

Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs and
School of Public Health
University of Minnesota

PA 5451/PH5281

IMMIGRANT HEALTH ISSUES

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Description: A four-credit (with final project) or three-credit (without final project), on-line computer course for public policy and health professionals that may be taken for letter grades or pass/fail.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will acquire research skills to access demographic, health and background information on immigrants in the U.S.
2. Students will understand the major characteristics and health needs of new immigrants.
3. Students will be able to design 'culturally competent' health programs.
4. Students will learn to advocate for needed changes to promote immigrant health.

Texts and Video: We use two text books in this course. One is actually an excellent non-fiction book which many of you may have already read: The Spirit Catches You, and You Fall Down by Ann Fadiman. It can be purchased at most

bookstores. The course text is by Sana Loue: Handbook of Immigrant Health. Both books, as well as the course videotape can be purchased in person, by phone, or on the web (www.bookstore.umn.edu) from the H.D. Smith Bookstore at the University of Minnesota. Their phone number is 612-625-3000. Tell them that you want to order the books and videotape for PA5490 or PH5281 Immigrant Health Issues. A third text on Quality health Services for Hispanics: The Cultural Competency Component (DHHS, 2001) is mailed out with the course video tape

Community Work: The key to becoming “culturally competent” is to go into the community to meet and learn from the residents you hope to serve. Community visits, observations and interviews are an essential (and fun!) component of the course and the credit requirements.