

## **SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH SPI 565/SOC 565/POP 565**

**Spring Term 2023**

**Wednesday 1.00pm – 4.00pm**

**Location: Robertson 014**

**Instructor:** Professor Sanyu Mojola, 147 Wallace Hall; [smojola@princeton.edu](mailto:smojola@princeton.edu)

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 1.30-3.30pm. Sign up [here](#)

By appointment: Please email Mary Lou Delaney at [md@princeton.edu](mailto:md@princeton.edu)

### **COURSE OVERVIEW**

This course examines how and why society can make us sick or healthy. We will examine how gender, race/ethnicity/nativity, socio-economic status, space and place, and other social factors shape health outcomes. We will also look at the role of social institutions, and environment-society interactions in shaping health. We will examine how these factors underlie some of the major causes of illness and death around the world including infant mortality, infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and COVID-19, and chronic diseases such as heart disease and cancer. The course will draw on historical and cross-cultural material from the U.S. as well as global examples from different countries around the world.

### **ELECTRONIC RESERVES:**

There are no required books for this class. Required readings are available on Canvas. I will make recommendations for further reading for interested students as we go along.

### **CLASS EXPECTATIONS AND ETIQUETTE:**

**Class time:** Class expectations include regular weekly attendance, completing readings before class, regular and thoughtful contributions to class discussions, and completing writing assignments on time. Laptop/tab use is only permitted for note taking and reference to class readings. We will take one or two breaks in class.

**Email:** When sending me an email, please use SPI 565 in the subject line. I do my best to answer emails within 24 hours between Monday and Friday. In an attempt to balance work and life, I will not respond to email over the weekend (between 5pm Friday and Sunday) unless it is an emergency.

**Intellectual honesty:** Intellectual honesty is vital to an academic community and for my fair evaluation of your work. All work submitted in this course must be your own, completed in accordance with the [University's academic regulations](#). For all the work you turn in, you may not make use of ChatGPT or other AI composition software.

## CLASS EVALUATION

You will be formally evaluated in the following ways:

### **Class participation:** 10% of class grade

This portion of your grade will be earned by regular and thoughtful contributions to class discussion which should reflect reading and engagement with class material. The participation grade will be posted at the end of the term.

### **Class presentation:** 10% of class grade

Each student will pick a week on which to give a presentation on the week's readings. The presentation will consist of a 5-10 minute integrated critical evaluation of the topic's readings, as well as one or two questions to open up class discussion. The presentation should assume that the class has done the reading and should address the following:

- a) In one paragraph, describe the main argument(s) of the articles.
- b) What are 2 strengths of the articles' arguments?
- c) What are 2 weaknesses of the articles' arguments?
- d) Discuss 2 ways in which these articles add to or challenge what you already know from class readings and lectures.
- e) Give two (clearly stated) questions that arose for you from the readings to open up class discussion.

The presentation should be handed in at the beginning of the class in which you present. It should be typed, Times New Roman font, double spaced, 12" font size, have 1 inch margins, and should be a full 2 pages (no more, no less).

### **Response Papers:** 30% of class grade

Each student will write two 4 page papers in response to a set question about the class readings, lectures and discussions. Specific guidelines will be given in class.

### **Policy Forum debate and paper:** 15% of class grade

We will hold a mock policy forum in class. The topic or topics will be based on class interest. (Previous topics have included the opioid crisis in the US, homicide in Chicago, global policy on infant formula recommendations and whether to close national borders following the COVID-19 pandemic). In preparation for the forum, each student will pick a stakeholder position which they will need to research and then debate in class. Each student will turn in a 3 page position paper based on their research for the debate. More specific guidelines will be given in class.

### **Final Assignment – Research presentation and Health policy report:** 35% of class grade.

For the final assignment, each student will conduct research on a major cause of illness and death in a US or non US setting of their choice (no student can work on the same topic) and propose policy solutions to a key decision maker in that setting. The presentation and report should describe the disease etiology and epidemiology, social determinants of the disease, which populations are most affected, the lived experience of the disease in that setting, current policy actions/inactions, and your proposed evidence-based recommendations for interventions and policy solutions (including a budget). The presentation will be worth 15% of your class grade, and the report will be worth 20% of your class grade. More specific guidelines will be given in class.

