

**Health and Disease in Thailand:
Pathogens, Animals, People and Healing Plants in the Tropics**
Population Health Sciences 650 section 40
Spring 2009
Thursday 5:30-7:30pm
Room G5/142 CSC

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 both prevention and management of specific acute and chronic disease states. Faculty-led discussions related to community-based, participatory assessment, intervention and evaluation provide guidance for students in developing basic instruments and strategies to learn about the health of communities. Students will work individually and in small, interdisciplinary groups to explore health topics relevant to urban and 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 assessment and time for students to work on group projects.

Course Faculty:

Connie Kraus, PharmD, School of Pharmacy, ckkraus@pharmacy.wisc.edu 262-8620

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

Karen Solheim, RN, PhD, School of Nursing, kdsolheim@wisc.edu

Lori Diprete Brown, MSPH, Assistant Director, University of Wisconsin Center for Global Health, dipretebrown@wisc.edu 262-4801

Alyson Williams, Morgridge Center fellow, UW Madison, akwilliams@wisc.edu

Robert Bickner, PhD, Professor, L&S Language and Cultures of Asia rbickner@wisc.edu
262-3915

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 acute and chronic 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 use the skills learned from the session taught by the Ebling librarian to research the literature in order to:
 - 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 12, 2009**. 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 23, 2009** and must be returned by the beginning of class on **May 2, 2009**. 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 health in **rural** 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/Discussion Schedule (5:30-6:30pm):

- January 22:** Course Overview, Perspectives on Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Glimpses of Thailand
Course faculty
- January 29:** Global Health Information Resources—Ebling Library
Erika Severson, MS, and Health Science Librarian Health
(**Note: Please meet in room 2121 HSLC for this session**)
- February 5:** Malaria
William Weidanz, PhD
- February 12:** Thai Culture: Implications for Health Interventions and International Collaboration
Robert Bickner, PhD
- February 19:** Traditional Therapies and Herbal Pharmaceuticals in Thailand
Curt Johnson, PharmD
- February 26:** Chronic Illness
Karen Solheim, RN, PhD
- March 5:** The Role of Animals in Human Health and Disease
Christopher Olsen, DVM, PhD
- March 12:** Health Issues in Immigrant and Refugee Populations
Karen Solheim, RN, PhD
- March 19:** **Spring Break (No Class)**
- March 26:** Vaccine Preventable Infections (Including Tuberculosis and Hepatitis B)
James Conway, MD
- April 2:** Waterborne and Fecal/Oral Infections
George Mejicano, MD MS
- April 9:** Prevention of Sexually-Transmitted Infections (including HIV)
Arpaporn Powwattana, RN, PhD
- April 16:** Arbovirus Infections--Dengue Fever, Japanese Encephalitis
Tom Yuill, PhD
- April 23:** Select Zoonotic Infections (Rabies, Leptosporosis, etc.)
Tom Yuill, PhD

April 30/May 7: Student presentations

Course Lecture/Discussion Schedule (6:30-7:30pm):

- January 22:** Introduction to Public Health
Lori Diprete Brown, MSPH
- January 29:** Determinants of Health and Disease: Public Health in the Tropics
Connie Kraus, PharmD
Channin Charoenkul, PhD (Mahidol University)
- February 5:** Statistics and the Thai Health/Public Health System
Student-led presentation
- February 12:** Cultural Humility
Alyson Williams, Morgridge Center fellow
- February 19:** Chronic Illness
Karen Solheim, RN, PhD
- February 26:** Ways of Learning from/with Communities
Lori DiPrete Brown, MSPH
- March 5:** James Wu, MPH
- March 12:** Ways of Learning from/with Communities
Lori Diprete Brown, MSPH
- March 19:** **Spring Break (No Class)**
- March 26:** Influenza
Christopher Olsen, DVM, PhD Student planning session
- April 2:** Student planning session
- April 9:** Community-based Participatory Research Model in Rural Wisconsin
Alexandra Adams, MD, PhD
- April 16:** Student planning session
- April 23:** Student planning session
- April 30/May 7:** Student Presentations