

Public Health Track Curriculum

Fall Semester, Nairobi, Kenya Program

Kiswahili (3 credits required)

Kiswahili is the largest and fastest growing African-based language spoken in Africa. Between 100 and 150 million people speak it in various capacities. It is the lingua franca for most of East Africa and parts of Central Africa. It is also the national or official language of at least five nations; Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo and the Union of the Comoros. As a part of cultural immersion, the AU program in Nairobi offers the students semester-long Kiswahili course. While we primarily offer the Beginners' and Intermediate Kiswahili, students who choose to study in Kenya for the full year may be able to take more advanced Swahili through special arrangement with the AU Abroad office.

Fundamentals of Epidemiology (3 credit hours required for 3-year degree students)

This course covers the fundamentals of epidemiology. Epidemiology is one of the disciplines of public health that is concerned with prevention and control of diseases and other health-related conditions in populations. At the end of the course, the student shall be able to apply the basic epidemiological concepts in public health practice. Students will need to have taken Basic Statistics prior to registering for this course.

Environmental Health (3 credits required for 3-year degree students)

This course will examine the physical, chemical and biological factors in the environment that impact community health and health behaviors. The concept and methods of risk assessment will be discussed, as well as how health-supportive environments can be created and maintained.

Community Health Project (3 credits required for 3-year degree students)

This course will discuss processes involved in employing a systematic approach to the development, implementation and evaluation of community diagnosis as part of interventions that set out to improve public health, with an emphasis on applications in community settings. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to understand the role of community diagnosis in health planning and evaluation and describe procedures involved in conducting a community diagnosis survey.

Students will choose from one of the following:

The Social and Political History of Kenya (3 credits)

Over the last hundred years, Kenya has played an important role in the world economy whether this was through the Indian Ocean trade, European colonization, the Cold War, or most recently, the globalism of the new world order. These processes have affected Kenya's cultural institutions, political and social organizations, and belief and value systems in significant ways. In order to make sense of the country's past in the present, this course examines a range of thematic topics, among others; the social and political institutions in pre-colonial Kenya societies, the establishment of European settlements and the colonial political economy; anti-colonial African nationalism; the world wars and their impacts on Kenya; and the post-colonial Cold War geopolitics in Kenya. We also examine the most pressing issues facing the country today among these, the Neo-liberal reforms and the globalism phenomena of the twenty first century. The students will have the opportunity to visit the important research sites such as the Kenya National Archives, and write a research paper on a specific issue affecting Kenya's historical or contemporary development.

Externship (3 credits)

Many students choose the Kenya program because of the hands-on experience gained at the externship sites. The program has a pool of community-based health and development organizations located in Nairobi. Public Health Students will receive a list of externship opportunities that meets the specific needs of the program.