



**Department of Public Health Sciences
Master of Public Health Program**

TOPIC	CONTENT
Course Name/Number CRN:	Eliminating Health Disparities (PUBH 5322) (CRN: 21164)
Semester/Year	Spring 2024
Graduate credit hrs:	3
Class location, day, time:	HSSN 131 Wednesdays 5:30pm to 8:20pm
Instructor, Office Hours:	Jeannie B. Concha Ph.D., MPH jeannie@utep.edu By appointment online HSN Bldg. Office 414 Office phone: 915-747-8308
Course description:	This capstone course for MPH students examines the theoretical models, causes, consequences, and solutions related to health and healthcare disparities in Hispanic/border and other minority communities in the U.S. and globally. Students will read the seminal and current public health disparities to gain a deeper understanding of the sociocultural, economic, geographic, environmental, nutritional, political, and individual factors that contribute to health disparities and their solutions in the local U.S.-Mexico border community. Students are required to write a brief critical review and reflection paper for each week's readings. Students will also complete a series of health communication projects (i.e., fact sheets, infographics, public service announcement video) that communicate a Hispanic health disparity in the U.S./Mexico border region and solutions for reducing this disparity.
Course pre-requisites:	Admitted MPH Program student; completion of all public health core courses & PUBH 5352 and PUBH 5321 concentration courses; departmental permission
Required textbooks	New and Emerging Issues in Latinx Health by Airín D. Martínez (Editor), Scott D. Rhodes (Editor) ISBN-13 978-3030240424 Seminal readings will be assigned from peer- reviewed journals, book chapters, and materials posted on the websites of reputable organizations (e.g., CDC, APHA, PAHO, WHO). See syllabus
Required Software	Students will be asked to have access to infographic software and movie production software (e.g., iMovie) www.grammarly.com - Please use Grammarly when submitting your weekly summaries.
Supplemental reading:	Readings will be provided on blackboard



**Department of Public Health Sciences
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**Additional
Resources**

UTEP University Writing Center <https://www.utep.edu/uwc/>

Health Science Librarian

- **Harvey Castellano** hcastell@utep.edu
- http://libguides.utep.edu/prf.php?account_id=81079
- http://libguides.utep.edu/public_health

Technology Support Center (TSC)

- **Workshops on iMovie:** tsc.utep.edu/workshops or <https://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=74112>
- **Report issues to:** <https://servicedesk.utep.edu> or Frank Poblano fpoblano@utep.edu

APA 7th Edition

- Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Sixth Edition, By American Psychological Association, ISBN: 978-1-4338-0561-5, <http://www.apa.org/pubs/books/4200066.aspx>



TOPIC	CONTENT
<p>Course format</p>	<p>Lecture & discussion, in-depth readings/reflective responses, student oral & written presentation, class learning project.</p>
<p>THE COUNCIL ON EDUCATION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH FOUNDATIONAL AND CONCENTRATION COMPETENCIES (CEPH)</p>	<p>The UTEP MPH program is nationally accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). The CEPH has defined <u>22 foundational competencies</u> required for attainment of the MPH degree; in addition, our MPH program has defined <u>5 concentration competencies</u> that reflect the unique training in Hispanic and Border Health that you will receive in our program. During orientation, you were provided with the complete foundational and concentration competencies list. Each of your courses will address different competencies. The competencies that will be addressed in this course are listed below, and during the first class session, your professor will review these with you. In different ways throughout the semester, you will be evaluated on your <u>knowledge</u> regarding the specific competencies addressed in this course, and you will be assessed on your <u>ability to apply</u> each of the competencies addressed in this course.</p>
<p>Course Competencies</p>	<p>Evidence-based Approaches to Public Health 4. Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy, or practice</p> <p>Public Health & Health Care Systems 6. Discuss means by which structural bias, social inequities, and racism undermine health/create challenges in health equity at organizational, community, and societal levels</p> <p>Planning & Management to Promote Health 7. Assess population needs, assets, and capacities that affect communities' health</p> <p>Policy in Public Health 15. Evaluate policies for their impact on public health and health equity</p> <p>Communication 18. Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors 19. Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation 20. Describe the importance of cultural competence in communicating public health content</p> <p>MPH Hispanic and Border Health Concentration Competencies 1. State and discuss the current major communicable, non-communicable, and environmental public health threats in Hispanic and border communities. 2. State the basic principles of preventing and controlling communicable and non-communicable diseases; discuss how these principles can be modified to accommodate cultural values and practices in Hispanic and border communities. 4. Identify, access, and summarize the content of one or more current initiatives relevant to border health (e.g., Healthy Border 2020; US-Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership; Paso Del Norte Regional Strategic Health Framework) 5. Identify health disparities and approaches to achieving health equity.</p>



