

**LSP/Dev Soc 220**  
**Sociology of Health and Ethnic Minorities**  
**Fall 2007**

**Morrison Hall 334**  
**TU/TH**  
**10:10-11:25**  
[pap2@cornell.edu](mailto:pap2@cornell.edu)

**Instructor: Pilar A. Parra Ph.D.**  
**3M7 MVR-Hall Tel: 5-0063**  
**Office Hours**  
**TU/TH 11:30-12:30**

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**Description of the course and general objectives**

This course is an introduction to the study of the sociology of health by examining the health status of ethnic minorities. The primary goal of this course is to understand the determinants in the health status and access to health care of Latino and other ethnic/race groups in the U.S. We will cover the following topics: 1) Basic concepts in epidemiology and data collection; 2) the distribution of illness by social and demographic factors, and the social forces affecting inter-group differences; 3) ethnicity, culture, and environment as contributors to health risks, and/or protective behaviors; 4) the organization of the health system and the allocation of resources in the health services; 5) the access to and utilization of health care services by ethnic minorities and special populations.

Students will develop analytical skills to assess how ethnicity/race, social class, gender, and most broadly, power affect both the health system and the well-being of special populations. Students will learn to critique health reports and journal articles on minorities. Students will also learn about health professions, research, and services aimed to Latino and other ethnic populations.

**Course Requirements**

1) Students are expected to complete all assigned readings prior to the lectures and to be prepared to participate in class discussions. Films presented in class require a 1-2 page comment due next class. Attendance and class participation account for:	<b>30% of the grade.</b>
2) Two exams. October 11 <sup>th</sup> and a Take Home exam to hand in by December. 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>40% of the grade</b>
3) The final requirement will be a short term paper due Nov. 20 <sup>th</sup> on a topic previously approved by the instructor. Topic and at least 3 references by email to the instructor by October 12th.	<b>30% of the grade</b>

**Required Readings:**

- **A Course Packet (LSP/220) at the Campus Store and class hand outs. A copy of the reading package will be available in Latino Studies Program (LSP) office (Rockefeller Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> floor).**
- **Articles not included in the reading package will be accessible through Blackboard. A hard copy of these articles will be available in LSP office (Rockefeller Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> floor).**
- **Policy Challenges in Modern Health Care. (2005) Edited by David Mechanic, Rogut L, Colby DC, Knickman JR. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press. ISBN 0-8135-3578-6.**

**Term Paper**

Students will write a paper no longer than 10 pages plus, doubled-space, 1" margins, type 12 pitch. A minimum of 10 references of journal-based articles/book chapters. Students need to be brief and to the point in order to cover the topic and discussion within the space limitations. Papers are due in class NOVEMBER 20 or in Professor Parra's office (3M7 MVR) no later than 6:00 PM. The paper will count for 30% of the

final grade. Late papers will be penalized five points out of 100, for each day.

**Example of topics:** A health related issue in the United States. The focus of the paper can be related to: problems of data collection by race, ethnicity and or size of populations, the health system, health services and health services utilization by minority populations, the social and physical environment impact on health. Students are encouraged to consider factors such as acculturation, immigration and other intermediate factors in the discussion. The paper can also be oriented to discuss an intervention strategy towards a specific sector and problem (e.g., prevention of teen pregnancy; tobacco; alcohol; drug abuse; prenatal care and low birth weight infants; home care for the elderly, etc.), genomics and the promise of the eradication of disease, ethics in health research. Topics are not limited to the examples above. The term paper should use social science concepts and ideas covered in class and in the readings in the discussion of your paper topic. The paper should include the following: a) a statement of the problem; b) review of literature; c) discussion of theoretical or instrumental approaches to the problem; d) conclusions and recommendations, e) references. Web references should be fully identifiable. See list of approved and reliable health information sources.

**Criteria for grading:** Papers will be assessed in light of: 1) how well and appropriately you apply concepts from the course to this issue, 2) your creativity in developing a social science based plan for dealing with your topic, and 3) the degree and depth of the literature research. The topic must be approved by the instructor by October 12.

**Academic Integrity.** Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. For more information: <http://www.cornell.edu/UniversityFaculty/docs/main.html>.

