

Course: International Migration and the Health Care System
INS510 University of Miami
Summer I.

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This course introduces the links between immigration and the health care system. It is divided in two modules. The first module deals with immigrants as professionals in the medical field. The second covers immigrants as individuals in need of medical care. It has been designed from the social sciences perspective for upper-division undergraduates and graduate students from various fields. No previous background in the systems discussed is required. Each module starts with a detailed discussion of the basic concepts and perspectives that will be used. It awards three credits (a six-credit option is open for students who submit a research paper during the summer).

The main topics covered are:

I. The international migration of health care professionals ('spontaneous' movements and recruitment efforts). -The development of medical associations or societies by immigrant professionals: their local and transnational impact. -Issues pertaining to accreditation in the United States and the opportunities and barriers that doctors and nurses face in the incorporation process as professionals.

II. Immigration enforcement and the medical screening of potential immigrants.-Factors shaping the access of immigrants to health care services.-Health disparities and the immigrant population.-The migration experience and the psychosocial well-being of migrants.-Discourses, concepts and mandates related to "cultural competency."-The transnational strategies launched by the migrants in addressing their health care needs.-Potential impact of current bills on the issues discussed in class. If a major law is enacted before the course starts, we will discuss its actual or potential implications.