



UNST 209
Disparities in Public Health Care: The Effects on Race, Gender and Class
Fall 2007

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to explore the disparities that exist among the categories of race, gender and class in relationship to healthcare. The course focuses on six areas of major health inequities including infant mortality, cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and immunization.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the course is to introduce the student to the major concepts, problems and issues associated with health disparities in public health care. Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to: (1) Discuss minority health and health disparities from a historical, economic and social perspective (2) Describe the intersection of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and other factors that may exacerbate disparities (3) Identify barriers to health care that contribute to disparities.

EXPECTATIONS

I expect you to attend class, read the text, participate, and most importantly, ask questions. There are no “dumb” questions.

In return, I will try my best to make the material understandable and to make adjustments to the course as necessary. I will protect your right to express your opinions.

REQUIRED READINGS

Wermuth, Laurie. *Global Inequality and Human Needs: Health and Illness in an Increasingly Unequal World*. New York: Allyn & Bacon, 2003.

GRADING

Grades for this course will be determined as follows:

- Weekly in class quizzes and assignments on blackboard (100 points)
- Midterm Exam (50 points)
- Individual paper (50 points)
- Final group project and presentation (100 pts)

BLACKBOARD: THE COURSE WEBSITE

Learning to use Blackboard technology skillfully is an important objective for this course. To insure success, students must develop a level of basic mastery of its e-learning component. Students must be personally responsible for accessing and using Blackboard.

Quizzes and assignments will be administered through Blackboard. In order to avoid problems with Blackboard, please follow these steps:

- When completing online assignments, try whenever possible to log-in from one of the on-campus computer labs or Bluford Library, which has wireless laptops and numerous computer stations available. This will help you avoid network problems.
- Go to Course Information to locate the links to the quizzes. Once you begin a quiz or an assignment you **cannot** open a new browser window to search for information. Doing so will cause the quiz or assignment to crash and you will get “**locked-out**”. Also do not hit the Save button. Simply input your answers and when you are ready to turn it in hit the Submit button.
- If you have a technical problem during a quiz or assignment you will see a small lock icon where you would normally see your quiz score (in the online grade book). Please send me an email and I will reset your account so that you can re-take the quiz. **Pay attention to my in-class and Blackboard announcements on the days before and during the quizzes.**
- The availability of quizzes and assignments will be announced in class. If you do not complete a quiz or assignment within the deadline you **will not** be allowed to make it up. There are no make-up quizzes or exams in this course except under extraordinary circumstances (which require written documentation).

DEADLINE & STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY POLICY

Students are responsible for meeting all course deadlines. A deadline is the last day something is due, not the day you should wait to do it. All deadlines can be found on the course calendar. If you are unable to meet a deadline you may make arrangements in advance of a deadline for an extension. Any student who misses a deadline and did not make prior arrangements *will not receive an extension* (i.e. receives a zero for missed work). The only exception is if you can provide documentation demonstrating why a deadline could not be met given that you knew all deadlines in advance. Remember, responsible students plan ahead, complete work early, and contact us right away when a deadline cannot be met. All students are held to this policy, including those who ask for special exceptions.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic honesty is absolutely essential. Cheating, plagiarism, sharing of clickers or other academic misconduct will not be tolerated. If you are caught cheating, you will not pass this course and will be subject to any and all penalties specified in the student honor code.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance and punctuality are mandatory in all UNST courses. Attendance will be taken for each class. Tardiness will not be tolerated. Absent or tardy students are responsible for any missed class work, including any changes to the syllabus or assignments announced in class. In short, absences and tardiness can/will diminish your grade. If you suffer prolonged illness or misfortune, you should consider dropping the course. Persistent tardiness and failure to observe established classroom etiquette will lead to failure of the course. Student athletes must submit a schedule of days they will be absent within the first week of classes.

Student-athletes are held to the same attendance and performance expectation as non-athletes. Hence, they should coordinate their course schedules so that team practices and games do not conflict with class meetings and/or exams. Student-athletes should identify themselves for the professors and/or instructors, submit a schedule of days you will miss class as well as the name and contact information for their coach within the first week of classes. University Studies will follow the Department of Athletics class attendance policy, which states:

First Unexcused Absence – The student-athlete’s coach will be notified.

Second Unexcused Absence – Ms. Dee Todd, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics will be notified. The student-athlete will be required to have a conference with Ms. Todd or her designee.

Third Unexcused Absence – The student athlete will be suspended for one contest. IF the student-athlete is not currently in season, the suspension will apply to the following season.

