

CPLS GU4320 Marginalization in Medicine: A Practical Understanding of the Social Implications of Race on Health

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Syllabus

Location: To Be Announced

Time: Tuesday 10:10 am – 12 pm

OH: Tuesday 12:30 – 2 pm; by appointment

OH location: Heyman Center B106 Heyman Center

Course Description

There is a significant correlation between race and health in the United States. People of color and those from underserved populations have higher mortality rates and a greater burden of chronic disease than their white counterparts. Differences in health outcomes have been attributed to biological factors as race has been naturalized. In this class we will explore the history of the idea of “race” in the context of changing biomedical knowledge formations. We will then focus on the impact that social determinants like poverty, structural violence, racism and geography have on health. Ultimately, this course will address the social implications of race on health both within the classroom and beyond. In addition to the seminar, there will also be a significant service component. Students will be expected to volunteer at a community organization for a minimum of 3 hours a week. This volunteer work will open an avenue for students to go beyond the walls of their classrooms while learning from and positively impacting their community. This work will inform class discussions and allow students to develop a practical understanding of topics discussed.

This course aims to address the social implications of race on health by discussing topics within 4 themes including the History of Race and Medicine; Health and Marginalization; Society, Community, and Health; and Agency.

We will be partnering with community organizations to provide a service learning experience that is beneficial to both students and the Harlem community.

Expectations

1. Participation requirements:

The class will be a seminar that meets once a week for two hours and attendance at every class is expected. A critical reading of each week’s material is necessary to informed participation in class. Please come to class with several discussion questions prepared.

2. Written requirements:

- 1 reading response (2-3 pages)
- 5 discussion posts
- Service learning reflection
- Final Paper

3. Assessment:

Participation	20%
Service Learning Reflection	20%
Midterm paper	15%
Discussion posts (5 throughout the semester)	10%
Class Presentation	10%
Final paper	25%

Assignments and Class Participation

A percentage of the final grade will be based on participation in class discussion so attendance at all classes is mandatory and vigorous participation is expected. Further, there will be two short papers (one of which will be a collaborative archival history of the community organization where the students are volunteering), and five brief discussion posts spread throughout the semester. Discussion posts are expected to be concise and pose several discussion questions. The remainder of the grade is comprised of the final paper and a class presentation.

Service Learning

Students are expected to volunteer a minimum of 3 hours a week during the semester. Volunteer sites will be announced at the beginning of the semester and sign-ups will take place during the first class.

Disability Accommodations

We are committed to principles of universal and respectful learning and will work to make our seminar experience as inclusive as possible. Please talk to me about your individual learning needs and about how this course can best accommodate them. I support Columbia's policy on disability accommodations: "Disability Services facilitates equal access for students with disabilities by coordinating accommodations and support services, cultivating a campus culture that is sensitive and responsive to the needs of students. Students seeking accommodations or support services from Disability Services are required to register with the office." They are located in Wien Hall, and can be reached at: (212) 854-2388 (Voice/TTY).

Schedule and Readings

Week 1 Introduction

1. Film- *The Power of an Illusion*

History

Week 2 History of Institutional Racism in Health

1. Journal Article- Camara Phyllis Jones- "Levels of Racism: A Theoretic Framework and a Gardener's Tale"
2. Video- Eliana Pipes- "Legos and the 4 I's of Oppression"
3. Book- Harriet Washington *Medical Apartheid*
Chapter 2- Profitable Wonders: Antebellum Medical Experimentation with Slaves and Freedmen pgs 52-74
Chapter 8- The Black Stork: Tee Eugenic Control of African-American Reproduction pgs 189-215

Optional Reading

4. Book- Joy DeGruy *Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome*

Week 3 Race, Health and Technology

1. Book-George Schuyler *Black no More*
2. News Article- Ike Swetlitz- "Mistrust after Tuskegee experiments may have taken years off black men's lives"
3. Book Chapters- Rebecca Skloot *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*
Chapter 23- It's Alive pg.s 179-190
Chapter 25- Who Told You You Could Sell My Spleen? pg.s 199-206

