

**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: January 29, 2004

TO: David S. Watt, Ph.D.  
Associate Provost for Academic Affairs  
Chair, Academic Council for the Medical Center  
Deans, Department Chairs, Members of the University Senate

FROM: Dr. Carolyn A. Williams  
Dean, College of Nursing

SUBJECT: Application for new course, NUR 530 Exploring Medical Missions: A  
Multidisciplinary Perspective

The faculty of the College of Nursing have approved and submit for your approval an application for a new course, NUR530 Exploring Medical Missions: A Multidisciplinary Perspective. This course has been taught using a Special Clinical Topics course number, NUR 520 for the past two years. Improvements have been made to the course based on student and faculty analyses and faculty are now ready to propose that this course be given a permanent course number. The course is open to any graduate or senior-level undergraduate students in health-related disciplines. The course differs from any currently available within the University with its emphasis on humanitarian and multi-denominational faith-based medical missions.

NUR 530 Exploring Medical Missions: A Multidisciplinary Perspective (3 CH)

Effective Date:

Fall, 2004

Rationale for proposed course:

Medical missions are becoming an increasingly attractive option for community service work by health professionals. In addition to providing important health care services in areas of need, they also enhance the global cultural understandings of those involved. This course will provide an important elective course choice for health professions students and students interested in health-related humanitarian work.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

**APPLICATION FOR NEW COURSE**

1. Submitted by College of Nursing Date Jan. 30, 2004

Department/Division offering course Nursing

2. Proposed designation and Bulletin description of this course

a. Prefix and Number NUR 530 b. Title\* Exploring Medical Missions: A Multidisciplinary Perspective

\*NOTE: If the title is longer than 24 characters (including spaces), write  
A sensible title (not exceeding 24 characters) for use on transcripts Medical Missions

c. Lecture/Discussion hours per week 3 d. Laboratory hours per week N/A

e. Studio hours per week N/A f. Credits 3

g. Course description

This seminar is designed to provide information on: (1) historical perspectives of mission work; (2) health, political, economic, and cultural diversities of mission sites in selected countries; and (3) eligibility and funding criteria for selected sites. This course provides an opportunity to explore short-term humanitarian (non-governmental) and multi-denomination religious medical mission opportunities. Health care professionals who have participated in medical missions will share their experiences.

h. Prerequisites (if any)

Available to Graduate or senior level undergraduate students

i. May be repeated to a maximum of \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable)

4. To be cross-listed as

\_\_\_\_\_ Prefix and Number \_\_\_\_\_ Signature, Chairman, cross-listing department

5. Effective Date Fall 2004 (semester and year)

6. Course to be offered  Fall  Spring  Summer

7. Will the course be offered each year?  Yes  No  
(Explain if not annually)

8. Why is this course needed?

Medical missions are becoming an increasingly attractive option for community service work by health professionals. In addition to providing important health care services in areas of need, they also enhance the global cultural understandings of those involved. This course will provide an important elective course choice for health profession students and students interested in health-related humanitarian work.

9. a. By whom will the course be taught? Dr. Sharon Sheahan
- b. Are facilities for teaching the course now available?  Yes  No  
If not, what plans have been made for providing them?
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10. What enrollment may be reasonably anticipated? 10-15

11. Will this course serve students in the Department primarily?  Yes  No
- Will it be of service to a significant number of students outside the Department?  
If so, explain.  Yes  No

Pharmacy students took this course as an elective when it was offered under a special topics number. Students from other disciplines are welcomed as well.

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Will the course serve as a University Studies Program course?  Yes  No

If yes, under what Area? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Check the category most applicable to this course
- traditional; offered in corresponding departments elsewhere;
- relatively new, now being widely established
- not yet to be found in many (or any) other universities

13. Is this course applicable to the requirements for at least one degree or certificate at the University of Kentucky?  Yes  No

14. Is this course part of a proposed new program:  
If yes, which?  Yes  No

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15. Will adding this course change the degree requirements in one or more programs?\*

If yes, explain the change(s) below  Yes  No

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16. Attach a list of the major teaching objectives of the proposed course and outline and/or reference list to be used.

17. If the course is a 100-200 level course, please submit evidence (e.g., correspondence) that the Community College System has been consulted.

18. Within the Department, who should be contacted for further information about the proposed course?

Name Dr. Julie Sebastian Phone Extension 3-3304

\*NOTE: Approval of this course will constitute approval of the program change unless other program modifications are proposed.

