

BURCH SEMINAR PROPOSAL

BFRS 350:

Public Health in Vietnam: Legacies of War, Challenges of Peace

Fall 2011 (14 weeks)

September 1 – December 4, 2011

Dr. Professor Trude Bennett

Department of Maternal and Child Health

I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Public health indicators such as maternal and infant mortality are often interpreted as reflections of general well-being, social development, and government commitment to improving the quality of life for a country's entire population.

...Within countries there are dramatic differences in health that are closely linked with degrees of social disadvantage. ...These inequities in health, avoidable health inequalities, arise because of the circumstances in which people grow, live, work, and age, and the systems put in place to deal with illness. The conditions in which people live and die are, in turn, shaped by political, social, and economic forces.

Closing the gap in a generation: health equity through action on the social determinants of health. Final Report of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2008.

Colonialism, war, and poverty create enormous challenges for public health, though collective responses and national unity can result in creative and successful strategies. As a country with a long history of occupation, conflict, and impoverishment, Vietnam has recently emerged as a new Asian tiger with great economic potential. Since the Doi Moi (Renovation) liberalization of 1986, Vietnam's mixed market economy has grown rapidly. Encouraging trends can be seen in major health indicators such as infant mortality, which dropped from 70 to 20 deaths per 1,000 live births between 1960 and 2002. Life expectancy, estimated at about 40 years for all Vietnamese in 1955, rose to 65 years for men and 70 years for women in 2000.

Currently, high rates of inflation and the global financial crisis pose threats to foreign investment, export markets, and continued growth in Vietnam. Inequitable distribution of newly accrued wealth and the trend towards privatization of health care, along with the weakening of cultural constraints on deleterious health behaviors, compound the danger of setbacks in public health. For example, reported increases in maternal mortality might be attributable to improved data collection or may actually reflect the increased concentration of resources in urban areas.

Preparations are underway for the 1,000th anniversary of the capital city of Hanoi in 2010, the lunar Year of the Tiger. The festivities come at a time when policymakers face critical public policy decisions for health and other sectors. As a country in transition, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam must craft its own unique form of social protections balancing social and personal responsibility as well as public v. private mechanisms for financing and provision of services.

The students in this Burch Seminar will spend the Fall Semester of 2011 based at Hanoi School of Public Health (HSPH) learning about the history, challenges, strategies, and future directions of public health in Vietnam in sociopolitical and cultural context. Basic Vietnamese language instruction will enrich their experience of living in this vibrant city, and on-campus accommodations in close proximity to Vietnamese undergraduate public health students at HSPH will help them integrate into modern Vietnamese life with the support of talented peers. We will spend 2 weeks at the end of the course visiting different sites in central Vietnam to experience and compare health conditions and responses outside the capital in smaller cities, rural areas, mountainous regions, and ethnic minority communities.

The program will conclude with a 2-day Capstone Seminar in Ha Long Bay (Bay of the Descending Dragon), a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site studded with thousands of beautiful and unique limestone formations. Accessible by bus and boat, Ha Long Bay is 165 kilometers northeast of Hanoi; professional conferences and training workshops are frequently held in Ha Long City. The Capstone will include the Vietnamese teaching faculty and student peers from Hanoi School of Public Health and Hue College of Medicine and Pharmacy, and will allow time for tourism and relaxation as well as reflection and planning for future collaborations. One night will be spent on land and a second night on the water in a tour boat. The UNC students will share their observations of public health in Vietnam and present their oral history projects; discussion will focus on the potential for ongoing collaborations.

II. PROGRAM GOALS

By the end of the program, students will be:

knowledgeable about the definition of public health and measurement of public health indicators; social determinants of health in Vietnam and similar developing countries; manifestations of social inequalities in health; typologies of different health systems; impact of globalization and privatization; strategies for health promotion, disease prevention, and reduction of health inequalities; evolution of health care strategies in Vietnam and assessments of their effectiveness;

familiar with the history of public health in Vietnam from 1900 to the present in the context of: Vietnamese culture; social, political, and economic conditions; changing forms of governance; role of civil society; gender and sexuality; developments in

science and technology; and influences from within and outside the Asia-Pacific region;

aware of the current public health challenges in Vietnam including war legacies such as Agent Orange and land mines; safety and adequacy of food and water; infectious diseases (malaria, tuberculosis, dengue fever, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections); maternal and child health; family planning; motor vehicle safety; occupational and environmental health; chronic diseases (coronary heart disease and stroke, diabetes, cancer); tobacco and alcohol; and emerging infections such as SARS and avian flu;

knowledgeable about the evolution and course of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Vietnam including modes of transmission, monitoring and surveillance of trends; strategies for prevention and treatment; government policy and involvement; traditional “social evils” ideology as a challenge or an aid to policy; integration of harm reduction interventions; selection by the US as the only Asian beneficiary of the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) program, and the impact of bilateral government assistance; the influence of local and international NGOs; the importance of Vietnamese culture in understanding and preventing AIDS transmission; and the growing role of civil society in the struggle against HIV/AIDS;

conversant in basic Vietnamese language and culture in order to understand a dynamic society in transition, the legacy of colonialism and war, and the complex relationship with the US as the two countries make the transition from combatants to allies; and

competent in basic oral history skills, having completed a series of oral history interviews with at least one leader, participant, or observer of the Vietnamese health care system during a critical period in its development and implementation. [This project will enable students to develop an area of deep understanding that will fulfill individual learning objectives and help to shape future career goals. The collective efforts of the class will make a contribution to the historical record of public health in Vietnam.]

