

**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**NURS-175**  
**Cross Cultural Health Comparison**  
1 semester hour

**HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Description**

During an intensive practicum in another culture students will observe, document, and evaluate health and health care practices in order to foster greater understanding of differences between the US health practices and those in the system of the culture they are visiting. Students will visit hospitals, clinics, homes, food markets and possibly a university to observe health care practices and programs. NOTE: Also listed as CARD-175, and HEED-175.

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Based upon the students' field of study (CVT, HEED, Nursing, etc.) describe three aspects of the practice of health and health care in the culture visited that differ from the U.S.
2. Identify three cultural aspects of the community and describe how these beliefs impact individual health behavior and the practice of health care in that culture.
3. Compare and contrast the resources available to consumers and health practitioners in the culture visited with those available in the United States.
4. Identify problem areas in the institutions visited and make recommendations for improvement.

**Major Topics**

- I. The practice of health care in a public, private and “state of the art” hospitals in another culture
- II. The practice of health and health care in a rural clinic in another culture
- III. Training for nurses and health practitioners in another culture
- IV. Societal/cultural issues in another culture and their impact on consumer health behavior and health care

## **Course Requirements**

### **Writing:**

1. Students will conduct active research by journaling after each visit and/or lecture. Entries will include descriptions of observations and any conclusions drawn from those observations.
2. Students will write a final paper comparing the health system in the culture visited with that in the USA using their journal entries as a foundation for critical analysis. Journals will be submitted with the final paper.

### **Discussions**

Following each site visit students will gather for an instructor guided debriefing. The instructor will facilitate students' understanding of the U.S. health and health care models to assist in cross cultural comparison.

## **Other Course Information**

This course is only for students taking the health tour in another culture. It can be taken as CARD, HEED, or NURS, but not more than one of those.

This course is an Interdisciplinary and Emerging Issues core course.