

University of Toronto
Woodsworth College and Human Biology/Global Health Program
Summer Abroad Course, 2025
May 26 – June 20, 2025

HMB395Y0 – Global Migration and Health – Perspectives from the Field

Preliminary Course Outline and Assessment Scheme

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Course Description

HMB395Y0 - Global Migration and Health - Perspectives from the Field adopts an interdisciplinary approach to introduce students to human migration as an increasingly significant contemporary global phenomenon and a fundamental determinant of health. Impacted by and interacting with other structural determinants of health, migration influences the health status of those who move and of individuals, communities, and entire societies in countries of origin, transit, and resettlement, presenting significant challenges in terms of both policy development and health care organization and delivery. Incorporating scholarly work from the fields of public health, the social sciences, law, and human rights, the course is based on readings, small-group and plenary discussions, lectures, and experiential activities. As Mexico is at the same time the country with the largest number of emigrants in the world, a major migration route, and an increasingly important migration destination, it represents an ideal location for a course of this nature. By taking this course, students will have the opportunity to acquire a more direct understanding of the experience of both international and internal migrants, the communities who host them, and the organizations that work to support them, than the one they would get by taking a comparable course offered on campus, in Toronto, due to the relative geographic isolation of Canada and the particular features of the Canadian immigration system.

Prerequisites: Completion of X (?) full course equivalents

Exclusions: Students who have completed HST405H – Global Migration and Health cannot enroll in this course

Course Location

The course will be offered in Oaxaca, the capital city of the State of Oaxaca and one of the most beautiful cities in southern Mexico. It is a city rich in history and both archeological and architectural treasures. It is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Members of several Indigenous Peoples represent more than 30 percent of the population in the State. Indigenous culture is very strong in the region, with a significant proportion of the population speaking one of many Indigenous languages as their first and often only language. Oaxaca is often acknowledged as the culinary capital of Mexico. The city is in the foothills of the Sierra Madre mountain range at an elevation of 1,500m. The range of temperatures, in June, is between a minimum of 16, at night, and a maximum of 30 °C. The course will include local day trips to meet representatives of community-based organizations offering health and other human services to migrants. It will also include a four-day trip to Mexico City, at the end of the course, to meet representatives of national and international organizations responsible for migrants in Mexico and Central America, advocates working in defense of the rights of migrants, and researchers from some of the major academic institutions in the country.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a. Define key terms, explain core concepts, and recognize the essential features of the human migration phenomenon
- b. Recognize the links between migration and other historical and contemporary global phenomena
- c. Recall, summarize, and contrast some of the major theories of migration
- d. Analyze the role of migration as a social determinant of health and its interactions with other determinants
- e. Apply critical, practical and creative thinking to the analysis of specific migration & health issues; and,
- f. Locate and assess additional resources and identify further opportunities for personal and professional development in the migration & health field

Assessment Scheme

Active contribution to the course	10%
Weekly assignments (four, 10% each)	40%
In-class presentation (group assignment)	20%
Term paper (due after return)	30%

Course Syllabus

The final version of the course syllabus and a complete list of both required and optional readings will be available on the Quercus course site.