III. ACADEMICS

Students in this semester-long program will be enrolled in the following 5 academic courses (3 credits each, for a total of 15 credits):

1. HNRS 352: *Introduction to Vietnamese Culture: The Context for Public Health* (taught by Trude Bennett, MSW, MPH, DrPH, UNC-CH; c.v. and course outline attached)
2. HNRS 353: *Public Health in Vietnam from 1954 to the Present: An Historical Overview* (taught by Vu Hoang Lan, MD, MsC, PhD; Head of Department of Epidemiology, HSPH; c.v. and course outline attached)

3. HNRS 352: *HIV/AIDS: A Case Study of National Strategy and International Cooperation* (taught by Do Mai Hoa, MD, MPH, PhD Candidate; Deputy Head of Department of Health System Management, HSP; c.v. and course outline attached)
4. HNRS 352: *Oral History: Methods and Application to Public Health in Vietnam* (taught by Trude Bennett; course outline attached)
5. HNRS 350: *Fundamentals of Vietnamese Language* (taught by faculty from Hanoi National University, Foreign Languages Department)

Hanoi School of Public Health (HSPH), one of the leading public health training institutions in Southeast Asia, is a key player in providing research-based evidence to inform health policy in Vietnam. HSPH is strategically located on the same street as the national Ministry of Health, the Health Strategy and Policy Institute, and the Vietnam Family Planning Institute. With close ties to Hanoi Medical University, other government agencies, and many local and international NGOs, HSPH houses the secretariat of the Vietnam Public Health Association and publishes the Vietnam Public Health Journal. The UNC-Chapel Hill School of Public Health has an active Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Hanoi School of Public Health.

Most faculty and administrators at Hanoi School of Public Health have doctoral degrees from US or European universities, and all speak fluent English. Instruction for local students at the School is in Vietnamese, but many graduate and undergraduate students have English language proficiency. HSPH recently lead the development of a 4-year Bachelor of Public Health (BPH) degree program which has now been implemented throughout the country in Public Health faculties of all medical universities. At HSPH approximately 100 BPH students are admitted annually to receive training in the science and practice of public health; graduates fill essential positions in the national and local public health infrastructure. The program has a strong emphasis on experiential learning, and students concentrate on urban and rural field internships in their third and fourth years.

I first developed a Memorandum of Understanding between UNC and HSPH in 2002, and initiated a UNC Faculty Working Group on Vietnam with significant participation of colleagues from UNC School of Public Health. HSPH administrators and faculty have visited UNC several times, and I consult with them 1-2 times per year during research trips to Vietnam. On one of these visits in November 2008, HSPH Dean Le Vu Anh, Ph.D. and Deputy Dean Bui Thi Thu Ha, Ph.D. agreed that a Burch Seminar collaboration would be mutually beneficial for our two institutions. They made many helpful suggestions, upon which this proposal is based; I continued the planning discussions with them on a visit to Hanoi in June 2009 and July 2010.

Grounded in the living history of public health at a critical time in Vietnam's development, the Burch students will enjoy the resources of Hanoi School of Public Health and the companionship of peer Vietnamese undergraduate students. In addition to

learning the history, current challenges, and creative strategies for addressing both traditional and emerging public health problems in a transitional economy, the UNC students will also be part of forging new alliances between the US and Vietnam in a period of friendship and cooperation. Requirements for the 15 credits of academic content will include at least 40 contact hours for each course spent on classroom instruction and discussion (75%) and site visits with instructors (25% with 2 hours considered equivalent to 1 classroom hour), field trips for language instruction and practice, and independent research and oral history interviews with Vietnamese student counterparts assisting as interpreters. Students will be expected to devote a minimum of 30 hours a week to course readings, written assignments, language study, oral history work, and exams. Weekly journal entries will be required for the Oral History course. Exams will be completed in Hanoi before travel to other sites in Vietnam; reading assignments, class discussions, and review of journal entries will continue throughout the final 2 weeks.

Outline of academic coursework:

Program dates will be from September 1 – December 4, 2011. UNC students will arrive on September 1 to begin orientation. Although the duration of classes will vary somewhat, each of the 3-credit classes will entail at least 40 contact hours. Vietnamese language class (#5 below) will begin on Monday, September 5, and continue for a total of 11 weeks. The semester formally opens at Hanoi School of Public Health on September 12, so classes #2 and #3 described below will meet for 10 weeks starting on 9/12/10. Classes #1 and #4 will meet for a total of 12 weeks, including the two weeks of travel from November 19 – December 1. We will return to Hanoi on December 1, and then spend December 2-4 with students and faculty from Hanoi School of Public Health and Hue College of Medicine and Pharmacy at the capstone workshop in Ha Long Bay.

The following five academic courses will be offered (3 credits each):

1. HNRS 352: *Introduction to Vietnamese Culture: The Context for Public Health*

Instructor: Dr. Trude Bennett (UNC-Chapel Hill)

Proposed general education requirement: Social and Behavioral Sciences (SS)

Major credit: Health Policy and Management, Maternal and Child Health, Asian Studies, and International Studies (anticipated)

Course overview:

This course will be taught by Dr. Trude Bennett utilizing fiction and non-fiction English language materials published by the Foreign Language Publishing House in Hanoi, interviews and articles archived on websites of academic centers throughout the world, and oral histories and memoirs published in English such as *Last Night I Dreamed of Peace* by Dang Thuy Tram. Rich in detail about military medicine under the worst of conditions, this poignant diary of a young North Vietnamese woman doctor sparked discussion and debate about the sacrifices made during wartime after its recovery and publication in Vietnam in 2005.

Readings and speakers will illustrate the context of key eras and aspects of public health in Vietnam. Colleagues of the instructor who will share their memories and speak with the class include Professor Nguyen Thi Ngoc Toan, an obstetrician-gynecologist who was one of the first surgeons to call attention to the health effects of Agent Orange; Dr. Pham Song, former Minister of Health and Chair of the Vietnam Family Planning Association who continues to advise the government on health planning; Drs. Khuat Thu Hong and Le Bach Duong, Co-directors of the Institute for Social and Development Studies (ISDS), an independent Vietnamese research and advocacy NGO that specializes in gender norms, sexuality, migration, stigmatization, and other issues key to health and development; and Le Thi Hoai Phuong, MS, Director of the Center for Sustainable Community Development (CDCD), another local NGO that specializes in improving reproductive health through micro-lending programs in rural areas.

Site visits will include meetings with Ministry of Health and city health officials; visits to public and private hospitals and clinics, family planning centers, and drug rehabilitation programs; visits to rural health and development projects in nearby provinces; visits to an acupuncture hospital and other traditional medicine practitioners and training institutions; meetings with representatives of the Women's Union, Youth Union, and organizations of workers and veterans; and a visit to Friendship Village in Ha Tay province, a rehabilitation and care project initiated by war veterans from the US and other countries in concert with the Vietnamese government.

