

Health Care and Health Policy in The Gambia



This four-credit hour course, a joint venture among nursing faculty from Xavier and Miami Universities, offers students a first-hand view of the health system in a country outside the United States.

NSG 499 is designed for nursing students, those in health-related fields (e.g., speech pathology, dietetics, exercise science), as well as students focusing on health policy.

The three-week summer workshop is designed to enable students to gain international experience which enhances their ability to act as culturally competent actors in their chosen field through exploring and comparing cultural and contextual (e.g., political, economic and social) factors that impact life, health and health-care systems. The work consists of three preparatory meetings (May and June), three weeks in The Gambia (June and July), and a follow-up meeting (August). In The Gambia, the first week comprises meetings with Gambian health-care professionals from, among other bodies, the Department of State for Health and the Gambia School of Nursing and Midwifery. In addition, while English is the country's official language, during the first week there were three sessions providing instruction in one local language (Wolof). During the second week participants have a field placement where they work in a local health center or other appropriate facility depending on their academic major, while the third week focused on meetings with officials representing various international actors (e.g., UNICEF, WHO, Peace Corps, Medical Research Council).

As one student said, It was
“... an experience of a lifetime.”

For more information and an application contact:

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