**Signatures of Approval:**

_____	_____
Department Chair	Date
_____	_____
Dean of the College	Date
_____	_____
	Date of Notice to the Faculty
_____	_____
*Undergraduate Council	Date
_____	_____
*University Studies	Date
_____	_____
*Graduate Council	Date
_____	_____
*Academic Council for the Medical Center	Date
_____	_____
*Senate Council (Chair)	Date of Notice to University Senate

\*If applicable, as provided by the Rules of the University Senate

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ACTION OTHER THAN APPROVAL

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY  
COLLEGE OF NURSING

Revised Elective

**TITLE:** NUR 530 Elective – **Exploring Medical Missions: A Multidisciplinary Perspective**

**TIME:** TBA

**CREDIT HOURS:** Elective credit hours 3

**PREREQUISITE:** Graduate or senior level undergraduate students. The course is not limited to health care professionals but is open to counseling, nutritionists, social workers, sociologists, health promotion and other health-related professionals

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This seminar is designed to provide information on: (1) historical perspectives of mission work; (2) health, political, economic, and cultural diversities of mission sites in selected countries; and (3) eligibility and funding criteria for selected sites. This course provides an opportunity to explore short-term humanitarian (non-governmental) and multi-denomination religious medical mission opportunities. Health care professionals who have participated in medical missions will share their experiences.

**OBJECTIVES:** Following the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Prioritize the essential procedural steps to prepare for a short-term medical mission.
2. Based on the synthesis of several factors, select a mission site compatible with personal goals.
3. Contrast the cultural, health system infrastructure, governmental/ political, and economic differences and similarities of selected countries.
4. Compare the health status of the general population and the mission site population within selected countries.
5. Evaluate your potential contribution to a medical mission project.

**FACULTY:** Sharon L. Sheahan, PhD, FNP  
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Office Hours Monday 2-4 PM and TBA.

**TEACHING METHODS:**

Class discussion  
Guest speakers  
Videos  
Selected readings  
Correspondence/journals

## EVALUATION:

1. Actively participate in seminar discussions using reference citations (30%).
2. Verbal report presentation on a mission site and share informational site handouts and resources with class members (20% graduate students).
3. List potential funding sources for a selected mission site (graduate students) (10%).
4. Journal of correspondence via letter or e-mail with a missionary individual in the field (10%).
5. Develop a written proposal including a budget for a personal medical mission trip. Graduate student must identify a research question/s based on documented need. State how the data will be collected. Include information on historical and current facts of the health conditions, economy, cultural, and political perspectives/ideologies of a selected country.

### Undergraduate

Paper = 30%  
Class participation = 30%  
Verbal report = 30%  
Journal = 10%

### Graduate

Paper = 35%  
Class Participation = 30%  
Verbal Report = 25%  
Journal = 10%

## GRADING SCALE:

90 – 100 = A  
89 – 80 = B  
79 – 70 = C  
69 – 60 = D

## BONUS POINTS

A 5-point bonus will be added to the total score when a certificate of attendance is submitted to the November 7-8 Global Missions Health Conference held in Louisville, KY.

## ABSENCE AND MAKE-UP

Refer to University of Kentucky student rules and regulations related to absences (S.R., 5.2, 4.2). A typed article summary submitted within 3 days of the absence will result in no loss of points for an excused absence. Make-up articles will not be accepted for unexcused absences.

**Students must assume the responsibility for inquiring about their selected mission site or accumulated grade points throughout the term. Faculty will provide this information upon request.**

**PAPER (30/ 35%) The paper is due start of the last class. One point per day will be deducted for late papers.**

The paper is to be a proposal on a selected short-term medical mission site.

1. Content should **reflect a synthesis of topics** covered in this course (10%)
2. Additional new references may be consulted. A minimum of ten references must be cited **including one textbook on the country or culture**. Use the citation format of the course bibliography with references cited in the text of the paper (10%).
3. The proposal should have a description/location of the site with specific geographical parameters (10%).
4. Personal objectives for this mission should be clearly stated and measurable (10%).
5. Provide a description of the organization sponsoring the mission that includes a mission statement, historical background, and brochures or other printed information which display contact affiliation with address, phone, and website (20%).
6. Include pertinent health, economic, political, and cultural information about the selected site (30%).
7. Format of the paper should include: pagination; double spaced lines, 12 point font with one inch margins, cover page with title and your name; all included in a cover binder. Format also includes proper sentence structure (10%).

### **CLASS PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE (30%)**

The format of a seminar course requires active verbal participation by all members if a new citation is used. Students are expected to share comments about readings during every class. An extensive bibliography is provided. Students may substitute other readings. Please provide a copy of the article. One point will be earned for each class attended and one point will be given for verbal sharing of readings. Verbal comments are to include the title of the article/book, author, a brief overview of the content, your personal reaction or value of the content. At least three articles are to be read for each class. One textbook review will count as three articles. If a student does not comment on a reading in class, a one page typed summary of an article can be submitted when class is over on that day. The typed summary of the article should follow the verbal comment format. Class will begin on time and end on time unless there is prior notice of schedule change. Students coming to class late or leaving early (10 minutes) will receive no points for attendance. **Please be aware that attendance and participation can affect the final grade.**

### **VERBAL REPORT (25/ 30%)**

Students will select a country/mission site from the class schedule. The following criteria will be used to evaluate the report.