Class schedule and contact hours:

The class will meet once a week for 3 hours at HSPH, in addition to at least 20 hours of field trips in and around Hanoi.

Assessment:

- Class participation: 10%
- Weekly reflection papers on readings and presentations (2-3 pages each): 15%
- Midterm exam on an assigned topic (e.g., Confucian influence on gender roles and reproductive health): 20%
- Final paper on an assigned theme developed throughout the course (e.g., the role of the Vietnamese family in health decision making), 10 pages: 30%
- Final exam (in-class): 25%

2. HNRS 353: *Public Health in Vietnam from 1954 to the Present: An Historical Overview*

Instructor: Dr. Vu Hoang Lan (Hanoi School of Public Health)

Proposed general education requirement: Historical Analysis (HS)

Major credit: Health Policy and Management, Asian Studies (anticipated), International Studies Health Concentration (anticipated)

Course overview:

This course will be taught by Dr. Vu Hoang Lan, Head of the Department of Epidemiology at Hanoi School of Public Health. The class will address the backdrop of historical events, social determinants of health, and health systems issues. Focus will be on public health problems in both communicable disease (TB, dengue fever, avian flu, SARS) and non-communicable areas (injury, smoking, Agent Orange/dioxin and other environmental hazards). Site visits will include the School's Chili-Lab Demographic and Epidemiological Surveillance Site in Hai Duong province northeast of Hanoi, the National Tuberculosis Hospital, National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, community-based anti-smoking projects, and an injury prevention center.

Class schedule and contact hours:

The class will meet at HSPH once a week for 3 hours, and field trips will constitute at least 20 hours outside the classroom.

Assessment:

- Group presentation: 20%
- Individual paper documenting research for presentation, 6 pages: 30%
- Final written assignment in the form of a 8-page essay: 30%
- In-class final exam: 20%

3. HNRS 352: *HIV/AIDS: A Case Study of National Strategy and International Cooperation*

Instructor: Dr. Do Mai Hoa (Hanoi School of Public Health)

Proposed general education requirement: Social and Behavioral Sciences (SS)

Major credit: Health Policy and Management, and International Studies (anticipated)

Course overview:

This course will be taught by Dr. Do Mai Hoa, Head of the Department of Health System Management at HSPH. Two approaches to HIV/AIDS in Vietnam will be emphasized: 1) treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS, and 2) harm reduction programs to achieve behavioral change. Field trips will include visits to Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) programs, hospitals, support groups and clubs for people with HIV/AIDS, Hanoi People's Committee on HIV/AIDS, and NGOs such as Family Health International. Dr. Steven Mills, FHI Country Director and Adjunct faculty in the UNC Department of Maternal and Child Health; USAID and PEPFAR officials; as well as other administrators of other bilateral aid projects; and many leading Vietnamese and international NGOs are headquartered in Hanoi. Students will be able to attend public hearings and community meetings and observe outreach activities and service programs focused on HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment.

Class schedule and contact hours:

The class will meet at HSPH once a week for 3 hours, with at least 20 hours of field trips and excursions outside the classroom.

Assessment:

- Group presentation: 20%
- Individual paper documenting research for presentation, 6 pages: 30%
- Final written assignment in the form of a 8-page essay: 30%
- In-class final exam: 20%

4. HNRS 352: *Oral History: Methods and Application to Public Health in Vietnam*

Instructor: Dr. Trude Bennett (UNC-Chapel Hill)

Proposed general education requirement: Social and Behavioral Sciences (SS)

Course overview:

This course will be taught by Trude Bennett with guest lectures by colleagues such as Lady Borton, an American writer and historian living in Hanoi who published the oral history *After Sorrow: An American Among the Vietnamese*; and Dam Thu, a distinguished oral historian and former International Director of the Women's Union of Vietnam. In addition to basic theory and methods, the course will address culturally competent adaptation of oral history techniques for conducting interviews with several generations of Vietnamese participants.

Students will work in small groups to select an historical era, topic area in public health, and individual subject of interest and will design an oral history project in consultation with the instructor. Using their other courses, especially *Introduction to Vietnamese Culture*, to provide context for this project, students will develop specific interview guides. UNC IRB approval will be sought in advance for an interview consent form in English and Vietnamese that presents all necessary components the students will be required to include. Vietnamese BPH students at HSPH will be recruited to serve as interpreters and paired with Burch students when necessary.

As the interviews progress, students will present their findings to the class and receive feedback and suggestions on the process and content of their oral history work. A final paper will be required that frames the edited interviews with background on the era and topic of interest, and concludes with a summary of the significance of the interviews.

The student projects will be designed to make a collective contribution to the historical record of public health in Vietnam by capturing the experiences of health leaders and ordinary citizens of different generations and positions in society. If there is interest at Hanoi School of Public Health (and, of course, with permission of the subjects), the student projects could be translated and published in Vietnamese as a text to be used in public health instruction. (This was done with case studies I

developed in collaboration with HSPH faculty for instruction on reproductive health.) Alternatively, a multimedia website could be developed using software to incorporate photography, video, and/or music with both students and interviewees participating.

Class schedule and contact hours:

The class will meet once a week for 3 hours at HSPH. Students will dedicate at least 20 additional hours to meeting with interview subjects, conducting interviews, and observing and making visual and aural recordings relevant to the project.

Assessment:

- Class participation: 15%
- Weekly journal entries on assigned topics related to the readings and the oral history experience (2-3 pages each): 15%
- Project benchmarks: 15%
- Group presentation: 15%
- Individual paper on the process of conducting an oral history project 8-10 pages: 20%
- Final (in class) exam: 20%

5. HNRS 350: *Fundamentals of Vietnamese Language*

Instructor: Faculty at Hanoi National University, Foreign Languages Department

Proposed general education requirement: Foreign Language (FL)

Major credit: Asian Studies (anticipated)

Course overview:

Vietnamese, an Austroasiatic language formerly written in Chinese characters, was adapted to a Latinized writing system by a French Jesuit missionary in the 17th century. However, the multiple vowels, tonal conventions, and regional dialects make correct pronunciation very challenging for Westerners. Proficiency for academic purposes is beyond the scope of this course, but students will be able to master basic conversational skills and recognition of key written messages with a semester's instruction. In addition to allowing courtesy and aiding adaptation, the study of Vietnamese opens an important window on a culture in which, for example, all forms of address reflect familial relations. Instruction by faculty from Hanoi National University, Foreign Languages Department will be reinforced by exchanges with HSPH students and opportunities for using Vietnamese in organized field trips as well as everyday situations.