Fourth Unexcused Absence – The student-athlete’s scholarship is subject to non-renewal.

EDUCATIONAL ETIQUETTE

Students will demonstrate their respect for their professors and colleagues. Any behavior that distracts (e.g. eating, talking while others are talking, etc.) or is disrespectful (inattention, personal attacks, studying for other courses during class, etc.) is unacceptable. Differences of opinion should be met with intellectual curiosity and rigor rather than insult, contumely, or discord.

All cell phones, pagers, and personal communication devices must be turned off for the duration of the class period. Students who fail to comply with this rule will be asked to leave the class and will be marked absent. Campus security will be asked to escort those students from of the classroom who fail to leave as requested.

Student success in this course depends upon the development of scholarly and collegial habits. Active participation in class discussion and group work is mandatory. Collegial responsibility and respect are also compulsory.

EMAIL POLICY

Official correspondence from faculty, instructors and graduate assistants will use the North Carolina A & T email address. Students are responsible for the information received and are required to monitor their email accounts on a regular basis.

All faculty, instructors and graduate assistants will reply to legitimate email inquiries from students within 48 hours with the exception of weekends or university holidays. If you do not receive a reply within this period, please resubmit your question(s) or phone your instructor. Leave a message if necessary.

In accordance with the Aggie Pride, students should consistently communicate and behave in a manner that displays integrity, honesty, sound character, and virtuous ethics when using email to communicate with faculty, instructors, or graduate teaching assistants.

Each email message must include the course name and number, section number, and a concise and clear statement of purpose in the subject line [e.g., UNST 209.01: Death in Family]. You must also type your name as it appears on the course roster at the end of your message otherwise it is likely to be deleted, along with spam messages and messages potentially containing viruses.

Please make sure you consult the course outline/syllabus, other handouts, and the course website BEFORE submitting inquiries by email.

When a question cannot be easily or briefly answered by email, please come see me during my office hours.

Email should **NOT** be seen as an alternative to meeting with me. Nor should email be used as a mechanism to receive private tutorials (especially prior to tests) or to explain material that was covered in lectures that you missed.

DISABILITIES AND DIFFERENCES

Students with documented learning disabilities or differences should identify themselves to their professor and present appropriate documentation during the first week of classes. No accommodations will be made later in the semester for students who do not identify themselves at the beginning of the course.

Students who need developmental support should ask their professors for extra help or referral. All students should seek the support services of the Writing Center (A-309 GCB; 334-7764) and the Center for Student Success (312 Hodgin Hall; 334-7855).

UNST 209: Tentative syllabus.

Date	Topic	Assignment
August 20-24	Course introduction	Survey due by 8 am Friday Aug 24, 2007
August 27-31	Understanding Race and Ethnicity vs Race or Ethnicity Film: Race: The Power of an Illusion	Readings – Chapter 1 and 6 (Wermuth) Mckinney NR and Bennett CE; Issues Regarding Race and Ethnicity: The Census Bureau Experience (article on Blackboard in Course documents folder)
September 3-7 Monday Sept. 3 Holiday	Socioeconomic Status: Issues of Measurement, and the Intersection between race and class	Readings – Chapter 2 & 8 (Wermuth)
September 10-14	Health Disparities Overview & History of Minority Health Film: Deadly Deception	Readings- Chapter 1 (Wermuth)
September 17-21	Distinguishing between Health Disparities and Health care Disparities	Readings- Chapter 4 (Wermuth)
September 24-28	Epidemiology of Infant Mortality	Readings TBA
October 1-5	Cancer in Minority Populations	Readings TBA
October 8-12 Monday-Tuesday, October 8-9, Fall Break		Midterm Examination Thursday
October 15-19	Epidemiology of Cardiovascular Disease	Readings TBA
October 22-26 Thursday, October 25: Classes Suspended 10am-12noon	Diabetes in the US: Differences by race, gender, and class	Readings TBA
October 29-November 2	HIV/AIDS	Readings- Chapter 10 (Wermuth)
November 5-9	Government role in Health Disparities	Readings – Chapter 3 (Wermuth)
November 12-16	Special Issues in AA, Hispanic and Asian Health	Readings - TDA
November 19-23	Special Issues in AA, Hispanic and Asian Health	Readings -TBA
November 26-30	Group Presentations	
December 2-6	Group presentations	
December 6	Group presentations Final Group paper due	
December 7	Reading Day	
December 8-14		