

SOC 3769

Health: Race & Ethnicity

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Office Hours: MW 12:00-1:00 PM

No Prerequisites Required

Overview

This course is, broadly, an examination of how race, ethnicity, and health intersect. We will explore the nature of racial and ethnic categories, the patterns of United States demography, and the role of social environmental factors such as social class, racial and spatial segregation, healthcare inequalities, and systemic racism in contributing to racial and ethnic inequalities in health.

Goals

The goals of this course are three-fold. At the end of the course student should be able to:

- Identify the predominating theories and perspectives of medical sociology, as they relate to the intersection of race/ethnicity, and health.
- Evaluate contemporary health racial and ethnic health disparities in the United States.
- Propose solutions to ameliorate racial and ethnic health disparities.

Evaluation

Attendance Course attendance is a fundamental part of this course. That said, we will decide the specifics of the attendance policy as a class in the first week—**10%**

Two Papers Both papers should be 5-6 pages in length. The first will be a research paper on a topic of the student's choosing (Due 11/11). The second will be a reflection on *The Spirit Catches You*. This paper will be due at the end of the course (Due 12/20)—**15% (each)**

Three exams. Exams are not comprehensive. The exams will have 4 sections, a multiple-choice section, a true or false section, a short answer section, and an essay section. Students will be required to complete the multiple choice portion of the exam, but will then be asked to choose two out of the other three sections to complete. Exam Dates: 9/27, 11/8, and 12/13—**60%**

Grades will be assigned as follows:

A:>93	B:86-83	C:76-70
A-:92-90	B-:82-80	D:69-60
B+:89-87	C+:79-77	E:<60

Materials

Donald A. Barr. 2008. *Health Disparities in the United States: Social class, Race and Ethnicity* 1st edition. The John Hopkins University Press. ISBN: 978-0801888212

Anne Fadiman. 1998 *The Spirit Catches you and you Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux. ISBN: 978-0374525641

Class Conduct

This course promotes discussion about current, and often controversial, subjects. Disagreements are expected, but must be done so with respect. Any malicious comments of hurtful intent will not be tolerated. Also, phones (texts or calls), facebook, world of warcraft, chatroulette, and the like, is prohibited during class time.

ADA Statement

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

Weekly Schedule

UNIT I: OVERVIEW OF RACE, ETHNICITY AND HEALTH

Week 1: Introduction	
M 8/26: Introduction/Syllabus	
W 8/28: Documentary: Episode 1 “Race, the Power of an Illusion”	Reading: Cooper (2002) “A note on the biological concept of race and its application in epidemiological research” pgs 715-722. (ONLINE)
F 8/30: Documentary: Episode 1: “Race, the Power of an Illusion” (Finish & Discussion)	Reading: Barr (2008): Preface ix.
Week 2: Introduction to the Social Roots of Health Disparities	
M 9/2: LABOR DAY, NO CLASS	
W 9/4: Social Roots of Health Disparities (continued)	Reading: Barr (2008) Ch. 1
F 9/6: Racial Segregation and Health	Reading: Collins & Williams (1999) “Segregation and mortality, the deadly effects of racism?” pgs 495-523 (ONLINE)
Week 3: What is Health? How Should we Define it?	
M 9/9: Definitions of Health	Readings: Barr (2008) Ch. 2
W 9/11: How Should we Measure It?	
F 9/13: Medicalization of Health: Are we using health as a form of social control?	Readings: Conrad (1992) “Medicalization and Social Control”-Skim, focus on the main points (ONLINE) Rosenthal & Wilson (2012) “Race/ethnicity and mental health in the first decade of the 21 st century” (ONLINE)
Week 4: The relationship between SES and Health	
M 9/15: They call it ‘poor’ health for a reason	Reading: Barr (2008) Ch. 3
W 9/17: Poverty and Health: fundamental cause theory	Reading: TBD
F 9/19: Documentary: Episode 3: Race, the power of an illusion	
Week 5: Understanding how Low Social Status Leads to Poor Health	
M 9/23: How does Low Status Lead to Poor Health?	Reading: Barr (2008) Ch. 4
W 9/25: Review	Wrap-Up
<u>F 9/27: EXAM I</u>	

