



ABRD:3366 - STUDY ABROAD – DOMINICAN REPUBLIC | WINTER SESSION 2022/2023
COMPARATIVE HEALTH SYSTEMS

Course Instructor

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Health & Human Physiology
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Course Dates: December 28 – January 14, 2023

Location: Numerous locations in the southern part of the Dominican Republic (Santo Domingo, Bonao, Boca Chica, and Juan Dolio)

Course Description

The purpose of the course is to compare the health care system of the United States to the health care system of the host country. In order to do so, students will be exposed to a variety of health care systems such as large private and public hospitals, local public hospitals, the public health system, rural health systems, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The students will participate in site visits, meet with health care professionals, job shadowing, and engage with members of the community to learn about their health care needs and cultural beliefs and practices that may influence health care system utilization.

Prerequisites: No prerequisites

Course Equivalency: ABRD:3366 is equivalent to HHP:4480.

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Compare the main differences between health care systems and delivery between the United States and a third-world country
2. Explain how health care services are delivered in a third-world country
3. Describe the health care needs of diverse populations
4. Describe public health programs that address the needs of diverse populations

5. Explain the role of NGOs in public health interventions

Required Textbook/Media

There is no required textbook for this course. Numerous resources can be found on the ICON site to learn more about the population of the Dominican Republic and subjects that are relevant to the study abroad experience.

Application:

The program application is available on the program webpage under the **How to Apply** heading here: <https://study-abroad.international.uiowa.edu/programs/details/index.php?crse=3366#application>

Applications are now closed.

Scholarships and Financial Aid:

For information about financial aid options, review the information under the **Scholarships and Financial Aid** heading on the program webpage here: <https://study-abroad.international.uiowa.edu/programs/details/index.php?crse=3366#application>

Students may contact advisor Cory Petersen to discuss the application process, scholarships, and financial aid. To schedule an appointment, please call Study Abroad at 319-335-0353.

Eligibility, Prerequisites, and Waitlist Procedure:

This course has a limited capacity. To ensure the highest level of academic preparedness, the instructor will review all applications for final decisions on admission, using the following criteria:

- **Clear interest and commitment:** This program is open to students of all academic backgrounds. Students must demonstrate a clear academic or personal interest in the program's subject matter and a commitment to engage responsibly in coursework abroad.
- **Demonstrated preparedness and maturity:** Students must meet entry requirements for the countries and venues visited by the program, including entry requirements related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Students must demonstrate preparedness to take on the heightened responsibilities associated with international study and travel and demonstrate a commitment to behave responsibly abroad while respecting cultural differences. Students are expected to obey both local laws and program directives conveyed to participants before and during the program. The University of Iowa Code of Student Life applies to all program participants while abroad.
- **Good academic and disciplinary standing:** Students must be in good academic and disciplinary standing at the University of Iowa, or at another US college or university where the applicant is enrolled in a degree program. Students placed on either academic or disciplinary probation for any period of time overlapping with the study abroad program dates are ineligible to study abroad on a University of Iowa program. Academic and disciplinary history will also be considered when determining whether a student is prepared to represent the University of Iowa as part of this program. Students who are not in good standing at any point overlapping with the program dates will have their

acceptance revoked and will be responsible for the associated late withdrawal fees.

- **Minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA:** Students must have a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA to participate in this program. Applications from students who have a GPA below 2.5 may be considered for the program but will be interviewed by the faculty director in order to make a final acceptance decision.
- **Completion of at least one semester of college-level study:** First-year student applicants may be required to provide an academic reference in addition to other application materials. Preference given to juniors and seniors.
- **Approval By faculty director and UI Study Abroad:** Applications will be reviewed by the program's faculty director, and students will be accepted based on their eligibility, and application materials.
- **Attendance at mandatory orientation programming:** Students must attend all in-person and online pre-departure orientation programming.
- **Major Program of Study:** Preference given to majors in Health & Human Physiology and other health-related majors.
- **No Language Experience Required:** This course is taught in English. No previous language experience is required.

Waitlist Procedure:

Once the course has filled, UI Study Abroad will maintain a waitlist, and notify any students who are waitlisted. Further information will be sent out at that time to waitlisted students regarding next steps.