1. Present a one-hour overview of the country including the geographical location, cultural norms/populations, political and governmental status, and health conditions (20%).
2. Pertinent historical and current facts should be shared (20%). Information can be obtained via US. State Department, CIA, CDC, and Amnesty International specific country travel web sites.
3. Share some country specific cultural artifacts, (art, clothing, music food) (20%).
4. A typed handout must be distributed to all class members (20%).
5. Consultation with the faculty prior to the presentation is required (20%). A meeting at least two weeks prior to the presentation data should be arranged. Failure to meet the deadline will result in one point deduction for each late day. **Students must designate presentation preference date by (TBA)**. Usually the presentations will occur one hour prior to the guest lecturer presentation.

### **JOURNAL (10%)**

Select a medical missionary in the field to correspond with at least three times over the course of the semester. Provide documentation of your e-mails or letters. This assignment is due December 8<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the correspondence is to provide an insight into the day-to-day events in the life of a health care professional engaged in either a religious based or non-government humanitarian mission. Determine the broad health-related objectives of the mission site and how they are evaluated.

## **TOPICAL OUTLINE:**

- I. Historical Perspectives
- II. Types of Missions – Humanitarian versus Religious Missions, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), Military; Long Term versus Short Term
- III. Implications of cultural awareness, benefits, rewards, and potential problems associated with mission work
- IV. Various mission sites, funding resources, and governmental information agencies
- V. Preparation for a Mission Trip
  - A. Personal
  - B. Leave of Absence/Vacation
  - C. Immunizations
  - D. Documents
  - E. Costs
  - F. Preparation
  - G. Group Dynamics
  - H. Risks and potential problems
- VI. Health care infrastructure and the population health status, political, economic, and cultural overview of selected mission sites and countries
- VII. Evaluating a Mission Program in selected areas
- VIII. Selected health conditions (dehydration, malnutrition, infectious, fungal, and parasitic) commonly encountered in the mission field).
- IX. Research application in the mission field.
- X. Managing stress and cultural shock

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- Sweeney, R., & Lapp, T. (2001, April 4). Physicians with heart airlift from Viet Nam. American Family Physician, 63(7), p. 1279 (E).
- Vinals, A.F. (1999, January-February). The gift of sight: a surgeon's experience in India. Journal of Ophthalmic Nursing and Technology, 18(1), pp. 19-21.
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## Web Site Resources

CDC travel advisory. [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)

U.S. State Department. [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)

Amnesty International 2003 Annual Review <http://web.amnesty.org/report2003/eng>.

## Texts

- Benge, J.G. (1998). Gladys Aylward, The Adventure of a Lifetime. A compelling account of an early non-medical missionary in China. Seattle, WA: YWAM Publishing.
- Berry, N.O. (1997). War and the Red Cross: The Unspoken Mission, 159, New York: St. Martin's Press. This 150 page text provides an overview including the history, mission, philosophy, and discusses some operational programs in the context of war within and among nations.
- Bradshaw, B. (2002) Change Across Cultures. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic. The book is comprehensive in the treatment of development sectors and diverse in the use of multidisciplinary sources. It addresses the issues associated with transformation of cultural worldviews and moral assumptions.
- Billington, M., & DeSantis, C. Faith in action. Medical Missionaries in Central America, p. 104. Hockessin: White Rose Books. This book is a black and white pictorial documentary of mission health scenes in Central America. Pictures are very moving and realistic with poetic documentation.
- Burns, A., Lovich, R., Maxwell, J., & K. Shapiro (1997). Where Women Have No Doctor, Berkely, CA. Hesperian Foundation. This book combines self-help medical information in a context of poverty, discrimination, and cultural beliefs that limits women's access to health care. Developed with community-based groups and experts from 40 countries.
- Cheatham, M.L. Come Walk with Me: Thomas Nelson Publishers: Nashville, TN. The true story of one doctor's fascinating journey, a patient's courageous struggle, and the faith they shared.
- Crane, S.M. (1998, August). A legacy remembered. One Hundred Years of Medical Missions, p. 512. Franklin: Providence House Publishers. This 447 page book chronicles the history mission work in Presbyterian Church starting with China to date.
- Dearborn, T. (2003). Short-term Missions Workbook: From Mission Tourists to Global Citizens. Downers Grove, IL.: InterVarsity Press.
- DeWaal, A. (2000, July). Who Fights? Who Cares? War and Humanitarian Action in Africa. Lawrenceville: Africa World Press. This interesting thesis asks some very provocative questions, "why does war persist in Africa" "what political international sanctions against warring factions can be imposed", "what processes can prevent hunger and famine", and "what institutions can be effective in humanitarian relief?" The author posits that developing countries are vulnerable to leaders/dictators who are not held accountable.
- Ewert, D.M. (1993). A New Agenda for Medical Mission, Brunswick: MAP International. This 136 page book provides a different view of medical missions, a community health focus which differs from the historical hospital or clinic based health care delivery sites. The book discusses a conceptual view of health and community health, provides practical appreciation of case studies from different countries including the rural US and Bangladesh.
- Garrett, S. A. (1999) Doing Good and Doing Well, Praeger Press, Westport, CT. This 194 page text examines humanitarian intervention in the context of philosophy, law, ambiguities, how governments decide on policy to provide aid, and collaboration among nations.
- Greer, P.J. Jr. (2000, September) Waking up in America. How one doctor brings hope to those who need it most. New York: Simon & Schuster Trade Paperbacks. This inspirational 197 page autobiography is about a physician