UNIT II: RACE, ETHNICITY AND HEALTH

Week 6: Race/Ethnicity & Health	
M 9/30: Race/Ethnicity & Health—let's get the ball rolling	Reading: Barr (2008) Ch. 5
W 10/2: The role of Racism	Reading: Jones (2000) "A theoretical framework and a Gardener's tale" (ONLINE)
F 10/4: Documentary TBD	
Week 7: Race/Ethnicity, Health & SES	
M 10/7: Which is more Important? Race/Ethnicity or SES?	Reading: Barr (2008) Ch. 6
W 10/9: Introduction to Minority Health Behaviors	
F10/11: Minority Health Behaviors	Reading: Kimbro (2009) "Acculturation in Context: Gender, Age at Migration, Neighborhood Ethnicity, and Health Behaviors" (ONLINE)
Week 8: FALL BREAK 10/14-10/18	
Week 9: African Americans & Hispanics	
M 10/21: African American Health Issues	Reading: James (2002) "John Henryism and the Health of African-Americans" (ONLINE)
W 10/23: Wrap-Up AA Health Issues, Introduce Hispanic Paradox	
F 10/25: Hispanics	Reading: Ranzini (2002) "Understanding the Hispanic paradox" pg 496-518 (ONLINE)
Week 10: Asian Americans & Native Americans	
M 10/28: Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders	Reading: Lee et al. (2009) "Beyond the 'model minority' stereotype: Trends in Health Risk Behaviors Among Asian/Pacific Islander High School Students" (ONLINE)
W 10/30: Native Americans/Alaskan Natives	Reading: Tann et al. (2007) "The risk for alcohol abuse, depression and diabetes multimorbidity in the American Indian and Alaska Native population" pg 1-23 (ONLINE)
F 11/1: Immigrant Caucasians and Caucasian Americans	
Week 11: Wrap-Up and Exam	
M 11/4: Documentary: Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality making us Sick?	Reading: Cagney (2005) "Racial Disparities in Self-Rated Health at Older Ages" (ONLINE)
W 11/6: Review	
<u>F 11/8: Exam II</u>	

UNIT III: RACE/ETHNICITY, THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSION & SOLUTIONS

Week 12: Does Race/Ethnicity Affect How Physicians Treat Patients?	
M 11/11: Does Race/Ethnicity Affect How Physicians Treat Patients?	Reading: Barr (2008) Ch. 7
<u>PAPER 1 DUE</u>	
W 11/13: Does Race/Ethnicity Affect How Physicians Treat Patients?	Reading: Fadiman (2008) <i>The Spirit Catches You</i>
F 11/15: Discussion (connecting to Fadiman)	Reading: Fadiman (2008) <i>The Spirit Catches You</i>
Week 13: Why Does Race/Ethnicity Affect How Physicians Treat Patients?	
M 11/18: Why Does Race/Ethnicity Affect How Physician Choices?	Reading: Barr (2008) Ch. 8
W 11/20: Why Does Race/Ethnicity Affect How Physician Choices?	Reading: Fadiman (2008) <i>The Spirit Catches You</i>
F 11/22: Discussion (connecting to Fadiman)	Reading: Fadiman (2008) <i>The Spirit Catches You</i>
Week 14: When is it Appropriate to use a Patient's Race/Ethnicity to Guide Medical Practices?	
M 11/25: Using Race/Ethnicity to Guide Medical Practice	Reading: Barr (2008) Ch. 9
W 11/27: Connecting to Fadiman	Reading: Fadiman (2008) <i>The Spirit Catches You</i>
F 11/29: NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
Week 15: Life-Course Perspectives of Race/Ethnicity and Health.	
M 12/2: Post 9/11: Increased Maternal and Infant Mortality of Muslim Moms and Newborns.	Reading: Lauderdale (2006) "Birth Outcomes for Arabic-named women before and after September 11 th " (ONLINE)
W 12/4: Health Risk across the Life-Course	Reading: Gee, Walseman, & Brondolo (2012) "A Life-Course Perspective on Health Inequities" (ONLINE)
F 12/6: Life-Course Wrap-Up/ Begin Solutions	Reading: Hogan et al. (2011) "Life Course, Social Determinants, and Health Inequalities: Toward a National Plan for Achieving Health Equity for African American Infants" (ONLINE)
Week 16: Solutions, Wrap-up	
M 12/9: What Should we do to reduce health disparities?	Reading: Barr (2008) Ch. 10
W 12/11: Review	
<u>F 12/13: Exam III</u>	
<u>PAPER 2 DUE: DEC 20th</u>	