Cultural sites for expeditions in Hanoi will include Hoan Kiem Lake, Thang Long Water Puppet Theater, Museum of Ethnology, Ho Chi Minh Museum and Mausoleum, Temple of Literature, One Pillar Pagoda, and Ho Tay Lake Water Park. A weekend excursion to the Imperial City of Hue in central Vietnam will afford an opportunity for the students to visit an ancient capital with many historical vestiges on the Perfume River. Tombs of the kings of the last (Nguyen) dynasty are preserved

in Hue, and the home of the royal family remains inside the Citadel surrounded by walls and a moat. Another World Heritage Cultural Site, Hue is also a major Buddhist center with scores of temples and pagodas. Foods, clothing, and accents in Hue are culturally distinct from Hanoi. The students will meet with peers in the undergraduate public health faculty at the Hue College of Medicine and Pharmacy (with whom UNC SPH is developing a new MOU), and will visit public health programs maintained by the college.

Class schedule and contact hours:

The course will meet twice weekly for 1 ½ hours each class session at HSPH each week. Classroom instruction will be supplemented with field trips (total of at least 20 hours) to apply language learning in cultural context.

Assessment:

- Class participation and preparation: 15%
- Biweekly written homework assignments: 20%
- Quality of recitation sessions to indicate mastery of pronunciation, use of language to negotiate assigned tasks during field trips and excursions: 15%
- Midterm exam: 20%
- Final exam: 30%

Tentative Program Schedule

Day/Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00 – 10:30am	Fundamentals of Vietnamese Language	Public Health in Vietnam from 1954 to the Present: An Historical Overview	HIV/AIDS: A Case Study of National Strategy and International Cooperation	Fundamentals of Vietnamese Language	Free for interviews, project meetings, excursions, volunteer work
10:30am – 12:00pm	Free for excursions, interviews, etc.	(continued) Public Health in Vietnam from 1954 to the Present: An Historical Overview	(continued) HIV/AIDS: A Case Study of National Strategy and International Cooperation	Free for excursions, interviews, etc.	Free for individual and group activities
2:00 – 5:00pm	Free for excursions, interviews, etc.	Free for excursions, interviews, etc.	Introduction to Vietnamese Culture: The Context for Public Health	Oral History: Methods and Application to Public Health in Vietnam	Free for individual and group activities

IV. PROGRAM LOGISTICS

a. University affiliation

The history, organization, and description of academic programs and facilities at Hanoi School of Public Health (HSPH) can be found at <http://www.hsph.edu.vn/english/>. Recent construction supported by international donors such as the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations has expanded the instructional space and student housing on the campus at 138B Giang Vo Street in central Hanoi. This Burch Seminar will be conducted in partnership with HSPH, relying on the School for instructors in 2 of the classes, classroom space, and student housing while in Vietnam. HSPH faculty members have research training, expertise, and teaching experience similar to faculty at UNC or any other world class university. The School's classrooms are well appointed with modern audio-visual equipment, and computer laboratories are available for student use. On-campus housing for visiting students will comfortably accommodate the UNC students in air-conditioned double rooms with private bathrooms and housekeeping services. The School's International Relations Department will make all arrangements for on-campus housing.

b. Program travel

Local bus transportation for any field visits that are part of the curriculum for Burch students will be arranged by Hanoi School of Public Health. Taxi service between the airport and the School, and within the city of Hanoi, is easily arranged and inexpensive. Public buses and motorcycle taxis are also omnipresent. Travel during the last 2 weeks of the term, the weekend trip to Hue, and the capstone weekend in Ha Long Bay will be arranged by Mr. Nguyen Quynh, CEO of Viet Nam Now Travel Agency, who will also be glad to assist any students wishing to travel within Vietnam on weekends.

c. Communication

Hanoi School of Public Health is a wireless environment. Wireless computer access is widely available in Vietnam, as are very low-cost Internet cafes throughout Hanoi. Making international Internet phone calls is easily achieved by using Skype or other programs, either on the students' own laptop computers or from Internet cafes. Local post offices also provide assistance with mail or telephone communications. Students can purchase or bring unlocked cell phones. Mobile phone services and pre-paid phone cards are easy to purchase in Vietnam.

d. Safety and security

Travel in Vietnam is generally safe and violent crime is uncommon. The usual precautions should be taken to avoid theft. Road conditions vary significantly in Vietnam, but major highways have recently been modernized. Monsoon season, usually between June and October, primarily affects the south and central regions of Vietnam. Hanoi is sometimes subject to torrential rain and serious flooding, which would likely inconvenience students and restrict travel but would not endanger visitors. Recent updates to the city's drainage system should reduce the severity of urban problems in

Hanoi. All students will carry an emergency information card with emergency contacts and information on the nearest hospital, embassy, and police station.

e. Medical care

Students will receive a pre-departure orientation at the UNC International Travel Clinic about health risks and recommendations for vaccinations and other precautions in Vietnam. Care will be taken to avoid contact with live poultry and to avoid raw or undercooked poultry dishes. Students will be advised to drink bottled water. Health care of good quality is available to travelers at international facilities with English-speaking doctors, but complex treatment may require evacuation. Students will carry international health insurance through HTH Worldwide.

Pharmacies are adequate and accessible, but students will be advised to bring supplies of all needed medications in clearly labeled, original containers. Students should carry a signed, dated letter from their primary physician describing all medical conditions and listing all medications, including generic names. If carrying syringes or needles, they should carry a physician's letter documenting their medical necessity. All medications should be packed in carry-on luggage. Students who wear glasses or contacts should bring an extra pair; those who have significant allergies or chronic medical problems should wear a medical alert bracelet. Air pollution is a growing problem in Hanoi, and students with respiratory or cardiac conditions should be especially well prepared for their medical needs.