**Important Due Dates for your Calendar:** *(Changes might be made; keep track of announcements)*

<b>Response Paper 1 :</b>	February 22 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>Policy Forum:</b>	March 8 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Response Paper 2:</b>	April 5 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Research Presentation:</b>	April 26 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Policy Report:</b>	May 9 <sup>th</sup> (Dean's Date)

**University Grading Rubric:**

- A+ Exceptional; significantly exceeds the highest expectations.
- A Outstanding; meets the highest standards for the assignment or course.
- A- Excellent; meets very high standards for the assignment or course.
- B+ Very good; meets high standards for the assignment or course.
- B Good; meets most of the standards for the assignment or course.
- B- More than adequate; shows some reasonable command of the material.
- C+ Acceptable; meets basic standards for the assignment or course.
- C Acceptable; meets some of the basic standards for the assignment or course.
- C- Acceptable, while falling short of meeting basic standards in several ways.
- D Minimally acceptable; lowest passing grade.
- F Failing; very poor performance

## **COURSE READINGS: (subject to change)**

### **PART 1: INTRODUCTION**

#### **Week 1: Feb 1<sup>st</sup> Sociological and Historical Perspectives**

Freund, Peter E.S. and Meredith B. McGuire (1999) *A Sociological Perspective on Health, Illness and the Body* (Ch 1, pp 1-9) and *Who Becomes Sick, Injured or Dies?* (Ch 2, pp 10-37 – **skip 23-25**) in Health, Illness and the Social Body: A Critical Sociology. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. New Jersey: Prentice Hall Inc

Wills, Christopher (1997) *Four Tales from the New Decameron* (Ch 4, Pp 53-89) In Plagues: Their Origin, History and Future. London: Flamingo.

### **PART 2: SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH IN THE US**

#### **Week 2: Feb 8<sup>th</sup> Gender and Health**

Villarosa, Linda (2018) *Why America's Black Mothers and Babies Are in a Life-or-Death Crisis*. New York Times April 11, 2018.

Courtenay, Will H. (2000) *Constructions of Masculinity and Their Influence on Men's Well-Being: A Theory of Gender and Health*. Social Science & Medicine 50(10): 1385-1401.

Madfis, Eric (2014) *Triple Entitlement and Homicidal Anger: An Exploration of the Intersectional Identities of American Mass Murderers*. Men and Masculinities 17(1): 67-86.

#### **Socio-economic Status (SES) and Health**

Braveman, Paula A., Catherine Cubbin, Susan Egerter, David R. Williams, and Elsie Pamuk (2010) *Socioeconomic Disparities in Health in the United States: What the Patterns Tell Us.* American Journal of Public Health 100 (S1): S186-S196.

Gutin, Iliya and Robert A. Hummer (2021) *Social Inequality and the Future of US Life Expectancy*. Annual Review of Sociology. 47:501-20.

Burgard, Sarah A., Jennifer A. Ailshire, and Lucie Kalousova (2013) *The Great Recession and Health: People, Populations, and Disparities*. The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science 650 (1): 194-213.

Week 3: Feb 15th

### Race/Ethnicity/Nativity and Health

Schwandt, Hannes, Janet Currie, Marlies Bär, James Banks, Paola Bertoli, Aline Bütikofer, Sarah Cattán et al. (2021) *Inequality in Mortality between Black and White Americans by Age, Place, and Cause and in Comparison to Europe, 1990 to 2018*. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 118 (40): e2104684118.

Sarraj, Ashish, Summer Ngo, Melanie Ashland, David Scheinker, and Fatima Rodriguez (2022). *Trends in National and County-level Hispanic Mortality in the United States, 2011–2020*. Scientific Reports 12(1): 1-5.

Pollak, Margaret. (2018). *Care in the Context of a Chronic Epidemic: Caring for Diabetes in Chicago's Native Community*. Medical Anthropology Quarterly. 32(2): 196-213

### Place, Space and Health

Diez Roux, Ana V., and Christina Mair (2010). *Neighborhoods and Health*. Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences 1186 (1): 125-145.

Williams, David R., and Chiquita Collins (2001) *Racial Residential Segregation: A Fundamental Cause of Racial Disparities in Health*. Public Health Reports 116 (5): 404-416.

Singer, Merrill (2011) *Down Cancer Alley: The Lived Experience of Health and Environmental Suffering in Louisiana's Chemical Corridor*. Medical Anthropology Quarterly 25 (2): 141-163.