## **READINGS**

*August 23*

### I. INTRODUCTION-

Determinants of health in a multicultural society.

*August 28, 30*

### II. INTRODUCTION TO EPIDEMIOLOGY

Measuring Health and Disease in Populations

- (1) Beaglehole R., Bonita R., Kjellstrom T, "What is Epidemiology?" "Measuring Health and Disease", from Basic Epidemiology, (Geneva: World Health Organization, 1993) Chapters 1-2, pp.1-30 and Chapter 5, pp. 71-81 [40 of 175 pages] ISBN: 92 4 154446 5.
- (2) Krieger, Nancy. "Theories for social epidemiology in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: an ecosocial perspective." International Journal of Epidemiology 2001; 30:668-677.

Hand out: Health outcomes in industrialized countries

*September 4, 6*

### III. DATA COLLECTION: RACE, ETHNICITY AND HEALTH.

- (3) Oppenheimer Gerald M. Paradigm lost: Race, ethnicity, and the search for a new population taxonomy. Am J Public Health. Vol. 91, #7 (July 2001), pp1049-1055
- (4) Williams DR and J S Jackson. Race/Ethnicity and the 2000 Census. Recommendations for

African-American and other Black populations in the U.S. *Am J Public Health* (Nov. 2000), Vol. 90, pp. 1728-1730.

- (5) Srinivasan, Shobha; Guillermo, Tessie (2000). "Toward Improved Health: Disaggregating Asian- American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Data." *American Journal of Public Health* 99 (11): 1731-1737.
- (6) Zambrana Ruth and O. Carter-Pokras, "Health data issues for Hispanics: Implications for public health research", from *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, Vol. 12, No. 1 (Feb 2001), pp.20-34.

Hand out: Health Disparities by race/ethnicity, U.S.A

### ***September 11, 13***

#### **IV. SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS AND HEALTH**

- (7) Walker Bailus, Vicky Mays, Rueben Warren. "The changing landscape for the elimination of racial/ethnic health status disparities." *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*. 2004; 15, pp. 506-521

Link Bruce G. and Jo Phelan. Fundamental sources of health inequalities. Chapter 5, pp. 71-84. In: *Policy Challenges in Modern Health Care* (Mechanic, Rogut, Colby & Knickman eds.) 2005 Rutgers University Press.

Williams David. Patterns and causes of disparities in health. Chapter 8, pp. 115-134. In: *Policy Challenges in Modern Health Care* (Mechanic, Rogut, Colby & Knickman eds.) 2005 Rutgers University Press.

Rosenbaum Sara & Joel Teitelbaum. Addressing Racial Inequality in Health Care. Chapter 9, pp.135-150. In: *Policy Challenges in Modern Health Care* (Mechanic, Rogut, Colby & Knickman eds.) 2005 Rutgers University Press.

### ***September 18***

#### **V. DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH: THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH**

- (8) Künzli, N., R. McConnell, et al. "Breathless in Los Angeles: The Exhausting Search for Clean Air," from *American Journal of Public Health* Vol. 93, No.9 (September 2003) pp. 1494-1499.

Hemenway David. A public health approach to firearms policy. Chapter 6. Pp. 85-98. In: *Policy Challenges in Modern Health Care* (Mechanic, Rogut, Colby & Knickman eds.) 2005 Rutgers University Press.

Warner E. Kenneth. Tobacco policy in the United States: Lessons for the obesity epidemic. Chapter 7, pp. 99-114. In: *Policy Challenges in Modern Health Care* (Mechanic, Rogut, Colby & Knickman eds.) 2005 Rutgers University Press.