V. FACULTY DIRECTOR

Statement of interest

As my research and teaching interests have focused increasingly on Southeast Asia in the last decade, it has been a great pleasure to share these interests with UNC students in three study abroad programs. I have continued to mentor and advise many of the students, and it is evident that their time in Asia was life-changing. I was co-leader of a Gardner Seminar in Ho Chi Minh City on "Current Issues in Public Health and Education" in Summer 2005, and I co-led the Singapore Summer Immersion Program in 2007 (seminar topic was "Comparative Social Policy in Southeast Asia"). In Spring 2009 I taught the APPLES Reflections seminar for undergraduate students returning from international Service Learning Study Abroad programs. Most recently in May-June 2009, I was Resident Director of a course on "Social Inequalities in Health and Health Care in Thailand and Malaysia" in conjunction with UNC Semester in Southeast Asia, Mahidol University International College. This aspect of my work at UNC has become a primary source of professional development and satisfaction.

On the 1000th anniversary of the city of Hanoi at a time of major change in Vietnam, I look forward to leading a program on public health in Vietnam, past and present. Although I travel frequently to Southeast Asia, I have not had the chance to be in continuous residence in Vietnam for an entire semester. I believe this opportunity will greatly enhance my understanding of the culture and my collaborative research and

training opportunities. The oral history project is of great interest in my own work, and potentially allows our Burch Seminar to make a lasting contribution to public health education in Vietnam.

Experience in the field

Since helping to coordinate the Asian Reproductive Health Graduate Education and Training Program (TARGET), a UNC collaboration with Mahidol University School of Public Health in Bangkok beginning in 1999, I have been actively involved in public health research, training, and practice in Southeast Asia. For the last 8 years I have traveled at least twice a year to Vietnam, where I now have professional affiliations with faculties of public health in the three major geographic regions of the country (Hanoi, Hue, and Ho Chi Minh City). I also have close colleagues in the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the administration of many hospitals and health facilities, as well as numerous Vietnamese and international nongovernmental organizations. I have a funded research project on prenatal genetic screening and early intervention with the Director of the Medical Genetics Division at the School of Medicine and Pharmacy in Hue. These relationships were very helpful in identifying class lecturers and student internships when I co-led the Gardner Summer Research Seminar for UNC students in Ho Chi Minh City in 2005.

Draft Syllabus

HNRS 350: Fundamentals of Vietnamese Language

September 5, 2010 – December 4, 2011

Instructor: Faculty at Hanoi National University, Foreign Languages Department

Course Overview:

Vietnamese, an Austroasiatic language formerly written in Chinese characters, was adapted to a Latinized writing system by a French Jesuit missionary in the 17th century. However, the multiple vowels, tonal conventions, and regional dialects make correct pronunciation very challenging for Westerners. Proficiency for academic purposes is beyond the scope of this course, but students will be able to master basic conversational skills and recognition of key written messages with a semester's instruction. In addition to allowing courtesy and aiding adaptation, the study of Vietnamese opens an important window on a culture in which, for example, all forms of address reflect familial relations. Instruction by faculty from Hanoi National University, Foreign Languages Department will be reinforced by exchanges with HSPH students and opportunities for using Vietnamese in organized field trips as well as everyday situations.

Cultural sites for expeditions in Hanoi will include Hoan Kiem Lake, Thang Long Water Puppet Theater, Museum of Ethnology, Ho Chi Minh Museum and Mausoleum, Temple of Literature, One Pillar Pagoda, and Ho Tay Lake Water Park. A weekend excursion to the Imperial City of Hue in central Vietnam will afford an opportunity for the students to visit an ancient capital with many historical vestiges on the Perfume River. Tombs of the kings of the last (Nguyen) dynasty are preserved in Hue, and the home of the royal family remains inside the Citadel surrounded by walls and a moat. Another World Heritage Cultural Site, Hue is also a major Buddhist center with scores of temples and pagodas. Foods, clothing, and accents in Hue are culturally distinct from Hanoi. The students will meet with peers in the undergraduate public health faculty at the Hue College of Medicine and Pharmacy, and will visit public health programs maintained by the college.

Class schedule and contact hours:

The course will meet twice weekly for 1 ½ hours each class session at HSPH each week. Classroom instruction will be supplemented with field trips (total of at least 20 hours) to apply language learning in cultural context.

Assessment:

- Class participation and preparation: 15%
- Biweekly written homework assignments: 20%
- Quality of recitation sessions to indicate mastery of pronunciation, use of language to negotiate assigned tasks during field trips and excursions: 15%
- Midterm exam: 20%
- Final exam: 30%

Draft Syllabus

HNRS 352: HIV/AIDS: A Case Study of National Strategy and International Cooperation

September 12 – December 4, 2011

Course coordinator: Dr. Do Mai Hoa

Course Overview:

This course will be taught by Dr. Do Mai Hoa, Head of the Department of Health System Management at HSPH. Two approaches to HIV/AIDS in Vietnam will be emphasized: 1) treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS, and 2) harm reduction programs to achieve behavioral change. Field trips will include visits to Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) programs, hospitals, support groups and clubs for people with HIV/AIDS, Hanoi People's Committee on HIV/AIDS, and NGOs such as Family Health International. Dr. Steven Mills, FHI Country Director and Adjunct faculty in the UNC Department of Maternal and Child Health; USAID and PEPFAR officials; administrators of other bilateral aid projects; and many leading Vietnamese and international NGOs are headquartered in Hanoi. Students will be able to attend public hearings and community meetings and observe outreach activities and service programs focused on HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will be knowledgeable about the evolution and course of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Vietnam including modes of transmission, monitoring and surveillance of trends, strategies for prevention and treatment, government policy and involvement, traditional "social evils" ideology as a challenge or an aid to policy, integration of harm reduction interventions, selection by the US as the only Asian beneficiary of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) program and the impact of bilateral government assistance, the influence of local and international NGOs, the importance of Vietnamese culture in understanding and preventing AIDS transmission, the growing role of civil society in the struggle against HIV/AIDS

