Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities
Winter 2014
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Course Details:

Day and Time: Tuesday/ Thursday 3-4:30 PM
Location: Room 1170, School of Public Health 2

How to contact me:

Email: shipras@umich.edu (email is the fastest way to contact me)
I will answer all emails within 24 hours. If you do not get a response from me within 24 hours I did not receive the email.

Office: Room 3831 SPH I

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Course Description:

This class focuses on disparities in morbidity and mortality between and among racial/ethnic groups in the United States. It emphasizes social factors that influence population group differences in health and mental health and examines the explanatory frameworks proposed to understand and explain why such health differences often persist over and above adjustments for SES, age, and gender.

The primary objective of this course is to provide a forum for critical discussion and examination of social, political, economical and other factors, and their implications for research focused on reducing inequalities in health. While there is clear evidence that health varies by race and ethnicity, many questions remain about the processes through which these variations occur and even more so, about the strategies that can effectively eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in health. This course will address questions that are central to academics, policy analysts, and community organizations concerned with reducing racial and ethnic disparities in health. These questions are central to decisions about where we invest our resources and for identifying the pitfalls and advantages of different strategies for change.

This class employs a lecture format with aspects of the seminar experience. Class sessions will facilitate student participation and discussion in response to topics raised in the lectures. The intent is to provide a forum for critical analysis of issues about which students are somewhat knowledgeable and familiar. Students will also get an opportunity to prepare an oral presentation to share their research topic with the class.
Expectation, Requirements, and Evaluation:

1. **Readings** - Assigned readings are to be completed in preparation for each week. Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned reading, and prepared for discussion of the material.

2. **Attendance and active participation** in class discussion, demonstrating knowledge of readings assigned for that session [10 points].

3. **Two Short-answer homework assignments** are due in class [20 points].

4. **Draft research paper** due on 11\textsuperscript{th} March. This will be an individual effort that reflects emergent research interests [20 points].

5. **Oral presentation** of the research topic selected for the research paper by each student. This presentation will be held in the last few sessions of the term [20 points].

6. **Final research paper** by 22\textsuperscript{nd} April [30 points].

Assignments: Winter 2014

Assigned readings are to be completed in preparation for each week’s seminar. Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned reading, and prepared for discussion of the material. The written assignment details are as follows:

1. **Short-answer Assignments.** Four written assignments are due in class on January 30\textsuperscript{th} and February 20\textsuperscript{th} [10 points each for a total of 20 points]. Each of these assignments is relevant to questions and issues raised by lectures or guest presentations as well as the reading(s) assigned. The answers are to be 1.5-2 pages (double-spaced) in length and should critically engage the issues questioned in the assignment.

2. **Draft research paper.** Research paper drafts are due on 11\textsuperscript{th} March [20 points]. This manuscript should be 4.5-5 pages in length, and should discuss a research question relating to a racial health disparity of interest. This paper should be grounded in, and extend, course readings and discussions. I expect that this will be a beginning draft for the final manuscript due at the end on the term.

3. **Final Research Paper.** Final research manuscripts are due 22\textsuperscript{nd} April [40 points]. It should be the final polished elaboration, review, and critical analysis of the topic explored initially in the draft research paper. You should not have to write the entire final paper from “scratch.” The task is one of revising, re-writing, and expanding the 5-page draft research paper. The final paper should be clear, and well written. There should be no "typos" or misspelled words. The references should be in a consistent format (recommend using Refworks or Endnote). The paper should be 10 pages in length, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins, excluding the title page, tables/figures, and references. It is the largest part of your grade, so make it a priority.

4. **Student Oral presentation.** [20 points]. Each student will present their research topic selected for the final paper in class. About 15 minutes will be given to present a formal explanation of the research topic.
**Academic Conduct**

Students are expected to adhere to standards for academic conduct as described in the University of Michigan, School of Public Health’s “Policy on Student Academic Conduct.” This document is available at see [http://www.sph.umich.edu/students/handbook/rights.html](http://www.sph.umich.edu/students/handbook/rights.html), and major points are summarized briefly below. Please feel free to discuss any questions with Woody or Amy over the course of the semester.