### ***September 20***

#### **VI. DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH: HEREDITY AND HEALTH**

- (9) Fine Michael J, Said Ibrahim, Stephen Thomas. "The role of race and genetics in health disparities research." 2005. *American J. of Public Health*. 95 (12). Pp. 2125-2128



- (12) Lillie-Blanton Marcia & Julie Hudman. "Untangling the Web: Race/Ethnicity, Immigration, and the Nation's Health," from the American J. of Public Health Vol. 91 (Nov 2001), pp. 1736- 1738.
- (13) Arcia E., M Skinner, D Bailey, V Correa. Models of acculturation and health behaviors among Latino immigrants to the U.S.," from Social Science & Medicine. Vol. 53 (2001) pp. 41-53.
- (14) Gutmann Mathew. "Ethnicity, alcohol, and acculturation" from Social Science & Medicine. Vol. 48 (1999), pp. 173-184
- (15) Franzini Luisa., Ribble JC., Keddie A. " Understanding the Hispanic Paradox. Ethnicity and Disease. 11 (2001) Pp. 496-518

Viruell\_Fuentes Edna. "Beyond acculturation: Immigration, discrimination, and health research among Mexicans in the U.S. Social Science & Medicine (2007)

Doi:10.1016/j.socscimed.2007.05.010.

[www.elsevier.com/locate/socscimed](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/socscimed)

Harley Kim and Brenda Eskenazi. "Time in the U.S., social support and health behaviors during pregnancy among women of Mexican descent." Social Science and Medicine, 2006, Vol 62, pp 3048-3061

Discussion:

The case for breastfeeding: why immigrant women in the US breastfeed less than in their countries of origin?

**October 30, Nov. 1**

X. AT RISK, IMMIGRANT WOMEN, CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Hussey Jon M, Hallfors DD, Waller MW, Iritani BJ, et al. "Sexual behaviors and drug use among Asian and Latino Adolescents: Association with immigrant status." 2007, Vol 9, pp 85-94

Hand out: Youth and AIDS

► **Film: "AIDS in the Barrio" Brief comment (one page) due next class**

**November 6, 8**

XI. THE ROAD TO CHRONIC DISEASE: THE CASE OF OBESITY

- (16) Young, L. R. and M. Nestle. "The Contribution of Expanding Portion Sizes to the US Obesity Epidemic," from American Journal of Public Health Vol. 92, No.2 (February 2002) pp. 246-249.
- (17) NY Times. January 10, 2006. Kleinfield NR. "Living at the epicenter of diabetes, defiance and despair."
- (18) NY Times. January 11, 2006. Urbina, Ian. "In the treatment of diabetes, success often does not pay."
- (19) NY Times. January 12, 2006. Santora Marc. "East meets west, adding pounds and peril."

**November 13, 15**

## XII. THE ELDERLY: AGING IN MINORITY POPULATIONS

- (20) Angel L. Jacqueline and Ronald J. Angel. "Minority group status and healthy aging: Social structure still matters. American Journal of Public Health 2006, Vol. 96, No. 7, pp 1152-59
- (21) Angel Jacqueline (2003). "Devolution and the Social Welfare of Elderly Immigrants: Who Will Bear the Burden?" Public Administration Review 63 (1): 79-89.

**November 20,**

## XIII. MENTAL HEALTH

- (22) Williams David and Ruth Williams-Moris. "Racism and Mental Health: The African American experience. Ethnicity and Health, 2000, Vol. 5, pp 243-268

Lee Young-Me. "The immigration experience among elderly Korean immigrants." Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing, 2007, Vol 14, pp 403-410

Sanchez Francisco and Gaw Albert. "Mental health care of Filipino Americans." Psychiatric Services, 2007, Vol 58, pp8, 810-815

**November 22**

**Thanksgiving**

**November 27**

Film

**November 29**

## XIV. OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

- (23) Villarejo, Don. "The Health of U.S. Hired Farm Workers," from Annual Review of Public Health Vol. 24 (2003) pp. 175-193.

Dong Xiuwen and Platner James W. "Occupational fatalities of Hispanic construction workers from 1992 to 2000. American Journal of Industrial Medicine (2004) 45. pp. 45-54.

Cartwright Elizabeth, Schow D., Herrera S., et al. "Using participatory research to build an effective Type 2 Diabetes intervention: The process of advocacy among female Hispanic workers and their families in Southeast Idaho. Women and Health, Vol 43, No. 4 (2006) pp. 89-109. Available at: <http://wh.haworthpress.com>

***Take Home exam will be handed out last day of classes.***

***TAKE HOME EXAM Due on December 7 in my office, 3M7 MVR no later than 6:00 PM***