- who establishes a mission site for the poor in the United States. He describes how as a medical student he became involved in serving the poor of Miami and how as an assistant dean of a medical school, he overcame the bureaucracy to establish a clinic and lobby for social change.
- Greene, H. (2003) A Guide to Short-Term Missions: A Comprehensive Manual for Planning an Effective Mission Trip. Waynesboro, OH. Gabriel Publishing. A easy readable how-to book.
- Hale, T, (1993) Living Stones of the Himalayas: Adventures of An American Couple in Nepal. Zondervan Publishing Division of Harper Collins. Grand Rapids, MI. This book is an interesting chronology of medical care and life in rural Nepal. The author and his wife, both physicians, served 20 years as missionaries in Nepal.
- Morsch, G., & Nelson, D. (1997, June). Heart and soul. Awakening Your Passion to Serve, Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City. This 178 page book describes the “Heart to Heart International”, a humanitarian relief agency that is a model organization for nonprofit and nongovernmental groups. This organization cuts to the heart of the situation. True accounts of projects in many countries (Bosnia, Vietnam, India, China, Africa, Russia) will inspire the reader to become involved to make a difference.
- Nafziger, E.W., Stewart, F, & R. Vayrynen. (2000) War, Hunger, And Displacement: The Origins of Humanitarian Emergencies Volumes I & II. Oxford University Press. Oxford, New York. These texts provide a vivid description of factors implicated in humanitarian aid crises. Volume I discusses characteristics of humanitarian aid crises and volume II describes recent case histories from various countries. This is an excellent reading reference for anyone participating in a mission to one of the 12 countries located in the Balkan area, South and Central America, and Africa.
- Nelson, H. S. (1995) Doctor with Big Shoes Missionary Experiences in China and Africa. Providence House. Franklin, TN. This is the chronicles the career life of a missionary physician and his wife from 1915 starting in China to 1993 which ends with short term missions to parts of Africa. There are many descriptive passages on the life as a rural missionary health provider.
- Nicholson, M. (1993) Natasha’s Story. London MacMillon Press. This is a moving true account of a war correspondent, covering the Bosnia/Serb/Croatia war, who feels compelled to rescue a nine year old girl. The history and politics of the area, including long standing conflicts, are discussed. The roles the US and UN played in this terrible war are covered.
- Snyder, C.A, (1999) On A Hill Far Away. Indianapolis, IN:Light and Life Communications. The daily journal of a missionary doctor in Rwanda.
- Waters, T. (2001, January). Bureaucratizing the Good Samaritan, Boulder, CO:Westview Press. This thought provoking book critiques mission work in the context of the government support or non support. The author politics and economics play a major role in who receives aid.
- Werner, D., (2002) Where There is No Doctor, a village health care handbook. Berkely, CA: Hesperian Foundation. A comprehensive medical management text to manage health problems in the mission field.

**NUR 520 Medical Missions  
Tentative 2003 Fall Schedule**

September 8	Course Overview/Kenya	S. Sheahan, PhD
September 15	Definitions and Historical Perspectives	S. Sheahan, PhD
September 22	Research the Mission Field (MN 363)	S. Sheahan, PhD
September 29	Guatemala Mission	Mary Ellen Neil, RN
October 6	Peru	Martha Hawkins, PNP
October 13	Diarrhea Diseases/ Nigeria	S. Sheahan, PhD K. Price, MSN
October 20	Pediatric Cardiac Surgery Ecuador	Carol Cottrell, M.D.
October 27	Movie – Welcome to Sarajevo	
November 3	Research in the Mission Field	S. Sheahan, PhD
November 10	Zimbawa	Tom Dale, M.D.
November 17	Preparation for a mission trip/ Haiti	S. Sheahan, PhD N. Lawson
November 24	Brazil/ Non-Government Organizations	S. Sheahan, PhD C. Gregory
December 1	Romania	M. Hawkins, PNP
December 8	[Paper Due] Paraguay Make-up TBA	S. Sheahan, PhD

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