1. Course Description
While access to medical care is important, there is emerging consensus that there are important non-medical factors that predict illness and death. This course will critically explore these non-medical factors, called social determinants of health. Social determinants of health are the social and economic conditions within a society that influence whether people are healthy or ill. The course will emphasize how the gender-, race-, and class-based organization of society affects the health of our communities. Gender, race, and class are social-con structs that relate to the position groups of people occupy in our society and often intersect as we examine the health of populations. The course will cover an introduction and historical framework for social determinants of health; describe inequities in health by gender, race, and class; and explore the interplay between the major social forces and the biological mechanisms that influence the occurrence of disease. In teams, students will work on a project to research the impact of selected social forces on the health of our local community and to consider approaches to addressing these health disparities. Through the theoretical work in the classroom and the applied work in the community, the students will learn to think creatively about new ways to classify risk factors for health and disease and new ways to think about interventions.

A. Course Development: This is a new course in development.
B. Availability: This course will be offered every year in the Fall quarter.
C. Prerequisites: None

2. Course Outline: The topics of gender, race, and class will not be segregated out in specific sessions. Instead the topics of gender, race, and class will be infused in each of the weekly sessions.
   a. Week 1: Introduction
   b. Week 2: Socioeconomic position, Income inequality
   c. Week 3: Discrimination and Health
   d. Week 4: Working conditions and Health
   e. Week 5: Social integration, social capital and health
   f. Week 6: Depression and mental health
   g. Week 7: Emotions and health
   h. Week 8: Health behaviors in a social context
   i. Week 9: Ecologic approaches: Rediscovering the role of the physical and social environment
   j. Week 10: Student Poster Presentations

Course readings will include The Black Women’s Health Book and articles from peer-reviewed public health journals collected in a course reader.
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will be determined by their participation in a group project to research and design a poster presentation. The students will select a poster presentation topic that is related to the course but not covered in depth by the readings/lecture. Students will engage in active reflection on readings and course activities through a journal that they are required to keep for the course. Students will also select a book or film that is related to the course topics to review. Book/film reviews will be written individually and will be shared in class through a brief oral presentation.

d. Suitability: This course will discuss a variety of health issues with special emphasis on health behaviors (i.e., smoking, physical activity, diet) and chronic disease (i.e., diabetes, asthma, heart disease, cancer). Therefore, this course will be integral to the Healthy People/Health Places cluster. This course will use gender as one category of analysis of health and will explore the impact of gender on health. Therefore, this course is also well integrated into the basic organizational structure of the Women's Studies cluster organizational structure. Exploration of gender issues across many areas of social and cultural experience. Students will consider the impact of social forces on health at the community level. Students will also consider the importance of intervening on health at the community level. Therefore, this course is also well integrated in Community Studies.