Grading Criteria

Final course grades will be assessed based on the student's performance in the following items:

Assessment	Points
04 Pre-Departure Quizzes	80
06 In-Country Journal Entries	120
02 Pre & Post Experience Journal Entries	40
Final Paper	100
Participation	60
TOTAL	400

Final course grades will be assigned as follows:

93.0 – 100.0%	A	80.0 – 82.9%	B-	67.0 – 69.9%	D+
90.0 – 92.9%	A-	77.0 – 79.9%	C+	63.0 – 66.9%	D
87.0 – 89.9%	B+	73.0 – 76.9%	C	60.0 – 62.9%	D-
83.0 – 86.9%	B	70.0 – 72.9%	C-	< 60.0%	F

College Policies

Absences and Attendance

Students are responsible for attending class and for contributing to the learning environment of a course. Students are also responsible for knowing their course absence policies, which will vary by instructor. All absence policies, however, must uphold the UI policy related to student illness, mandatory religious obligations, including Holy Day obligations, unavoidable circumstances, or University authorized activities (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/attendance-absences>). Students may use this absence form to aid communication; the instructor will decide if the absence is excused or unexcused (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/sites/default/files/ABSENCE%20EXPLANATION%20FORM2019.pdf>).

Academic Integrity

All undergraduates enrolled in courses offered by CLAS have agreed to the College's [Code of Academic Honesty](#). Misconduct is reported to the College, resulting in suspension or other sanctions, with sanctions communicated with the student through the UI email address (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/academic-fraud-honor-code>).

- Accommodations for Disabilities Plagiarism and cheating may result in grade reduction and/or other serious penalties. The full policy is printed in the schedule of courses and the college's student academic handbook (http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic_handbook.)

Pass/Non-Pass

Students participating in a program of four weeks or less **may not** take Study Abroad courses on a Pass/Nonpass (P/N) basis.

Administrative Home

International Programs, University College is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 111 Jessup Hall or see: <http://uc.uiowa.edu/academics>.

Lecture Notes and Reading Assignments

Students will be responsible for all materials presented in lectures.

Classroom Behavior

Students have the right to a classroom environment that encourages learning. The ability to learn is lessened when students engage in inappropriate classroom behavior, distracting others. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom or other instructional setting by students, including but not limited to willful failure to comply with a reasonable directive of the classroom instructor or other intentional conduct that has the effect of disrupting University classroom instruction or interfering with the instructor's ability to manage the classroom, is a violation of the Code of Student Life. When disruptive activity occurs, a University instructor has the authority

to determine classroom seating patterns and request that a student exit the classroom, laboratory, or other area used for instruction immediately for the remainder of the period. One-day suspensions are reported to appropriate departmental, collegiate, and Student Services personnel (Office of the Vice President for Student Services and Dean of Students).

Rules on Alcohol Consumption

Consuming alcohol can present significant safety risks in some locations, such as through contaminated water (ice cubes) in drinks, spiked drinks, etc. As guests in the Dominican Republic, we are perceived to represent our home countries, and our behavior will reflect on The University of Iowa. Therefore, sensitivity to the local culture and respect towards our local hosts demands that everyone practices responsible behavior. Thus, the following rules apply to this course:

- Underage drinking is not permitted and constitutes grounds for early dismissal from the program.
- For safety reasons, outings to local bars during free time are not permitted.
- For those of legal drinking age, alcohol consumption is discouraged for the duration of the program. Visible drunkenness is grounds for early dismissal from the program.

Standards for Undergraduate Health-Related Programs Abroad

In this course, we will interact with numerous organizations that provide health services delivery to members of the communities we visit. We may also interact with health care providers with any patient-related activities being used for educational and informational purposes only. During those interactions, we may obtain confidential patient information. To maintain confidentiality all information will be de-identified by the removal of specified identifiers of the individual and of the individual's relatives, household members, and employers on any notes taken during the educational activities and related assessments.

