Ginsburg Ingerman Overseas Students Program
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Israel: Exploring a Nation’s Health
13-5-560
Fall Semester

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Office hours:

Course Description:
A journey through amazing features of Israeli society’s health, which no exploration of the nation and its land are complete without understanding them. Developed as a touring seminar, the course will expose students to the diversity of Israel, the resilience of its people, disparities and social justice in health, unique aspects of the health system as well as to interesting doctors, nurses and patients contributing to Israel Start-up Nation narrative in medicine.

Course Objectives:
Combining lectures, selected case studies and field trips, the course will support exploration of Israel with ‘health binoculars’.

Learning Outcomes:
- Explain why life expectancy in Israel is among the highest in the world and other key health determinants
- Understand herbal Bedouin medicine, Jewish remedies and other culture-specific health behaviours and treatments
- Describe key features of health and wellbeing comparable to their home country
- Relate Israeli students’ sexuality, alcohol and drug use to their experiences
- Enjoy face-to-face interactions with healthcare providers and interesting patients

Field of Education and Discipline(s): Global Health, Israel Health, Sociology.

Course Structure:

Lectures and Field Trips  Total # of Credits: 2
ECTS (European Credit Transfer System): 3

Course Requirements
Compulsory attendance, student-lead discussions on assigned case studies and end of the semester exam.

**Structure of Final Course Grad**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Presentation of case study</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Exam</td>
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**Note:**
- Language of Teaching is English
- Work handed in late, will not be graded!
- Penalties and course policies should be clearly articulated (i.e. students will have their final grade lowered an entire grade level if they miss more than 2 class meetings unexcused)

**Course Schedule Layout:**

**First Meeting**
**The Israeli Healthcare System: Overview**

**Readings:**

**Second Meeting**
**Life expectancy and other key health determinants characterizing life and death in the Holy Land [Part 1]**

**Readings:**

**Third Meeting**
**Field Walking Tour: Soroka Medical Center, Beer Sheva [including meetings with patients and healthcare providers and managers]**

**Forth Meeting**
**Life expectancy and other key health determinants characterizing life and death in the Holy Land [Part 2]**

**Readings (and video):**

**Fifth Meeting**
Field Bus Tour: Health, Religion and Culture in the Israeli society [Tel Sheva, Kibbutz Hatzerim, Mikve- BeerSheva D]

**Sixth Meeting**
Case Study 1: Israeli students risk taking behaviors and healthcare utilization

Readings:

**Seventh Meeting**
Case Study 2: Exporting Best Practice – OAC in Africa

Readings:

**Eighth Meeting**
Case Study 3: Primary Healthcare –from New York [Hadassah] and Pholela [South Africa] to Jerusalem

Readings:

**Ninth – Tenth Meeting**
Field Bus and walking Tour: Jerusalem [Teva Pharmaceuticals, Haneviim street, Hadaasah Ein Kerem. including meetings with patients and healthcare providers and managers]

**Eleventh Meeting**
Journal Club. Students presenting selected papers published in peer reviewed journals

**Twelfth Meeting**
Polices and Legislation impacting life and death and health disparities

Readings:
- The Israeli National Health Insurance Bill, 1 Jan, 1994

**Thirteenth Meeting (Final)**
Panel: Israeli Innovation in medicine