Week 4: Feb 22th

### Can Policy Eliminate Health Inequality?

#### Response Paper 1 due

CDC (2011) *Ten Great Public Health Achievements --- United States, 2001—2010*. MMWR. May 20, 2011. 60(19): 619-623

Zhao, Jingxuan, Ziling Mao, Stacey A. Fedewa, Leticia Nogueira, K. Robin Yabroff, Ahmedin Jemal, and Xuesong Han (2020) *The Affordable Care Act and Access to Care Across the Cancer Control Continuum: A Review at 10 Years*. CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians 70(3): 165-181.

Watkins-Hayes, Celeste (2019) *The Safety Net that AIDS Activism Built*. (Ch 2: pgs 80-134). In Remaking a Life: How Women Living with HIV/AIDS Confront Inequality. Oakland: University of California Press.

Finkelstein, Amy, Sarah Taubman, Bill Wright, Mira Bernstein, Jonathan Gruber, Joseph P. Newhouse, Heidi Allen, Katherine Baicker, and Oregon Health Study Group (2012) *The Oregon Health Insurance Experiment: Evidence From The First Year*. The Quarterly Journal of Economics 127(3): 1057-1106.

**PART 3: SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH IN THE PUBLIC EYE**

**Week 5: March 1<sup>st</sup>** Gawande, Atul (2017) *Is Healthcare a Right?* Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017. The New Yorker.

Katrina: Fink, Sheri (2009) *The Deadly Choices at Memorial*. New York Times Aug 25, 2009

Flint: Hanna-Attisha, Mona, Jenny LaChance, Richard Casey Sadler, and Allison Champney Schnepf (2016) *Elevated Blood Lead Levels in Children Associated with the Flint Drinking Water Crisis: A Spatial Analysis of Risk and Public Health Response*. American Journal of Public Health 106 (2): 283-290.

COVID-19: Yong, Ed (2020) *How the Pandemic will End*. The Atlantic Monthly. March 25, 2020.

**Week 6: March 8<sup>th</sup>** **Policy Forums; Policy Forum Paper due**

**Week 7: March 15<sup>th</sup>** **NO CLASS - SPRING RECESS**

**PART 4: SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH – A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE**

**Week 8: March 22<sup>nd</sup>** **Health Care Systems around the World**

Mills, Anne (2014) *Health Care Systems in Low-and Middle-Income Countries*. New England Journal of Medicine 370 (6): 552-557.

Latin America: Atun, Rifat, Luiz Odorico Monteiro De Andrade, Gisele Almeida, Daniel Cotlear, Tania Dmytraczenko, Patricia Frenz, Patricia Garcia et al (2015) *Health System Reform and Universal Health Coverage in Latin America*. The Lancet 385 (9974): 1230-1247.

India: Seeberg, Jens (2012) *Connecting Pills and People*. Medical Anthropology Quarterly 26 (2): 182-200.

**The Environment and Health**

Kenya: Mojola, Sanyu A. (2011) *Fishing in Dangerous Waters: Ecology, Gender and Economy in HIV Risk*. Social Science and Medicine 72(2): 149-156

Argentina: Auyero, Javier, and Debora Swistun (2007) *Confused because Exposed: Towards an Ethnography of Environmental Suffering*. Ethnography 8 (2): 123-144.

China: Mah, Alice, and Xinhong Wang. 2019. "Accumulated Injuries of Environmental Injustice: Living and Working with Petrochemical Pollution in Nanjing, China." Annals of the American Association of Geographers 109(6): 1961-1977.

**Week 9: March 29<sup>th</sup> Reproductive and Child Health**

Brazil: Scheper-Hughes, Nancy (1984). "Infant Mortality and Infant Care: Cultural and Economic Constraints on Nurturing in Northeast Brazil." Social Science & Medicine 19 (5): 535-546.

Colombia: Andalón, Mabel, João Pedro Azevedo, Carlos Rodríguez-Castelán, Viviane Sanfelice, and Daniel Valderrama-González (2016). *Weather Shocks and Health at Birth in Colombia*. World Development 82: 69-82.

Gambia: Bledsoe, Caroline, Fatoumatta Banja, Allan G. Hill (1998) *Reproductive Mishaps and Western Contraception: An African Challenge to Fertility Theory*. Population and Development Review 24 (1): 15-57

India: Pande, Amrita (2010). *Commercial Surrogacy in India: Manufacturing a Perfect Mother-Worker*. Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society 35(4): 969-992.