TOPIC	CONTENT		
Assessment strategies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Weekly written reflective responses on reading assignments 2. Complete a well written fact sheet on a Hispanic Health Disparity issue for local population as the audience 3. Create an Infographic on a Hispanic Health Disparity issue for local population as the audience 4. Work as a team to create a short Public Service Announcement 5. Class participation 		
Learning objectives	<p>By the end of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss the evolution of health disparities and health equity as subjects of study and public health action. 2. Identify the multiple dimensions of health disparities as described in <i>Healthy People 2030</i>. Describe how the selection of reference groups can affect health disparities measurement. 3. Present health disparities in graphic and video health communications form. 4. Compare and contrast ethnic/racial and other health disparities in the U.S. population. 5. Use the socioecological framework to inform and design social marketing interventions to eliminate health disparities and increase health equity. 6. Critically assess existing programs & policies designed to eliminate health disparities in US groups. 7. Present informational marketing tools on a major Hispanic health disparity and recommend practical strategies for its reduction; 8. Collaborate to produce a social marketing video of the major health disparities affecting border groups that can be used as an authoritative source by policy makers, public health practitioners, and the public. 		
Grading scale	<p>Grading scale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A 495 or more (> 90%-exceptional graduate-level performance) ▪ B 440 – 494 (80-89%-average graduate-level performance) ▪ C 385 – 439 (70-79%-below average graduate-level performance) ▪ D 330 – 384 (60-69%-unacceptable graduate-level performance) ▪ F less than 275 (< 60%-very unacceptable graduate-level performance) 		
Grading components			
	<p style="text-align: center;">Assignment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written critical review and reflective papers 	<p style="text-align: center;">Due Date</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday end of day prior to class meetings on Wednesday 	<p style="text-align: center;">Point Value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 200 points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student-led discussions on the assigned week (2 per student 10 points each) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assigned weeks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 20 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSA Film Story Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissemination Matrix 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 7th 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 50 points 	



TOPIC	CONTENT		
Grading components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Public Comment Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Draft Final Draft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 14th (50pts) March 20th (50pts) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 100 points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLAS certificate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 21st 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of PSA films 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 8th 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer group evaluation on contribution to Public Comment and PSA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last day of class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 50 points
	Total = 550 points		
Incomplete policy	<p>The grade of "I" (incomplete) is considered only in very rare circumstances involving fully documented emergencies, must be requested at least <u>four weeks</u> before the last class of the fall term, and is allowed at the instructor's discretion.</p> <p>Incomplete assignments will be graded for partial credit.</p>		
Attendance	<p>It is <u>UTEP policy</u> that <u>all students attend all scheduled classes</u>. Attendance will be taken at each class. When a student registers for a course, it is assumed that she/he has made arrangements to avoid conflicts that would result in chronic tardiness or absence from class. Students are personally responsible for all information or activities presented in class discussions, lectures, assignments, and/or readings. If you are unable to attend class, <i>it is your responsibility to inform the instructor before the class session. <u>Students will be administratively withdrawn for excessive unexcused absences of 2 or more classes.</u></i> Compliance is mandatory with regard to assignment due dates, student-led discussions and class presentations, reading assignments, exams, and all other activities. All emergency-related absences must be documented and verified by presentation of documents to the instructor. <i>Chronic tardiness not only reflects a lack of commitment and professional behavior but also is disruptive to your classmates and the instructor. You are expected to be seated and ready to begin class at 5:00 PM.</i></p>		
Reading assignments	<p>All assigned readings need to be completed prior to coming to the next scheduled class session. Example: Complete the reading assignments for week 2 prior to coming to the week 2 class session.</p>		
Writing standards	<p>Effective public health leaders and practitioners are also effective written as well as oral communicators. Written communication is a critical element of the communication process. Our MPH graduate program both recognizes and expects good writing to be the norm for course work. Please feel free to seek out assistance from the UTEP Writing Center. It is free and they are very helpful.</p> <p>I will expect students to submit their weekly and group papers through Grammarly.com for writing clarity.</p>		
Late Assignment Policy	<p>Due dates for homework, exams, presentations and other assignments are designed for fairness to all students. No exceptions to those dates will be made excepting in cases of university-designated closures. Five (5) points will be deducted for each day an assignment is late (including weekend days).</p>		
Permission to record	<p>Not permitted without express permission of the instructor.</p>		



