Section(s): 001; Mon 2:00 – 4:50pm; Rm. CH 265
Professor: Dr. Ginny Garcia-Alexander
Office: CH 217S
Office Phone: 503-725-9572
Email: gin5@pdx.edu
Office Hours: MW 12:30-1:30pm

Course Description and Objectives
This course provides an overview of current issues in health and inequality including the impact of social class and race on health; the social causes and consequences of health disparities; and current public policy debates about reducing disparities.

Required Readings


Course Structure
Students are expected to complete all assigned readings prior to class. The class will begin with a brief introduction to the subject matter. Each student will be required to prepare weekly comment papers reflecting on one or more of the assigned readings, which will be due at the beginning of class. Papers should be 2-4 pages in length, typed, and double-spaced. Comment papers must incorporate supplementary readings related to the weekly topic. Students will use information from comment papers for weekly discussions.

Criteria for Grading

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>(%) of Total</th>
<th>Grading Scheme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation/Discussion</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>A = 90-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comment Papers (8 @5% each)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>B = 80-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper (Abstract-10%, Draft-10%, Final Paper- 30%)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>C = 70-79</td>
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<td>D = 60-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<td>F = 59 or below</td>
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Comment Papers
Students are required to write weekly comment papers that provide a brief overview and critique of the assigned readings. These should go beyond the scope of the readings and incorporate additional materials rather than simply summarize the assigned readings. Papers should be 2-4 pages in length and provide a critique/analysis of the subject matter. Papers should be typed, double-spaced, and must be turned in by the beginning of class. Students must submit 8 comment papers throughout the term (may submit 1 additional paper to replace a lower grade).

Final/Research Paper
Each student must submit a 15-20 page research paper on a topic of their choice related to inequalities in health. Papers may be in the form of original empirical research or an in-depth review of the literature and should conform to the appropriate disciplinary guidelines (APA, ASA, MLA). Students should decide on their topics and turn in an:
- Abstract (10%): Mon, Apr 21
- Draft (10%): Mon, May 19
- Final Paper (30%): Mon, June 9 at 5pm

Attendance Policy
Students are expected to attend each class and participate in discussions.

Students with Disabilities
(DRC) coordinates support services, accommodations, and equipment for students with disabilities. DS works to ensure equal access to all University programs, services, and activities for students with disabilities. DS certifies eligibility for services, determines reasonable accommodations, and develops plans for the implementation of accommodations. The DRC Director also assists students in the informal resolution of complaints. More information is available on their website: http://www.drc.pdx.edu

Plagiarism/Academic Dishonesty
It is expected that the students will maintain the highest level of academic integrity while participating in this class. As per university guidelines, “Scholastic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor, providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or the attempt to commit such an act.

Any of the above mentioned violations will result in the appropriate disciplinary penalties as outlined by University Rules and Regulations including an "F" in the class, suspension, and/or expulsion.
Schedule

Week 1 (Mar 31): Introduction to Inequality
- Readings – *The Spirit Level*, Ch. 1-3

Week 2 (Apr 7): The Costs of Inequality
- Readings – *The Spirit Level*, Ch. 4-7

Week 3 (Apr 14): Income Inequality and Health

Week 4 (Apr 21): Social Determinants of Health
- **Mon, Apr 21: Abstracts due at beginning of class**

Week 5 (Apr 28): Historical and Political Background: Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities
- Readings – Reader: *Race, Ethnicity, and Health*, Ch. 1-5

Week 6 (May 5): Social Determinants of Health – Race and Ethnicity
- Readings – Reader: *Race, Ethnicity, and Health*, Ch. 15, 16-18

Week 7 (May 12): Racism and Discrimination
- Readings – Reader: *Race, Ethnicity, and Health*, Ch. 6-8

Week 8 (May 19): Social Determinants of Health - Gender
- *Behind the Eight Ball: Intro – Ch. 6*
- **Mon, May 19: Drafts due at beginning of class**

Week 9 (May 26): Patient-Provider Interactions and Disparities in Care
- Readings – Reader: *Race, Ethnicity, and Health*, Ch. 26-27, 28-29

Week 10 (June 2): Neighborhood/Area Effects
- Readings – Reader: *Race, Ethnicity, and Health*, Ch. 20-22
- **Final Papers due Monday, June 9 at 5pm**