MHS 3890 – Public Health & Health Care Delivery in Cuba

Instructor: Gilbert Gonzales, Ph.D., M.H.A
Location: Cuba
Dates: May 6 – May 31, 2019

This course provides an introductory overview of the public health and health care delivery systems in Cuba. In contrast to the United States, Cuba operates a national health system that is financed and administered by the national government. There are no private health care facilities or providers on the island, but Cuba’s physicians and providers are well-trained in primary care and public health. Despite limited resources and an embargo against trade with the United States, Cuba’s population health indicators outperform those in wealthy counties. According to the World Health Organization, the average life expectancy in Cuba (79.0 years) is at least six months longer than the average life expectancy in the United States (78.5 years). The Cuban health care system is often held as an exemplary model for other countries. Yet, wide health disparities persist on the island. This course introduces students to health services organization and delivery in Cuba with comparisons to U.S. health care delivery. Topics include the history and role of public health and health care providers in Cuba; education and training of health care professionals and managers; growing challenges facing population health in Cuba; comparative health systems; and emerging public health research and technologies in Cuba.

FEES: Cost is approx. $8,975.00