

New course for Winter quarter 2012

Soc 201: Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities in the United States
Instructor: Professor Hewig (Hedy) Lee
T&Th 8:30 – 10:20, SLN 20295

Course Overview:

There are large racial and ethnic disparities in health status and health care in the United States and this is an important national public health concern. This course critically examines health status and health care disparities among racial/ethnic minority groups in the United States.

The course will utilize sociological, demographic, (social) epidemiological and (social) psychological concepts to introduce students to racial/ethnic health disparities research. Students will have exposure to the descriptive demography and epidemiology of health indicators across population groups, as well as theories used to understand and explain racial/ethnic health disparities. In particular, the course will examine the ways in which multiple forms of interpersonal and institutional discrimination, neighborhood and community factors and inequalities in socioeconomic status influence health behaviors, access to health care services and health status outcomes across racial/ethnic groups. Concepts such as acculturation, patient preferences, provider congruence and cultural competence will also be explored in this course. Finally, students will be challenged to use the theories and frameworks introduced in this course to develop and present policy approaches to address problems associated with racial and ethnic disparities in health and health care in the United States.