature references and a copy of the tool used for collecting information from the community to the course instructor. Course grade will include group and individual components. Teams are asked to identify the individual contributions of team members in their presentations.

**There is no final examination in this course. The grading scale for the course will be: 90-100 A, 85-89 AB, 80-84 B, 74-79 BC, 69-73 C, 64-68 D, 63 or below F.**

**Course Lecture Schedule (Tentative Schedule—Subject to Change)(5:30-6:30pm):**

- January 24:** Introduction to Public Health  
Connie Kraus, PharmD
- January 31:** Thai Culture: Implications for Health Interventions and International  
Collaboration, Robert Bickner, PhD
- February 7:** Global Health Resources—Ebling Library, Erika Sevetson, MS, Health  
Science Librarian (Note: **Please meet in 2121 HSLC for this session**)
- February 14:** Health Statistics and the Thai Health/Public Health System
- February 21:** Malaria  
William Weidanz, PhD
- February 28:** Traditional Therapies and Herbal Pharmaceuticals in Thailand  
Curt Johnson, PharmD
- March 6:** The Role of Animals in Human Health and Disease  
Christopher Olsen, DVM, PhD
- March 13:** Influenza  
Christopher Olsen, DVM, PhD
- March 20:** **Spring Break (No Class)**
- March 27:** Vaccine Preventable Infections (Including Tuberculosis and Hepatitis B)  
James Conway, MD
- April 3:** Waterborne and Fecal/Oral Infections  
George Mejicano, MD MS
- April 10:** Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Deficiency  
Syndrome (HIV/AIDS)  
Frank Graziano, MD
- April 17:** Arbovirus Infections--Dengue Fever, Japanese Encephalitis  
Tom Yuill, PhD
- April 24:** Select Zoonotic Infections (Rabies, Leptosporosis, etc.)  
Tom Yuill, PhD
- May 1 and 8:** Student presentations

**Course Discussion Schedule (6:30-7:30pm):**

- January 24:** Tammy Gibbs/Julie Lindsey (International Academic Programs) Thailand field experience information session.
- January 31:** Cultural Humility, Alyson Williams, Morgridge Center fellow
- February 7:** Determinants of Health and Disease: Public Health in the Tropics  
Connie Kraus, PharmD, Channin Charoenkul, PhD (Mahidol University)
- February 14:** Community-based participatory research skills—Individual Interviews,  
Lori DiPrete Brown, MSPH
- February 21:** Community-based participatory research skills—Survey Techniques, Lori  
Diprete Brown, MSPH
- February 28:** Community-based participatory research—Focus Groups, Lori DiPrete  
Brown, MSPH
- March 6:** Karen Solheim, RN, PhD—Chronic disease and nutrition
- March 13:** Karen Solheim, RN, PhD—Health partners: nurses and sub-populations
- March 27:** Alexandra Adams, MD, PhD Community-based participatory research  
model in rural Wisconsin
- April 3:** Alexandra Adams, MD, PhD Community-based participatory research  
model in rural Wisconsin
- April 10:** Student planning session
- April 17:** Student planning session
- April 24:** Student planning session
- May 1 and 8:** A Public Health Approach to Evaluating and Developing and Evaluating  
Interventions, Student Presentations