Egypt: Inhorn, Marcia C. (2003) "The Worms are Weak": Male Infertility and Patriarchal Paradoxes in Egypt. Men and Masculinities 5(3): 236-256

**Week 10: April 5<sup>th</sup> Emerging Infectious Diseases: The HIV/AIDS Pandemic**

**Response Paper 2 due**

South Africa: Nolen, Stephanie (2007) "Zackie Achmat" (14) and "Thokozani Mthiyane" (28). In 28 Stories of AIDS in Africa. London, Portobello Books.

Thailand: Rojanapithayakorn, Wiwat (2006) "The 100% Condom Use Programme in Asia" Reproductive Health Matters 14 (28): 41-52.

Brazil: Biehl, João (2007) *Pharmaceuticalization: AIDS Treatment and Global Health Politics*. Anthropological Quarterly 80(4):1083-1126

Eastern Europe and Central Asia: Altice, Frederick L., Lyuba Azbel, Jack Stone, Ellen Brooks-Pollock, Pavlo Smyrnov, Sergii Dvoriak, Faye S. Taxman et al. (2016) "The Perfect Storm: Incarceration and The High-Risk Environment Perpetuating Transmission of HIV, Hepatitis C Virus, and Tuberculosis in Eastern Europe and Central Asia." The Lancet 388 (10050): 1228-1248.

**Week 11: April 12<sup>th</sup> Emerging Infectious Diseases: Continued**

**Ebola**: Honigsbaum, Mark. 2019. *Ebola at the Borders*. (pgs 197-226). In The Pandemic Century: A History of Global Contagion from the Spanish Flu to COVID-19. UK: Penguin Books.

**Zika**: Ambrogi, Ilana G., Luciana Brito, and Debora Diniz. 2021. "The Vulnerabilities of Lives: Zika, Women and Children in Alagoas State, Brazil." Cadernos De Saude Publica 36 (2021): e00032020: 1-12

Harris, Lisa H. Harris, Neil S. Silverman & Mary Faith Marshall (2016) *The Paradigm of the Paradox: Women, Pregnant Women, and the Unequal Burdens of the Zika Virus Pandemic*, The American Journal of Bioethics, 16(5): 1-4

**SARS COV-1:** Quammen, David. 2012. *Dinner at the Rat Farm*. (pg 167-208). In Spillover: Animal Infections and the Next Human Pandemic. UK: Vintage Books.

**SARS COV-2:** Fang Fang and Michael Berry. 2020. *Wuhan Diary: Dispatches from a Quarantined City*. (Excerpts)

**Week 12: April 19<sup>th</sup> Chronic Diseases around the World**

Latin America: Popkin, Barry. M., and Thomas Reardon (2018) *Obesity and the Food System Transformation in Latin America*. Obesity Reviews 19:1028–1064

China: Chen, Wanqing, Changfa Xia, Rongshou Zheng, Maigeng Zhou, Chunqing Lin, Hongmei Zeng, Siwei Zhang et al (2019) *Disparities by Province, Age, and Sex in Site-Specific Cancer Burden attributable to 23 Potentially Modifiable Risk Factors in China: a Comparative Risk Assessment*. The Lancet Global Health 7 (2): e257-e269.

Sub-Saharan Africa: Cappuccio, Francesco P. and Michelle A. Miller (2016) *Cardiovascular Disease and Hypertension in Sub-Saharan Africa: Burden, Risk and Interventions*. Internal and Emergency Medicine 11 (3): 299-305.

Asia and the Pacific: Nanditha, Arun, Ronald CW Ma, Ambady Ramachandran, Chamukuttan Snehalatha, Juliana CN Chan, Kee Seng Chia, Jonathan E. Shaw, and Paul Z. Zimmet. (2016) *Diabetes in Asia and the Pacific: Implications for the Global Epidemic*. Diabetes Care 39 (3): 472-485.

South Africa: Mojola, Sanyu A, Erin Ice, Enid Schatz, Nicole Angotti, Brian Houle and F. Xavier Gómez-Olivé 2022. *The Meaning of Health in Rural South Africa: Gender, The Life Course and the Socio-Epidemiological Context*. Population and Development Review, December 2022 48(4): 1061-1095.

**Week 13: April 26<sup>th</sup> Student Research Presentations**

**Dean's Date Work: Tuesday May 9<sup>th</sup> - Policy Report Due**