



C-ID Descriptor

Health and Social Justice

Descriptor Details

- **Descriptor Title:** Health and Social Justice
- **C-ID Number:** 102
- **Units:** 3
- **Date of Last Revision:** 09/18/2023

General Description

This course provides an introduction to the health inequities in the United States that stem from unequal living conditions. Students will explore how education, socioeconomic status, racism, and gender shape health epidemics and policy development. Fundamental theories to advocate for health and social justice will be explored, and community organizing approaches will be practiced.

Prerequisites

None

Corequisites

None

Advisories

English, one level below transfer (i.e., eligibility for English composition (C-ID ENGL 100) and reading a course with an exiting skill of ability to read a college level text.

Content

- .1. Factors in unequal health outcomes
 - a. Social determinants of health
 1. Ecological model
 - b. Race
 1. Historic origins of race in the United States
 2. Social construct versus a biological category
 - c. Gender
 1. Sexism
 - d. Class
 1. Education level
 2. Socioeconomic status
 3. Distribution of educational levels, income and wealth in the United States
 - e. Policy proposals
 1. Reduce racial and gender differentials
 2. Address poverty and inequities
2. Healthcare
 - a. Access to health resources and medical care
 - b. Insurance affordability
 - c. Comparative analysis of healthcare and insurance across the United States and globally
 - d. State and federal policies
 1. Existing
 2. New
3. Environmental conditions
 - a. Low socioeconomic status communities
 1. Poor housing

- 2. Exposure to toxic sources
- 3. Inadequate community resources
- 4. Poor schooling
- b. Individual behavior change approach versus public health approach
- c. Environmental health equity strategies
- 4. Health disparities/inequities and health outcomes
 - a. Low socioeconomic status communities
 - 1. Higher rates of infectious conditions and chronic disease
 - 2. Higher rates of violence, crime, gangs, alcohol and drug abuse, obesity, teen pregnancy, and premature death
 - b. Improving health disparities/inequities and health outcomes
 - 1. Advocacy
 - a. Outreach
 - b. Organizing
 - c. Mobilizing
 - 2. Program and policy development
 - 3. Access to credible information sources
 - 4. Organizational support
- 5. Research
 - a. Credible sources

Lab Activities

No information provided

Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe disparities in health outcomes in the United States by race, socioeconomic status, and gender.
2. Compare and contrast the two paradigms that seek to explain health disparities: the individual approach and the public health model.
3. Compare United States healthcare policies with that of other developed countries and contrast the characteristics of each system.
4. Analyze the contribution of environmental conditions to disparate health outcomes, using case studies.
5. Describe the connection between environmental justice and disparate health outcomes based on race, class, and gender.
6. Analyze case studies of prevalent health problems to compare individual behavior change approaches versus public health approaches.
7. Describe strategies or tactics to improve health inequalities, such as advocacy, community organizing, and/or policy change.
8. Demonstrate advocacy skills, such as outreach, organizing, and mobilization of communities to improve health outcomes.
9. Identify, assess, and utilize credible information resources on public health current issues, such as the Internet, social media, media outlets, and libraries.

Evaluation Methods

May include:

Exams

Quizzes

Written Assignments

Projects

Textbooks

Hofrichter, *Health and Social Justice: Politics, Ideology and Inequalities in the Distribution of Disease*

California News Reel, *Unnatural Causes*

