GNUR 325 Selected Topics: International Nursing - Belize

Number of Credits: One to Three Semester Credits

Schedule: Spring Semester – 3 hour class every other week prior to trip and one class after return.

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Prerequisites: Permission of Associate Dean and Advisor

Course Description:
The purpose of this course is to acquire knowledge of primary health care through practice in a developing country – Belize, Central America. A special emphasis is placed on the population of the country, culture, particular health problems, and existing health care. Participants of the program will live two weeks in Corozal, Belize (located below the Yucatan Peninsula), work in rural health clinics, villages, schools, and district hospitals. Students will become familiar with specific health problems endemic to the population and provide primary health care and education.

There will be pre/post Belize trip classes at Loyola University Chicago as well as presentations in Belize from health care workers as well as tours of Mayan sites and rain forest plants having special value in understanding the culture and health of northern Belize.

Course Outcomes:
- Cognitive
  - Understand the health problems of a developing country.
  - Explore the cultural differences in a developing country.
  - Understand primary health care as it exists in Belize.
  - Understand the ancient art of Mayan healing.
  - Describe diseases endemic to Belize.

- Affective
  - Value cultural diversity.
  - Appreciate living and working in another culture.
  - Appreciate primary health care as it exists in Belize.
  - Value Mayan medicine and its effect on disease.
  - Value Jesuit influence and its impact on nursing practice, service in another culture.

- Psychomotor
  - Provide primary health care to the population of Belize.
  - Provide education to health care workers and citizens (as can be arranged).
  - Become involved in the culture of the country.
  - Explore the Mayan ruins and medicinal plants in the surrounding rain forest.
  - Visit sites that contribute to the understanding of a developing country.
  - Complete course requirements.
Teaching Methods:
Lecture, small group work, videos, skills lab

Course requirements:
• Attendance at all classes.
• Written personal objectives to be achieved (submitted first class).
• Written journal submitted:
  • Every class (pre and post trip).
  • Weekly while in Belize.
• Required readings (to be distributed at the beginning of class).
• Seven to ten page scholarly paper or project, with advance approval by course faculty.
• Daily participation in primary health care, case rounds, and education in Belize facilities for 10 days.

Evaluation:
Journal (including clinical)  50%
Seminar participation  25%
Required paper/project  25%

Course readings:  (see appended list of readings)
Each student will received a book from faculty collection for class report.
Werner, David. Where there is no doctor. Hesperian Foundation, Palo Alto, Ca.

Other course information:
This course is open to RN/BSN completion students and graduate students with good physical assessment skills. Undergraduate nursing students and alums are invited on a space-available basis. This course is limited to 10 students. Participants should have the following qualifications:
• Above average academic achievement; 3.0 G.P.A.; current Illinois license and current resume
• Excellent health, with proof of required immunizations.
• Genuine interest in working/serving in primary care nursing role in a developing country.
• Ability to adjust to cultural differences, appreciate nature, and change of pace.
• Physical Assessment course N338 or GNUR 409 or have practiced three years as an RN.
• Current valid passport and visa if necessary
• Spanish useful, but not necessary.
• Flexibility, adaptability, good sense of humor and PMA

Course Evaluation Expectation:
It is a professional expectation that all students participate in course evaluations to guide ongoing program improvement.

Academic integrity statement:
Academic honesty is an expression of an ethic of interpersonal justice, responsibility and care applicable to Loyola University faculty, students and staff, which demands that the pursuit of knowledge in the university community be carried out with sincerity and integrity.

Refer to the (BSN, MSN or DNP) Handbook located in the Sakai Organization "Information for (MSN or DNP) Students" for a description of the Academic Integrity Policy.

http://www.luc.edu/gradschool/academics_policies.shtml (Graduate School)

Estimated costs for course clinical practica:  (see additional sheet)
Airfare, local transportation, room and board x 10 days = $2000.00 approx.
Three weekend activities including transportation, room and board and tour = $300.00 approx
(Some students may wish to arrive earlier or leave later than the ten days of service)
Selected Belize Readings for class reports


Arvigo, R., Epstein, N. Spiritual Bathing: Healing Rituals and Traditions from Around the World


Edgell, Zell (1991) In times like these. Caribbean Writers Series


Kintz, Ellen R. Life under the Tropical Canopy: Tradition and Change among the Yucatec Maya Case Studies in Cultural Anthropology.


Rabinowitz, Alan. (1986) Jaguar: One Man’s Struggle to Establish the World’s First Jaguar Preserve. Island Press


Werner, D., Bower, B. Helping Health Workers Learn. Hesperian Press
