



ALH 5 - Health and Social Justice

Catalog Description

Transfer Status: CSU

Unit(s): 3.00

Lecture: 51.00 Contact hours/102.00 Out of class hours/153.00 Total hours/3.00 Unit(s)

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Course Description: This course provides an introduction to the health inequities in the United States that stem from unequal living conditions. Students will explore how education, socioeconomic status, racism, and gender shape health epidemics and policy development. Fundamental theories to advocate for health and social justice will be explored, and community organizing approaches will be practiced. (C-ID PH 102).

Objectives

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

1. Compare United States healthcare policies with that of other developed countries and contrast the characteristics of each system.
2. Describe disparities in health outcomes in the United States by race, socioeconomic status, and gender.
3. Compare and contrast the two paradigms that seek to explain health disparities: the individual approach and the public health model.
4. Analyze the contribution of environmental conditions to disparate health outcomes, using case studies.
5. Describe the connection between environmental justice and disparate health outcomes based on race, class, and gender.
6. Analyze case studies of prevalent health problems to compare individual behavior change approaches versus public health approaches.
7. Describe strategies or tactics to improve health inequalities, such as advocacy, community organizing, and/or policy change.
8. Demonstrate advocacy skills, such as outreach, organizing, and mobilization of communities to improve health outcomes.
9. Identify, assess, and utilize credible information resources on public health current issues, such as the Internet, social media, media outlets, and libraries.
10. Apply social and behavioral strategies and principles by using theoretical frameworks in analyzing public health issues.

Course Content

Topic Titles / Suggested Time Topic	
<u>Lecture</u>	
<u>Topics</u>	<u>Lec Hrs</u>
Factors in unequal health outcomes	12.00
1. Social determinants of health	
a. Ecological model	
2. Race	
a. Historic origins of race in the United States	
b. Social construct versus a biological category	
3. Gender	
a. Sexism	
4. Class	
a. Education level	
b. Socioeconomic status	
c. Distribution of educational levels, income and wealth in the United States	
5. Policy proposals	
a. Reduce racial and gender differentials	
b. Address poverty and inequities	
Healthcare	12.00
1. Access to health resources and medical care	
2. Insurance affordability	
3. Comparative analysis of healthcare and insurance across the United States and globally	
4. State and federal policies	
a. Existing	
b. New	
Environmental conditions	8.00
1. Low socioeconomic status communities	
a. Poor housing	
b. Exposure to toxic sources	

Topics	Lec Hrs
c. Inadequate community resources d. Poor schooling	
2. Individual behavior change approach versus public health approach	
3. Environmental health equity strategies	
Health disparities/inequities and health outcomes	12.00
1. Low socioeconomic status communities a. Higher rates of infectious conditions and chronic disease b. Higher rates of violence, crime, gangs, alcohol and drug abuse, obesity, teen pregnancy, and premature death 2. Improving health disparities/inequities and health outcomes a. Advocacy i. Outreach ii. Organizing iii. Mobilizing b. Program and policy development c. Access to credible information sources d. Organizational support	
Theoretical frameworks within public health science	5.00
1. Principles and methods 2. Social and behavioral theories 3. Application of theoretical frameworks in analysis of public health issues	
Research	2.00
1. Credible sources	
Total Hours: 51.00	

Methods of Instruction

- A. Discussion
- B. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- C. Lecture
- D. Multimedia Presentations
- E. Reading Assignments

Methods of Evaluation

- A. Quizzes
- B. Research Projects
- C. Projects
- D. Written Assignments

Examples of Assignments

Reading Assignments

1. Read the assigned chapters and be able to participate in a classroom discussion on the disparities in health outcomes in the United States by race, socioeconomic status, and gender.
2. Read the assigned chapters and be able to describe and compare United States healthcare policies with that of other developed countries and contrast the characteristics of each system during a classroom discussion.

Writing Assignments

1. After completing the assigned reading and classroom presentations, prepare a 3-page paper analyzing case studies of prevalent health problems to compare individual behavior change approaches versus public health approaches.
2. After completing the assigned reading and classroom presentations, create a 400-word paper identifying, assessing, and utilizing credible information related to current issues in public health.

Out-of-Class Assignments

1. After completing the assigned reading and classroom presentations, prepare a group presentation that demonstrates advocacy skills, such as outreach, organizing, and mobilization of communities to improve health outcomes.
2. After completing the assigned reading and classroom presentations, prepare a group presentation about the area agencies that serve the health care needs of those with housing insecurity in the greater Butte County area.

Recommended Materials of Instruction

Fiona McKay, Ann Taket. (2020). Health Equity, Social Justice and Human Rights. *Routledge*, 2nd. 9780367281380.

Pattie Rose. (2021). Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Context, Controversies, and Solutions. *Jones and Bartlett*, 2nd. 9781284197792.

Barry Levy. (2019). Social Injustice and Public Health. *Oxford University Press*, 3rd. 978-0190914646.

Minimum Qualifications

Emergency Medical Technologies
Health (Masters Required)
Health Care Ancillaries

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Date: 03/10/2025