Course schedule:

Week	Contents	Hrs	Place	Responsible person
1	HIV/AIDS Epidemic and Responses in Vietnam	3 hrs	HSPH	VAAC (Vietnam Administration for AIDS Control)/UNAIDS
2	HIV/AIDS Voluntary Counseling & Testing (VCT)	3 hrs	HSPH	CDC/LIFE GAP Project

3	Care, Treatment and Support for people living with HIV/AIDS	3 hrs	HSPH	WHO/Dr. Do Mai Hoa
	One day field trip to Hai Duong: Students will visit Hai Duong Provincial AIDS Center, Voluntary Counseling & Testing clinic and, Out Patient Clinic in Hai Duong province	1 day (10 hrs)	Hai Duong	Dr. Do Mai Hoa and Hai Duong Provincial AIDS Center
4	HIV/AIDS Monitoring and Evaluation System in Vietnam	3 hrs	HSPH	VAAC
5	Midterm group presentation: comparison on HIV/AIDS programs in Vietnam and other countries	3 hrs	HSPH	Dr. Do Mai Hoa
6	Behavior Change Communication (BCC) in HIV/AIDS	3 hrs	HSPH	VAAC/CCRD (Center for Community Health Research and Development)
7	<i>Visit a PLWHA club (self-help group) or attend a Greater involvement of people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS (GIPA) group meeting to discuss on how PLWHA involve in HIV/AIDS prevention and care programs in Vietnam</i>	3 hrs	<i>PLWHA club</i>	<i>Dr. Do Mai Hoa and leader of a PLWHA club</i>
8	Harm reduction programs in Vietnam	3 hrs	HSPH	WHO/VAAC
9	Substance abuse prevention and treatment	3 hrs	HSPH	Dr. Ted Hammett, Abt Associates
10	Involvements of an international NGOs in HIV/AIDS prevention and care in Vietnam: Visit FHI office in Hanoi and discuss with FHI Country director and staff	3 hrs	FHI office in Hanoi	Dr. Steven Mills, FHI Country Director
	Final exams (2000 words)	3 hrs		

Additional field trips/excursions for a total of at least 10 hours will be scheduled throughout the term

Assessment:

- Group presentation: 20%
- Individual paper documenting research for presentation, 6 pages: 30%
- Final written assignment in the form of a 8-page essay: 30%
- In-class final exam: 20%

Draft Syllabus

HNRS 352: Oral History: Methods and Application to Public Health in Vietnam

September 5 – December 4, 2011

Instructor: Trude Bennett, MSW, MPH, DrPH

Course Overview:

This course will be taught by Trude Bennett with guest lectures by colleagues such as Lady Borton, an American writer and historian living in Hanoi who published the oral history *After Sorrow: An American Among the Vietnamese*; and Dam Thu, a distinguished oral historian and former International Director of the Women's Union of Vietnam. In addition to basic theory and methods, the course will address culturally competent adaptation of oral history techniques for conducting interviews with several generations of Vietnamese participants.

Students will work in small groups to select an historical era, topic area in public health, and individual subject of interest and will design an oral history project in consultation with the instructor. Using their other courses, especially *Introduction to Vietnamese Culture*, to provide context for this project, students will develop specific interview guides. UNC IRB approval will be sought in advance for an interview consent form in English and Vietnamese that presents all necessary components the students will be required to include. Vietnamese BPH students at HSPH will be recruited to serve as interpreters and paired with Burch students when necessary.

As the interviews progress, students will present their findings to the class and receive feedback and suggestions on the process and content of their oral history work. A final paper will be required that frames the edited interviews with background on the era and topic of interest, and concludes with a summary of the significance of the interviews.

The student projects will be designed to make a collective contribution to the historical record of public health in Vietnam by capturing the experiences of health leaders and ordinary citizens of different generations and positions in society. If there is interest at Hanoi School of Public Health (and, of course, with permission of the subjects), the student projects could be translated and published in Vietnamese as a text to be used in public health instruction. (This was done with case studies I developed in collaboration with HSPH faculty for instruction on reproductive health.) Alternatively, a multimedia website could be developed using software to incorporate photography, video, and/or music with both students and interviewees participating.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will be:

- knowledgeable about the purposes and characteristics of the discipline of oral history, including its relevance to social history and women’s studies, and special issues in conducting oral history in Southeast Asian cultures;
- familiar with the nature of evidence in oral history and the ethical principles guiding its conduct;
- competent in basic oral history skills of interviewing, recording, analyzing, and presenting life histories; and
- aware of the potential for utilizing oral history for the purpose of public health interventions.

Course Outline:

Week	Topic/Schedule/Activities	Contact Hours	Location	Instructor(s)
1	What is oral history: method and meaning	3 hrs	HSPH	Dr. Trude Bennett
2	What makes oral history special: is it social history? Is it feminist history?	3 hrs	HSPH	Dr. Trude Bennett
3	What is evidence in oral history?	3 hrs	HSPH	Dr. Trude Bennett
4	Nuts and bolts: arranging the interview, preparing to conduct the interview, designing the interview guide, following up on the interview	3 hrs	HSPH	Dr. Trude Bennett
5	Ethics of oral history: consent and release forms	3 hrs	HSPH	Dr. Trude Bennett
6	Lost in translation: issues in cross-cultural interviewing, interviewing survivors of trauma	3 hrs 4 hrs	HSPH Center for Assistance in Nature Conservation and Community Development	Dr. Trude Bennett, Chuck Searcy, In-country Representative, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Hanoi; and Phung Tuu Boi, MS, Director, Center for Assistance in Nature Conservation and Community Development
7	Southeast Asian narratives: family myths and memoirs	3 hrs	HSPH	Dr. Trude Bennett and Dr. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Toan

