



## Health: a common good? A multidisciplinary approach to health in the social context

**Credits:** 8 ECTS credits

**Instructional hours:** 55+ hours

**Teaching language:** English

**Organizing instructor:** Laure Liénard, MSW (Institut Social de Lille, Université Catholique de Lille)

**Academic calendar:** January 2020

**Prerequisite:** Students undertaking this course should normally have successfully completed at least one semester at university, or have equivalent experience. They must have some ability to work as a group and be able to communicate easily in English at a standard university level. In other respects, the course is intended to serve a mix of profiles and learning backgrounds for a more diverse international learning experience.

### PROGRAM PRESENTATION

This program will offer two separate but related courses for a total of 8 ECTS credits. The first is a beginner-level French language course (18 hours), including an Intercultural Communication module (3 hours), lectures and site visits concerning regional art and architecture, and more. The other course will provide students with an overview of health and its various dimensions.

The “survival French” course should provide students with a variety of essential language skills and knowledge of French culture, for which the module in Intercultural Communication will provide important context. In the “Health: A Common Good” course, we will try to understand how health needs are understood and addressed in our societies thanks to input from various disciplines. This will help us nourish critical thinking regarding the place of health in our home societies. In the Western world, health is often understood in its restrictive sense of “absence of disease.” However, other cultures, along with the World Health Organization, emphasize the notion of “wellbeing,” as well as the social and environmental factors involved in health. Health and well-being can be seen as social constructs – a form of consensus that varies according to the social context. The implementation of the Welfare States in Europe was the result of a long process that has led our societies to envision health both as a right and as a common good.

## “Survival French” – Language and Culture (15+ hours, 2 ECTS credits):

### Course objectives

#### Module 1: French language and culture (15+ hours, beginner level)

To provide students with materials and the resources necessary for them to express themselves through a short series of expressions or easy sentences (such as pertain to daily life, asking directions, ordering at a restaurant, physical description, and other familiar topics); to understand and use common expressions; and to better understand French culture.

- Lexical fields: greetings, numbers, colours, nationalities, days/months/date, physical description, jobs, clothes, common transports, food, everyday activities, feelings, class vocabulary.
- Grammar: conjugation of *have*, *be*, *go*, and first group verbs in the indicative present tense, gender, possessive adjectives, partitive, and negation.
- French culture: introduction to French and regional art, film, architecture, cuisine, and more

#### Module 2: Intercultural Communication (3 hours)

To aid students in understanding and effectively living and learning in different and diverse environments, lending them practical tools for effective intercultural interactions. Through focus on some of the fundamental cross-cultural differences in communication, ways of working and interacting, students will learn how to recognize the influence of “cultural software” on attitudes, behaviours, and communication styles, and to discover their own “cultural blueprints.”

### Methods

- Self-study, dictation, grammatical exercises with multiple examples and both written and oral practice, covering the 5 linguistic skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing and oral interaction).
- Interactive discussion, debates, role-play, group work, sharing of experience.
- Lecture, film viewing, field trips

### Materials

To be supplied in class.

### Assessment

Form	Number	Duration	Comments
Final exam (60%)	1	1 hour	
Student participation (20%)			
Attendance (20%)			

## “Health: A Common Good?” (40+ hours, 6 ECTS credits):

### Course objectives

At the end of the course, the students should:

- Understand health in relation to a multidisciplinary “toolbox” (sociology, anthropology, political science and philosophy, economy, and social work).
- Understand the different concepts of health in the world including “absence of disease” versus “wellbeing,” and understand how health needs are apprehended and addressed in European societies thanks to input from various disciplines.
- Employ critical thinking regarding the place of health in their home societies.
- Be sensitive to intercultural communication and how it may affect their future professional lives in an international world.

### Content

Class sessions will cover the following topics:

- Introduction: mind-mapping health based on selected reading
- Health and welfare states: a social-historical approach of how welfare states came to be, based on the French example

- Public policy and epidemiology
- A sociological and anthropological approach to health: health as a cultural notion (intercultural and gender issues), health and inequalities
- Health economics: an economic approach to health and well-being as an investment + statistical software practice module
- Visit to two health care providers (hospital or community centre) in Lille with opportunities to interact with French practitioners and decision-makers in the field of public health
- Final assessment: students' Country Reports, and evaluation

**Methods:** Lectures, discussion, site visits, meeting with professionals, case studies, group work

### Materials

All course materials will be supplied in class. They include slides and readings, such as:

- VENKATAPURAM Sridhat (2011) Health Justice (introduction)
- FREEMAN Richard (2000) The Politics of Health in Europe (chapter2)
- Replication of LAYTE, R. and WHELAN, C.T. (2009) "Explaining Social Class Inequalities in Smoking: the Role of Education, Self-Efficacy and Depression", European Sociological Review 25(4): 399-410

### Assessment

Form	Number	Comments
Continuous assessment (20%)	3	Quizzes
Final exam (60%)	1	Country Report: written essay and oral presentation regarding student's home country
Other (student participation...) (20%)		Attendance, participation, and contribution to group discussion

*This syllabus is based on information that was available at the time of publication (June 2019). For updated information about course content, please contact us: [lsp@univ-catholille.fr](mailto:lsp@univ-catholille.fr)*