Furthermore, this course will conform to the *Guidelines for Undergraduate Health-Related Programs Abroad* established by the Forum on Education Abroad. These Guidelines can be obtained from: <https://forumea.org/>

UI is committed to an educational experience that is accessible to all students. A student may request academic accommodations for a disability (such as mental health, attention, learning, vision, and physical or health-related condition) by registering with Student Disability Services (SDS). The student is then responsible for discussing specific accommodations with the instructor. More information is at <https://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/>.

Communication and the Required Use of UI Email

Students are responsible for official correspondences sent to the UI email address (uiowa.edu) and must use this address for all communication within UI ([Operations Manual, III.15.2](#)).

Complaints

Students with a complaint about an academic issue should first visit with the instructor or course supervisor and then with the Chair of the department or program offering the course; students may next bring the issue to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. For more information, see <https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/student-rights-responsibilities>.

Nondiscrimination in the Classroom

UI is committed to making the classroom a respectful and inclusive space for all people irrespective of their gender, sexual, racial, religious or other identities. Toward this goal, students are invited to optionally share

their preferred names and pronouns with their instructors and classmates. The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination and harassment against individuals on the basis of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, and other identity categories set forth in the University’s Human Rights policy. For more information, contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity (diversity.uiowa.edu).

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community must uphold the UI mission and contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment must be reported immediately. For assistance, please see <https://osmrc.uiowa.edu/>.

University Policies

Special Modifications

Subsequent to course enrollment, students needing accommodations should register with [Student Disability Services](#), 3100 Burge Hall, (319) 335.1462, and obtain a Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR) form. The form will specify what course accommodations are judged reasonable for that student. The Division of Continuing Education is committed to both Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Section 508 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

Understanding Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is reprehensible and will not be tolerated by the University. It subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. Visit this site for the [Office of the Sexual Misconduct Response Coordinator](#) for definitions, assistance, and the full University policy.

Tentative Schedule

Dec 28 – January 1	Pre-Departure Education All Activities Virtual and Available on ICON	Webinars, Goal Setting, Beginner Spanish education (Duolingo or similar APP)
January 2-14	In-Country Experiences in the DR	Visit several organizations related to health services delivery, cultural immersion experiences
January 15-21	Reflection and Wrap Up	Complete journal entry, final paper, evaluation

Pre-Departure Calendar

December 28: Mandatory meeting via Zoom at 10:00 am CST: Overview of course structure, expectations, requirements, and travel plans.

View webinar/readings: Overview of Dominican Republic (culture, demographics, economy, etc.) and complete quiz no later than December 11:59 pm CST on December 28, 2022. Twenty points toward final grade. No late work accepted.

View webinar/readings: Introduction to the United States health care system and complete quiz no later than December 11:59 pm CST on December 29, 2022. Twenty points toward final grade. No late work accepted.

View webinar/readings: Introduction to the Dominican health care system and complete quiz no later than December 11:59 pm CST on December 30, 2022. Twenty points toward final grade. No late work accepted.

View webinar/readings: Overview of environmental factors and social determinants of health in the Dominican that contribute to morbidity and mortality in the Dominican and complete quiz no later than December 11:59 pm CST on December 31, 2022. Twenty points toward final grade. No late work accepted.

Pre-Departure Journal Entry: Due no later than January 1, 2023. Twenty points toward final grade. No late work accepted.

In-Country Proposed Calendar (subject to change)

Day 1 – Monday (January 2, 2023) – Arrival in-country and check-in at hotel located in the colonial zone of Santo Domingo; group orientation, schedule review, and welcome dinner

Day 2 – Tuesday (January 3, 2023) – Breakfast at hotel, morning visit to public hospital Padre Billini (walking distance), lunch independently selected and covered by students at nearby restaurants and afternoon walking tour of the colonial zone, and group dinner with orientation for following day activity.

Day 3 – Wednesday (January 4, 2023) – Group breakfast and orientation at hotel; travel to Plaza La Salud, a major medical facility in central Santo Domingo with a shared public/private model of operation, morning overview of hospital services by Dr. Claribel Acosta, lunch at the hospital cafeteria covered by students, and afternoon in group rotation observation visits to the different departments. Late afternoon return to hotel and group dinner to process out the hospital visit. <https://hgps.org.do/es/>

Day 4 - Thursday (January 5, 2023) – Group breakfast and orientation at hotel; Visit to the ADR-Rehabilitation Center in central Santo Domingo and then travel to the community of Haina, southwest of Santo Domingo to visit the community clinic, and have group activity with community network of youth leaders with lunch included. Late afternoon return to hotel; dinner independently selected and covered by students at nearby restaurants.

