

Ecuador

Short-term Faculty-led Study Away Program • Fall Intersession • August 6-15, 2012

Course Name:

Tropical Public Health for International Workers:

Impacts of Environment and Culture

Course Numbers: **SWK 558/
PBH 758**

Credit hours: **3** (undergraduate or graduate)

Location: **Ecuador**

Course Highlights

This course will provide students with the ability to assess tropical health risks in a remote setting, to take steps to protect the individual and the community from common threats, and to communicate health information to a diverse community in a culturally appropriate and effective manner.

The course will be taught at the Yachana ecolodge on the Napo River in Ecuador, providing students with the opportunities to observe the actual tropical environment; obtain practical experience in identifying and evaluating the hazards of such environments; and interact with an indigenous population in a way that demonstrates the difficulties of passing health information through the barriers of language and culture.

Estimated Cost: \$3,300

Includes: airfare, canoe fare, 3 nights lodging in Quito, 5 days/4 nights room and board at Yachana Lodge, Study Away student fee. Separated costs not available.

Excludes: MSU tuition for 3 hours of undergraduate or graduate credit; passport fees, airport exit fee, taxis, tipping for local guides and baggage, museum entry fee, meals in Quito, misc. personal expenses.

Nonrefundable deposit due with Program Application by May 1, 2012: \$495 (will be billed to your student account)

Balance due by July 2, 2012: \$2,805

Voucher Eligibility & Financial Aid

If you entered MSU as a freshman in 2009 or 2010, you may use the **Study Away \$500 voucher**. Students who receive financial aid through MSU may apply that aid to the program, if eligible. Contact the Office of Financial Aid at 836-5262 for more information.

Information Meeting(s): TBA

Pre-Travel Class Meeting:
Monday, Aug. 6, 2012

Depart Springfield for Ecuador:
Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2012

Depart Ecuador for Springfield:
Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2012

Post-travel Class Meeting; Final Exam;
Journals & Papers Due:
Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2012

Interested in going?

Contact Program Director Dr. David Claborn, Assistant Professor, Master of Public Health Program: 836-8945 or DavidClaborn@missouristate.edu for more information



An EO/AA Institution

Study Away!

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Course Overview

Humanitarian assistance and disaster response workers who work in the tropical developing world are often exposed to exotic diseases and challenging work conditions. The result is that the aid workers sometimes become victims, utilizing facilities and medical supplies that would otherwise be used for the native population in need. Although there will always be risk for international aid workers in disrupted societies, there are many things that can be done to reduce that risk and, at the same time, contribute to improved health conditions for the disrupted community.

Course Objectives

- a. To develop an awareness of cultural issues in indigenous populations that may impact the provision of public health services in the tropical environment
- b. Using public health as a forum, to interact with an indigenous student population in an effort to develop education programs that are both culturally appropriate and effective
- c. To identify the top 10 health hazards for aid workers traveling in the tropical world and to critically evaluate proposed means of protecting both aid workers and the indigenous population from those hazards
- d. To identify and discuss differences in public health efforts by developing and developed world governments
- e. To learn assessment techniques for evaluating risks to a human population in a tropical setting and to select health initiatives that are appropriate for rural and urban settings, respectively
- f. To identify and discuss ethical issues that impact the provision of public health services in the developing world as compared to the developed world
- g. Given a realistic budget for a rural population, prioritize public health initiatives and develop an effective public health program to address the needs of a small community

Course Schedule & Itinerary

This course is tentatively scheduled for **August 6-15, 2012**. It will be taught over 10 days, with the first and last days on campus in Springfield. All students taking the course for credit must be present on the first and last days. After the first day, the class will travel as a group to the Yachana Lodge in Ecuador and will stay at the lodge for four

nights, then will move to the capital city of Quito for two nights. The scheduled travel and academic content is delineated below.

Day 1: Course familiarization and instructor's expectations; lecture and demonstration "Wilderness First Aid"; test on pre-assigned readings

Day 2: Fly to Quito; overnight there

Day 3: Fly to Coca; travel by canoe to Yachana Lodge; onsite lecture: "Communicable health threats in the tropical environment"; visit with a traditional healer; class discussion: "Interactions between traditional healing and modern public health"

Day 4: Tour of jungle sites and Yachana research laboratory with local guide; tour of village clinic and interview with care givers; onsite lecture and demonstration: "Vector surveillance techniques"; set overnight traps

Day 5: Retrieve traps; identify results; transit to local high school; course participants will teach wilderness first aid to indigenous students; set overnight traps

Day 6: Retrieve traps; continued identification; continue teaching wilderness first aid to local students; injury and evacuation exercise at the lodge; class discussion and evaluation: "Lessons learned from teaching exercise with local students"

Day 7: Depart Yachana by canoe; fly from Coca to Quito; individual exercise: "Identification of public health issues in the urban setting of the developing world"

Day 8: Visit Quito City Museum; discussion: "The impact of colonial history on public health issues in South America"

Day 9: Fly from Quito to Springfield

Day 10: Class discussion: "Ethical issues for working in the developing world"; course evaluation; course final

Course Requirements & Assessment of Learning

A detailed syllabus — including course requirements, assignments and assessment criteria — will be provided at the Information Meeting. Grades will be based on the test over pre-assigned readings, the final exam, course journal, class participation and personal department. Graduate students must complete two extra assignments:

- (1) As a group, submit a written curriculum for teaching wilderness first aid to indigenous high school students
- (2) An individual essay on conflicts between traditional healing and modern medicine in the context of public health services

Required Text: "Cultural Competency for Health Administration and Public Health" by Patti R. Rose (Jones and Bartlett Publishers). Additional required reading will be available online; a list of articles will be provided in the course syllabus.

Application & Payment Procedures:

Missouri State University students who are approved by the Program Director may apply. Instructions are included on program application. A **non-refundable deposit of \$495** will be billed to your student account upon application. The balance of the program cost will be billed to your account on **May 1, 2012**.

The published program cost is based on rates in effect on the publication date of this flyer and may be subject to change.

Program participants agree to a potential increase of up to 10% in the program fee if costs increase before or during travel.

Cancellation & Refund Policies:

- Students who withdraw prior to June 18, 2012 will receive a refund of fees paid, less the \$495 deposit and any non-refundable purchases made on his/her behalf.
- If a student is forced to withdraw after June 18, 2012 for a bona fide medical reason, s/he will receive a refund of fees paid, less the \$495 deposit and expenses. A certificate of incapacitating illness or injury from a licensed physician is required.
- Students withdrawing voluntarily after July 2, 2012, or withdrawing due to medical reasons not protected under the fees refund policy, receive no refund.
- Once the program has started, students withdrawing receive no refund under any circumstances.
- All notifications of withdrawal must be made in writing and sent to the Program Director and to Elizabeth Strong at the Study Away Office, Jim D. Morris Center, Suite 403. **Non-payment of fees does not guarantee automatic withdrawal.**
- Any plans by a participant not to travel and return with the group must also be submitted in writing to the Program Director and the Study Away Office.
- The program will be cancelled if enrollment is fewer than 11 participants. In this event, students will receive a full refund.