



Center for Engaged Learning Abroad

www.celabelize.com

PO Box 177 San Ignacio, Cayo, Belize

BIO 489: Global Perspectives in Health

Course offered at CELA – Belize

Instructor: Lorelei Cropley R.N , DrPH, CHES

Credit: 3 hours

Course Dates: Session 1: June 28 – July 12, 2025

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course aims to introduce students to key issues and topics in the field of global health. Emphasis is placed on the biomedical, psychosocial, and policy aspects of global health within the context of low-, middle-, and high-income countries with Belize as the focus. Students will examine contemporary topics including humanitarian assistance, global health ethics, and human rights. Students will examine policy issues and other health determinants in order to understand effective strategies to respond to health challenges in a resource-limited global setting. Finally, students will learn to approach health in its wider social, economic, and political context. Lectures, readings from primary literature, field-based learning, and group discussions are integral components of the program and provide the conceptual framework for discussion, analysis, and the interpretation of field observations and findings.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this course, the student will be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of the concepts and principles of One Health in general and Belize in particular. Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Use a range of concepts, terms, principles, and definitions in the context of major global health concerns
- Demonstrate knowledge of indicators and metrics used to ascertain the health status of a region
- Describe the burden of disease and health conditions in a specific global region
- Identify key organizations and their role in addressing global health concerns
- Identify socioeconomic, political, environmental, and cultural determinants and disparities influencing health in a specific global region

COURSE READINGS:

All course readings will be made available to students, in electronic format, via Google Classroom.

Technology

You are welcome to use a laptop to take notes in class if you prefer. It is certainly not required. Please ensure that your phone is off during class sessions.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

The evaluation for the course is based on the following:

Participation in discussions, labs and fieldwork 25%

Presentation 25%

Field trip worksheets and course journal 25%

Final Examination 25%

Participation

Students are expected to attend all classes and all field trips, labs, or other course-related events. Students are expected to actively participate in discussions, making reference to assigned readings and materials. In the field students will be assessed on their attentiveness, ability to demonstrate skills, attention to safety, and awareness of cultural practices. This course emphasizes teamwork and students' willingness to engage in group work will be reflected in their participation grade.

Presentation

Each student will do a short (20 minutes, including time for questions) presentation on a topic related to the course. Depending on the number of students, teams may be used instead of individual reports. Topics and recommended references will be provided. Where appropriate, students will discuss how the topic relates to Belize. All topics are to be approved in advance by the course instructor(s).

Journal

Students will keep a daily journal for the duration of the course. The journal will serve as a reflection of each day's activities. Students will be expected to write a summary of what they learned each day and how it relates or differs to teachings, standards, and/or health processes back home.

Final Exam

The final exam will cover all the material in the course. It will be multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay questions.

Grading Scale

A	93-100%	C	73-76.99%
A-	90-92.99%	C-	70-72.99%
B+	87-89.99%	D+	67-69.99%
B	83-86.99%	D	63 -66.99%

B-	80-82.99%	D-	60- 62.99%
C+	77-79.99%	F	59 and below

SUMMARY

The course consists of 60 hours of contact time over a two-week period. Generally, the course meets from 9 am to 5 pm, with an hour break for lunch. Those times are adjusted to ensure maximum field experience. See the daily schedule for details. The course time is divided as follows:

- Lecture/discussion= 40hrs
- Laboratory Time and Field Work= 20 hrs
- Total= 60 hrs

Course Schedule

Day 1 Introduction to Global Health and Development

Day 2 Social Determinants of Global Health

Day 3 Healthcare in Developing Countries

Day 4 Non-Communicable Disease (Global Impact)

Day 5 Vector Borne and Other Infectious Disease

Day 6, 7 Free days / Materials review / Optional excursion

Day 8 Water, Sanitation, Hygiene/Disability Services

Day 9 Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health

Day 10 Health Systems, Policy, and Global Public Health

Day 11 One Health Triad

Day 12 Course Wrap-Up

CELA POLICIES and RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. CELA is committed to the sustainable development of Belize. You can play your part by ensuring that you leave only your footprints behind in Belize. Please do not leave any garbage behind at any classroom or field site. Where you have a choice, CELA encourages students to drink soft drinks from glass bottles (they can be recycled) and not from plastic (they are burned). Please use cloth bags instead of taking plastic bags from stores. Where possible, avoid buying food in Styrofoam containers.
2. CELA values the diversity of its student body, staff, and faculty. As such, we are committed to gender-neutral and bias-free language. Everyone is expected to support this policy in written materials and spoken contributions to class sessions.
3. CELA is committed to intellectual and academic honesty. In any assignment, please ensure that you give credit to the original author(s) to avoid any issues of plagiarism.
4. Everyone is expected to participate in the course. Classroom discussions and field experiences benefit from your questions and thoughts.