

HSERV 590 - Global Health Disparities

WIN 2012

Draft --- use only as example. Portions blocked here will be available for registered students on course page.

Course Goal

What produces health in societies and why are there substantial differences in health outcomes for various segments of those societies? The goal of the course is to create awareness of the fundamental determinants of health in societies and how those operate to generate health inequities, namely health outcomes that are unfair. The societies to be considered include the United States of America whose citizens have worse health outcomes than those in close to fifty other nations, and parts of Latin America and Africa where some of the worst health outcomes exist. What is the role of health care in producing health? What are fundamental biological concepts that underlie health inequities around the world? With gaining such awareness comes the need for community engagement with the concepts which is a key operationalized goal.

Course Objectives

1. students will describe social, political and economic contexts that influence health.
2. students will list reasons for health inequities among nations or substantial populations within the United States.
3. students will develop a community activity intended to create awareness about health in the USA

Learning Methods

The course is based on an academic quarter at UW, typically 10 to 10.5 weeks and presented as six topic sessions. Dates below are given for Winter Quarter 2012 related to the Seattle academic calendar. Grades are listed in (brackets). Synthesis of non-disciplinary studies are used to inform. Rather than taking a biomedical, a risk factor, or sociologic, or economic or political focus, the overall question of what produces the observed health outcomes drives the quest for understanding.

- A. Web-based lectures and student facilitated discussion of readings (30)
 - Each student will sign up in the first week to facilitate the online discussion for one of the topics 2 through 6. Depending on the enrollment this may need to be done in pairs

- B. Face to Face meeting to discuss course January 20 from 5:30 to 7:30
This is an opportunity to talk about the concepts and the work of the course.

- C. Community Engagement Exercise (20)

Unnatural Causes screening

Playing the Last Straw game

D. Write a 5-10 page paper on a topic of interest to you related to course content. (20)

E. Self-Assessment Exercises (total of 30 points)

1. (10) Each student will complete a population health web ramble as follows below, and submit a one page reaction by January 8.



2. (10) Each student will watch The Great Leveller, a 50 minute documentary. You can stream it from <http://vimeo.com/10515126>



3. (10) Each student will complete the "World World Monitor and your role therein." The source material is available at the GH



Practical matters

- 3 credits Winter Quarter 2012
- Instructor: Stephen Bezruchka MD, MPH, Senior Lecturer Depts. of Global health and Health Services, School of Public Health, University of Washington.
- Textbook: Wilkinson, R. and K. E. Pickett (2011). The Spirit Level: why greater equality makes societies stronger. New York, Bloomsburv.