Optional Reading

Book- Susan M. Reverby- *Examining Tuskegee: The Infamous Syphilis Study and its Legacy*

Book- Harriet Washington- *Medical Apartheid*

Chapter 11-The Children's Crusade: Research Targets Young African Americans, pgs 271-299

Health & Marginalization

Week 4 Maternal Health Care

1. Article Miriam Rich- "The Curse of Civilised Woman: Race, Gender, and the Pain of Childbirth in Nineteenth-Century American Medicine"
2. Journal Article- Sharon Ramey et al.- « The Preconception Stress and Resiliency Pathways Model: A Multi-Level Framework on Maternal, Paternal, and Child Health Disparities Derived by Community-Based Participatory Research»

Week 5 *LGBT Health in Communities of Color*

1. Book- Lourdes Follins et al.- *Black LGBT Health in the United States: The Intersection of Race, Gender, and Sexual Orientation*
Chapters 1,4,5,6,7,8- pgs 11-24, 55-136

Week 6 *Mental Health and Social Stigma*

1. Podcast- NPR- Behind Mental Health Stigmas in Black Communities
2. News Article- Samir Jeraj- "Black and minority ethnic people are shortchanged by mental health services"
3. Book- Frantz Fanon *Black Skin, White Masks*
Chapter: The Black Man and Psychopathology pg.s 120-184

Week 7 *Native American Health*

1. Book- Leslie Marmon Silko *Ceremony*
2. Film- *The Exiles*

Society, Community, and Health

Week 8 *Mass Incarceration and Health*

1. Documentary- Ava DuVernay- 13th
2. Book- Michelle Alexander- *The New Jim Crow*
Chapter 3: The Color of Justice pgs 97-122

Week 9 *Drug Policy and Substance Abuse Epidemics*

1. News Article- Erik Kain- "The War on Drugs is a War on Minorities and the Poor"
2. Report- Count the Costs- The War on Drugs: Threatening Public Health, Spreading Disease and Death
3. News Article- CBC News- "War on Drugs Harmed Public Health"

Week 10 *Police Brutality and the Epidemic of Gun Violence*

1. News Article- Justin Feldman- "Public Health and the Policing of Black Lives"
2. News Article- "Gun Violence in Black and White"
3. News Article- Gary Slutkin- "Let's Treat Violence like a Contagious Disease"
4. Journal Article- Raja Staggers-Hakim- "The nation's unprotected children and the ghost of Mike Brown, or the impact of national police killings on the health and social development of African American boys"

Week 11 *Race, Genetics, and Biopolitics*

1. Article- Dorothy Roberts- "The Social Immorality of Health in the Gene Age: Race, Disability and Inequality" from *Against Health*

2. Journal Article- David Chae- "Discrimination, Racial Bias, and Telomere Length in African-American Men"
3. Book- Michel Foucault- *Society Must be Defended*
Chapter 11 pg.s 239-264

Policy

Week 12 Health Policy

1. Book- Samuel K. Roberts- *Infectious Fear: Politics, Disease, and the Health Effects of Segregation*
Chapter 6: Urban Underdevelopment, Politics, and the Landscape of Health pgs 67-87
2. News Article- Frank Lalli- "The Health Care Law's 10 Essential Benefits"
3. News Article- "How Repealing the Affordable Care Act Will Affect Minorities"

Week 13 Health as Activism

Alondra Nelson

1. Book- Alondra Nelson- *Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight Against Medicalization*
Chapter 3: Origins of Black Panther Party Health Activism pg.s 47-74
2. Book- Dayna Bowen Matthew- *Just Medicine: A Cure for Racial Inequality in American Health Care*
Chapter 7: From Inequity to Intervention: What Can Be Done about Implicit Bias
pg.s 154-172

Week 14 Final Class