Students should demonstrate professional conduct in class. This includes:

1) Courtesy, honesty, and respect toward faculty, guest lecturers, administrative support staff, and fellow students;

2) Students should expect faculty to treat them fairly, showing respect for their ideas and opinions and striving to help them achieve maximum benefits from their experience in the School;

3) Preparation of reports, papers, and examinations assigned on an individual basis must represent each student’s own effort. Reference sources should be indicated clearly;

4) Examples of misconduct include plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, falsification of records or official documents, intentional misuse of equipment or materials (including library materials), and aiding and abetting the perpetration of such acts.
Class Date: 1/9/2014
Class Topic: Introduction and Overview
Presenter: Dr. Shipra Singh

Readings:


Class Date: 1/14/2014
Class Topic: The Heckler Report on Black and Minority Health
Presenter: Dr. Shipra Singh

Readings:
M.M. Heckler (1985). Report of the Secretary’s Task Force on Black and Minority Health (Washington: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services). (1) Introduction and Overview of the Task Force on Black and Minority Health (pp.1-8); (2) Health Information and Education (pp. 9-14); (3) Social Characteristics of Minority Populations (pp. 47-61).


Class Date: 1/16/2014
Class Topic: Concepts of Race and Ethnicity
Presenter: Dr. Shipra Singh

Readings:


Readings:


Class Date: 1/23/2014
Class Topic: The Concept of Disparity
Presenter: Dr. Shipra Singh

Reading:


Class Date: 1/28/2014
Class Topic: Explanatory Models of Disparity
Presenter: Dr. Shipra Singh

Readings:


Class Date: 1/30/2014
Class Topic: Social Determinants of Health
Presenter: Dr. Shipra Singh

Assignment: Beyond Health Care, Short paper 1

Singh, Winter 2014
HBEHED 623/ SW 602: Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities
Readings:


Class Date: 2/4/2014
Class Topic: Discrimination and Health
Presenter: Dr. Shipra Singh

Readings:


Class Date: 2/6/2014
Class Topic: Education and Health
Presenter: Felice Le

Readings:


Class Date: 2/11/2014
Class Topic: Race and Mental Health: Overview
Presenter: Dr. Shipra Singh

Readings:

Class Date: 2/13/2014
Class Topic: Exploring the Influence of Race on Psychiatric Diagnostic Patterns in Inpatient Settings
Presenter: Dr. Shipra Singh

Readings:


Class Date: 2/18/2014
Class Topic: Violence, Trauma and Black men
Presenter: Dr. Jocelyn Smith

Readings:

http://www.cdc.gov/ace/

Class Date: 2/20/2014
Class Topic: Research Methods and Health disparities
Presenter: Dr. Shervin Assari

Assignment: Racial Profiling in Medicine, short paper 2

Readings:

Class Date: 2/25/2014
Class Topic: Cancer Screening and health disparities
Presenter: Dr. Beth Becker

Readings:

Class date: 2/27/2014
Class Topic: Racial disparity in health utilization
Presenter: Dr. Shipra Singh

Readings:
WINTER BREAK

Class Date: 3/11/2014
Class topic: Racial/ethnic disparities in Reproductive Justice
Presenter: Dr. Lisa Martin

Draft Research Paper due in class

Readings:

Class Date: 3/13/2014
Class Topic: Health Issues of Black women
Presenter: Dr. Byllye Avery
Thursday, March 13th, 2014, 3:00-4:30, SPH II, 1020 Auditorium

Class Date: 3/18/2014
Class topic: Draft feedback session
Presenter: Dr. Shipra Singh
Open office time for students to discuss their drafts, final papers, by appointment

Class Date: 3/20/2014
Class topic: Draft feedback session
Presenter: Dr. Shipra Singh
Open office time for students to discuss their draft final papers, by appointment

Class Date: 3/25/2014
Class Topic: TBA
Presenter: Dr. Harold W. Neighbors

Readings: TBA

Class Date: 3/27/2014
Class Topic: Acculturation and Health
Presenter: Dr. Shipra Singh

Readings:


Class Date: 4/1/2014  
Class Topic: Student Presentations

Class Date: 4/3/2014  
Class Topic: Student Presentations

Class Date: 4/8/2014  
Class Topic: Student Presentations

Class Date: 4/10/2014  
Class Topic: Student Presentations

Class Date: 4/15/2014  
Class Topic: Student Presentations

Class Date: 4/17/2014  
Class Topic: Cardiovascular disease, race, and Disparities  
Presenter: Dr. Kiarri Kershaw  
Thursday, April 17, 2014, 3:00-4:30, SPH II, 1020 Auditorium

Class Date: 4/22/2014  
Class Topic: Wrap-up, Discussion, and Evaluations  
Presenter: Dr. Shipra Singh

Readings:  

Assignment: Final Research Paper due in class