8	Ways of listening: interview techniques and analysis	3 hrs	HSPH	Dr. Trude Bennett; Lady Borton, writer and historian; and Dam Thu, oral historian
9	Levels of analysis: personality, culture, and society:	3 hrs	HSPH	Dr. Trude Bennett
10	Presentation of oral history	3 hrs 4 hrs	HSPH Hanoi Cinematheque, viewing and discussion of Vietnamese films based on oral history	Dr. Trude Bennett Gerry Herman, film scholar, cinematographer, and owner, Hanoi Cinematheque
11	Changing perspectives over time	8 hrs	Hue College of Medicine and Pharmacy, Hue University, Department of Medical Genetics and Office of Genetic Counseling and Disabled Children (OGCDC), community sites of therapeutic day care centers and schools, rehabilitation programs, and vocational training workshops; Dr.	Dr. Trude Bennett and Dr. Nguyen Viet Nhan, Director of Dept. of Medical Genetics and OG CDC, Hue University

			Nhan's personal and professional journey	
12	Oral history as intervention	6 hrs	Quang Tri, Project RENEW, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to reduce the threat of landmines and unexploded ordnance; personal narratives of landmine victims and project staff	Dr. Trude Bennett and Chuck Searcy, Director of Project RENEW, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund

Assessment:

- Class participation: 15%
- Weekly journal entries on assigned topics related to the readings and the oral history experience (2-3 pages each): 15%
- Project benchmarks: 15%
- Group presentation: 15%
- Individual paper on the process of conducting an oral history project, 8-10 pages:20%
- Final (in class) exam: 20%

Draft Syllabus

HNRS 352: Introduction to Vietnamese Culture: The Context for Public Health

Time: September 5 – December 4, 2011

Instructor: Trude Bennett, MSW, MPH, DrPH

Course Overview:

This course will be taught by Dr. Trude Bennett utilizing fiction and non-fiction English language materials published by the Foreign Language Publishing House in Hanoi, interviews and articles archived on websites of academic centers throughout the world, and oral histories and memoirs published in English such as *Last Night I Dreamed of Peace* by Dang Thuy Tram. Rich in detail about military medicine under the worst of conditions, this poignant diary of a young North Vietnamese woman doctor sparked discussion and debate about the sacrifices made during wartime after its recovery and publication in Vietnam in 2005.

Readings and speakers will illustrate the context of key eras and aspects of public health in Vietnam. Colleagues of the instructor who will share their memories and speak with the class include Professor Nguyen Thi Ngoc Toan, an obstetrician-gynecologist who was one of the first surgeons to call attention to the health effects of Agent Orange; Dr. Pham Song, former Minister of Health and Chair of the Vietnam Family Planning Association who continues to advise the government on health planning; Drs. Khuat Thu Hong and Le Bach Duong, Co-directors of the Institute for Social and Development Studies (ISDS), an independent Vietnamese research and advocacy NGO that specializes in gender norms, sexuality, migration, stigmatization, and other issues key to health and development; and Le Thi Hoai Phuong, MS, Director of the Center for Sustainable Community Development (CDCD), another local NGO that specializes in improving reproductive health through micro-lending programs in rural areas.

Site visits will include meetings with Ministry of Health and city health officials; visits to public and private hospitals and clinics, family planning centers, and drug rehabilitation programs; visits to rural health and development projects in nearby provinces; visits to an acupuncture hospital and other traditional medicine practitioners and training institutions; meetings with representatives of the Women's Union, Youth Union, and organizations of workers and veterans; and a visit to Friendship Village in Ha Tay province, a rehabilitation and care project initiated by war veterans from the US and other countries in concert with the Vietnamese government.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will be:

- knowledgeable about the historical conditions that shaped public health problems, policies, and solutions from the French colonial era to the present in the arenas of military and civilian medicine and community health promotion during wartime; environmental health; gender and sexuality; family planning; Safe Motherhood; early intervention and child development; behavioral health; stigmatization; and minority health;
- familiar with the cultural, sociopolitical, and economic influences of Vietnam’s unique blend of Confucianism, colonialism, Communism, and capitalism as well as the recent impact of globalization and trade on health; and
- capable of analyzing health-related risks (i.e., knowledge, attitudes, and practices) and health outcomes in the context of these social forces.

Course Outline:

Week	Contents	Hrs	Place	Responsible person
1	French colonial medicine and public health in the Viet Minh Resistance	3 hrs	HSPH	Dr. Trude Bennett and Dr. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Toan, retired, 108 Army Hospital
2	Health impact of the American war	3 hrs 5 hrs	HSPH Peace Village in Ha Tay Province	Dr. Trude Bennett
3	Environmental health: from bombs to business	3 hrs 2 hrs	HSPH War Remnants Museum	WHO/Dr. Do Mai Hoa
4	Changing concepts of gender and sexuality	3 hrs	HSPH	Dr. Trude Bennett and staff from Research Center for Gender, Family, and Education in Development (CGFED)
5	Family planning and “happy family”	3 hrs	HSPH	Dr. Trude Bennett and Dr. Kim Cuc, Vietnam Family Planning Association
6	Safe Motherhood: pregnancy and public health	3 hrs	HSPH	Dr. Trude Bennett and Dr. Nguyen Nghia, Hanoi Maternity Hospital and Vietnam Ministry of Health
7	Globalization and its discontents: youth culture and health risks	3 hrs	HSPH	Dr. Trude Bennett and Dr. Mai Phuong, Population Council
8	Substance abuse prevention and	3 hrs	HSPH	Dr. Trude Bennett

	treatment: a colonial legacy or a modern curse?			and Dr. Ted Hammett, Abt Associates
9	Stigmatization and health	3 hrs 3 hrs	HSPH Office of Institute for Social Development Studies (ISDS)	Dr. Trude Bennett and ISDS Co-director, Dr. Khuat Thu Hong and Dr. Le Bach Duong
10	Impact of micro-lending programs and community development on health	3 hrs 3 hrs	HSPH Office of Center for Sustainable Development Studies (CSDS)	Dr. Trude Bennett and CSDS Director, Le Thi Hoai Phuong, MS
11	Services for disabled children and their families: an innovative case management model	5 hrs	Children of Vietnam and Care the People NGO Offices and program sites in Da Nang	Dr. Trude Bennett; Ms. Luong Thi Huong, Country Director, Children of Vietnam; Dr. Enzo Falcone, Director, Care the Children
12	Diversity and risk in Vietnam: health risks, health status, and health services of rural ethnic minorities	5 hrs	Kon Tum, Quang Ngai Province, visit to hospital and local ethnic minority school and clinic	Dr. Trude Bennett and Dr. Huynh Quoc Hieu, Deputy Director, Quang Ngai Hospital