<https://www.adr.org.do/>

Day 5 – Friday (January 6, 2023) Group breakfast and check out of hotel; travel to the city of Bonao approximately 1.5 hours, and check-in at the Rancho Guacamayos. Lunch covered by students at nearby restaurants. Afternoon visit to the regional Hospital Traumatológico y Quirúrgico Juan Bosch . Return to Rancho Guacamayos and processing of day's activity over group dinner. <https://hospitaljuanbosch.gob.do/>

Day 6 – Saturday (January 7, 2023) – Group breakfast and day spent visiting rural clinics and health services representing the basic level of public health services offered to the population through the UNAP (Unidad de Atención Primaria – Primary Care Attention Unit). Time permitting, additional visits to private health and

dental service in Bonao. Lunch to be determined. Return to Rancho Guacamayos and processing of day's activity over group dinner.

Day 7 – Sunday (January 8, 2023) – Group breakfast and day spent visiting the environmental attractions, hiking, and activities of the mountain ranges and rivers of Blanco just west of Bonao; includes lunch. A day of fun and relaxation exposing participants to the unique ecological diversity of the DR despite its relatively small size. Return to Rancho Guacamayos and group dinner.

Day 8 – Monday (January 9, 2023) – Group breakfast and travel to one of two nearby large mining operations in the DR (Falconbridge – ferronickel or Barrick – gold) to observe firsthand health and safety measures implemented by these two major companies whose operations produce significant foreign exchange for the DR. Opportunity for students to see the impact of the private sector in health care in the DR plus the new standards in place for “responsible mining”. All day visit with lunch included. Return late afternoon to Rancho Guacamayos and group dinner. <https://www.falcondo.do/salud.php> , <https://www.barrick.com/English/sustainability/default.aspx>

Day 9 – Tuesday (January 10, 2023) Group breakfast and 45-minute travel to Santiago, second largest city in the DR to visit the HOMS modern medical facility in the morning and the major cultural museum of the DR, the Centro Leon in the afternoon. Lunch covered individually by students at cafeterias in either HOMS or Centro Leon. Late afternoon return to Rancho Guacamayo and group dinner to process day's events.

Day 10 – Wednesday (January 11, 2023) – Breakfast and check out at Rancho Guacamayos and two-hour travel to hotel in Boca Chica with a stopover in Yamasa to visit the FUCICREF NGO working in community health. Afternoon arrival to Hotel Whala in Boca Chica. Lunch and dinner included. <https://www.fuvicref.org/>

Day 11 – Thursday (January 12, 2023) – Group breakfast at hotel and 45-minute travel to La Romana to visit the Clínica La Familia and the Hogar del Niño, to observe healthcare and other services of two major NGOs in the eastern region of the DR. Lunch covered by students (food services in shopping mall) and afternoon stopover to explore pre-Columbus indigenous caves at Las Cuevas de la Maravillas before continuing to hotel in Boca Chica. <https://clinicadefamilia.org.do/en/>

<https://www.pbo.org.do/> <https://www.godominicanrepublic.com/poi/caving/bayahibe/cueva-de-las-aravillas/>

Day 12 – Friday (January 13, 2023) - Group breakfast at hotel followed by (1) Visit to NGO Caminante to observe programs for the reduction of teenage pregnancy and (2) Learn how to dance merengue and bachata at the Yocasta dance center established by the Entrena Alerta Joven project funded by USAID as part of a large at-risk youth project. Return to hotel in time for lunch remainder of day free until evening closure ceremony over dinner

<https://www.dominicanasolidaria.org/organizacion/caminante-proyecto-educativo-caminante/>

<https://www.glantent.com/DO/Boca-Chica/581816951948186/Jazme-Yow>

Day 13 – Saturday (January 14, 2023) – Group breakfast at hotel, check out and departure for 25-minute ride to airport for return to the US.