Assessment:

- Class participation: 10%
- Weekly reflection papers on readings and presentations (2-3 pages each): 15%
- Midterm exam on an assigned topic (e.g., Confucian influence on gender roles and reproductive health): 20%
- Final paper on an assigned theme developed throughout the course (e.g., the role of the Vietnamese family in health decision making), 10 pages: 30%
- Final exam (in-class): 25%

Draft Syllabus

HNRS 353: Public Health in Vietnam from 1954 to the Present: An Historical Overview

September 12 – December 4, 2011

Course coordinator: Dr. Vu Hoang Lan

Course Overview:

This course will be taught by Dr. Vu Hoang Lan, Head of the Department of Epidemiology at Hanoi School of Public Health. The class will address the backdrop of historical events, social determinants of health, and health systems issues. Focus will be on public health problems in both communicable disease (TB, dengue fever, avian flu, SARS) and non-communicable areas (injury, smoking, Agent Orange/dioxin, and other environmental hazards). Site visits will include the School's Chili-Lab Demographic and Epidemiological Surveillance Site in Hai Duong province northeast of Hanoi, the National Tuberculosis Hospital, National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, community-based anti-smoking projects, and an injury prevention center.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will be:

- knowledgeable about: the definition of public health and measurement of public health indicators; social determinants of health in Vietnam and similar developing countries; manifestations of social inequalities in health; typologies of different health systems; impact of globalization and privatization; strategies for health promotion, disease prevention, and reduction of health inequalities; evolution of health care strategies in Vietnam and assessments of their effectiveness; and
- aware of the current public health challenges in Vietnam including war legacies such as Agent Orange and land mines; safety and adequacy of food and water; infectious diseases (malaria, tuberculosis, dengue fever); emerging infections such as SARS, avian flu, and H1N1; tobacco, alcohol, and other substance use; and adolescent health problems.

Course schedule:

Week	Contents	Hrs	Place	Responsible person
1	History of public health development in Vietnam	3 hrs	HSPH	Dr. Bui Thi Thu Ha/Tran Huu Bich
2	Health determinants in Vietnam	3 hrs	HSPH	Dr. Nguyen Thanh Huong
3	Introduction to health system organization and structure in Vietnam	3 hrs	HSPH	Dr. Bui Thi Thu Ha/Tran Huu Bich
4	Response of VN to avian	1.5	HSPH	Dr. Nguyen Huy Nga

	influenza (AI): policy perspective	hrs		
	Introduction to community based surveillance system for avian influenza	1.5 hrs	HSPH	Dr Bui Van Truong
5	Major public health problems in Vietnam: epidemiology of dengue (distribution, prevention and control) and surveillance system on dengue	1 hrs	HSPH	Dr. Vu Sinh Nam/ National Administration for preventive medicine
	Visit epidemiological lab in NIHE	2 hrs	NIHE	
6	Major public health problems in Vietnam: adolescent sexual health	3 hrs	HSPH	Dr. Le Cu Linh
7	Midterm group presentation on comparison of American and Vietnam health problem	3 hrs		Dr. Vu Hoang Lan
	Field trip (1) to Hung Yen province (AI community base surveillance system in Vietnam)	1 day (10 hrs, see attch)	Hung Yen province	Dr Bui Van Truong – Abt Associates
8	Major public health problems in Vietnam: injury prevention program	3 hrs	HSPH	Dr. Pham Viet Cuong
9	Major public health problems in Vietnam: Agent Orange and rehabilitation program	3 hrs	HSPH	Dr. Nguyen Thi Minh Thuy
10	Major public health problems in Vietnam: antismoking programs	3 hrs	HSPH	Dr. Nguyen Ngoc Bich
	Final exam: lesson learnt on field trips to different sites in Vietnam (2000 words)			Dr. Vu Hoang Lan

Additional field trips/excursions for a total of at least 10 hours will be scheduled throughout the term

Assessment:

- Group presentation: 20%
- Individual paper documenting research for presentation, 6 pages: 30%
- Final written assignment in the form of a 8-page essay: 30%
- In-class final exam: 20%

Field trip to Hung Yen Province to learn about Avian Influenza Community – Based Surveillance (CBS)**Objectives:**

1. to learn about the project “Capacity building to prevent and control Avian Influenza in Greater Mekong Sub-Region” in Hung Yen;
2. to explore the work of Community Based Surveillance model in the early detection, reporting and response to the AI cases in humans and animals; and
3. to observe the volunteers and elements in the surveillance network.

Time	Contents/Activities	Person in charge	Place
6h00-9h00	☐ Travel from Hanoi to Hung Yen,	Department of Graduate Training	Hanoi to Hung Yen
9h00-10h00	☐ Meet with Provincial Project Implementing Committee (DARD, DoH, provincial Preventive Medicine Centre, Sub-DAH): - Presentation by members on AI prevention perspectives and the Project activities implemented in Hung Yen. - Visit the Centre of Preventive Medicine	Preventive Medicine Centre Director, and Dr. Quang	Provincial Preventive Medicine Centre Building in Hung Yen
10h00-10h20	Tea Break		
10h20-12h00	☐ Presentation of AI Mekong Project ☐ Community Based Surveillance Model. ☐ Q&A sections	Dr. Truong and Project Team	Provincial Preventive Medicine Centre Building
12h00-13h30	Lunch		
13h30-14h30	☐ Travel to Yen My district ☐ Brief with District project implementing committee (TBD)	Mr. Qui, Dr. Truong and Project Team	Yen My
14h30-15h00	Travel to Commune		
15h00-16h00	☐ Meet with volunteer team in one Commune (TBD) to observe the monthly meeting ☐ Q and A sections	Commune AI Committee, Volunteers, and project team	Dong Than or Yen Phu
16h00 – 16h30	☐ Visit some HHs to observe how the volunteer perform their HHs visit.	Volunteers	Dong Than or Yen Phu
16h30-17h30	☐ Go back to Hanoi	Department of Graduate Training	Hai Duong to Hanoi