TOPIC	CONTENT
Classroom electronics	<p>Please note that all cellular telephones, Apple or Android tablets, and Laptops must be used for the purpose of enhancing the learning environments.</p> <p>The use of headphones, iPods, MP3 players, earpieces, and other forms of entertainment technology equipment must be powered off and put away during the class period. If a situation should arise, for example, when a physician or family member contacts a student, the student must notify the instructor, and the cell phone can be set to “vibrate.”</p> <p>Please be advised that students who use unauthorized technology during class time will be dismissed from that week’s class session.</p>
Class Participation	<p>Students are expected to participate in class by being present during class time. Accommodation is made on a case-by-case basis for individuals who need to log in via ZOOM. Participation also involves completing coursework in a timely manner and working with group members to complete projects.</p>
Special accommodations	<p>If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 915.747.5148, cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, visit http://sa.utep.edu/cass/. CASS Staff are the only individuals who can validate and authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.</p>
UTEP MPH Program Handbook	<p>Available at http://chs.utep.edu/publichealthsciences/pdf/MPH%20STUDENT%20%20HANDBOOK%202013-2014.pdf</p>
Student conduct	<p>“Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another student, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.” <u>University of Texas Regent’s Rules and Regulations</u>, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3.2, Subdivision 3.22.</p> <p>FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONAL, ETHICAL CONDUCT IS A CENTRAL TENET AND GUIDING PRINCIPLE OF ALL ACTIVITIES, DECISIONS AND CRITICAL ANALYSES. STUDENTS IN THE MASTERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM AT UTEP ARE EXPECTED TO BE <u>ABOVE REPROACH</u> IN ALL SCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES.</p> <p>Students who engage in scholastic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary penalties, including failure in the course and dismissal from the university. “It is an official policy of university that all suspected cases or acts of alleged scholastic dishonesty must be referred to the Dean of Students for investigation and appropriate disposition. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.” (http://studentaffairs.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=4386)</p>



CHEATING” means copying from the work another student; possession and/or use during an exam or home test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test; using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program; falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit.

PLAGIARISM” means the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own academic work offered for credit, or using work in a paper or assignment for which the student had received credit in another course without direct permission of all involved instructors. NOTE: This includes cutting-and-pasting and photocopying from on-line and other material.

COLLUSION” means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

- Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program; using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters but which will be used again either in whole or in part without permission of the instructor; or accessing a test bank without instructor permission;
- Collaborating with or seeking aid from another student for an assignment without authority;
- Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one's self, to take a test;
- Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit.

“Plagiarism” means the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own academic work offered for credit, or using work in a paper or assignment for which the student had received credit in another course without direct permission of all involved instructors. NOTE: This includes cutting-and-pasting and photocopying from on-line and other material.

“Collusion” means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.



Assessment of MPH Foundational Competencies	Learning Objective
Evidence-based Approaches to Public Health	
4. Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy or practice	2,3,4,5
<p>Assessment: Knowledge gained through weekly readings and student lead discussions on seminal health disparities and epidemiological research articles. Students will also access large-scale databases (e.g. BRFSS) to assess disparities of a specific health issue. Application is assessed through weekly written critical review of assigned readings and class discussion of assigned readings.</p>	
Public Health & Health Care Systems	
6. Discuss means by which structural bias, social inequities, racism undermine health/create challenges in health equity at organizational, community, societal levels	1, 5,9
<p>Assessment: Knowledge gained through weekly readings and student lead discussions on seminal health disparities and epidemiological research articles. Students will also access large-scale databases (e.g. BRFSS) to assess disparities of a specific health issue. Application is assessed through weekly written critical review of assigned readings and class discussion of assigned readings.</p>	
Planning & Management to Promote Health	
7. Assess population needs, assets and capacities that affect communities' health	2, 6,7,
<p>Assessment: Knowledge gained through students' review of US-Mexico or Hispanic Community Health Assessments and Reports as part of the course project requirements. Application of this knowledge is assessed through the in class presentation and completion of a public health/health disparity fact sheet and infographic which is required to include assets, resources, and local capacity.</p>	
Policy in Public Health	
15. Evaluate policies for their impact on public health and health equity	1,2,7
<p>Assessment: Knowledge gained through weekly readings and student led discussions on public health policy readings and activities (e.g., federal public health budget/housing). Application of this knowledge is assessed through weekly written critical review and reflection of assigned readings and activities.</p>	
Communication	
18. Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors	6,7,8,9
<p>Assessment: Knowledge gained through the completion of a public health fact sheet, infographic, and PSA video that communicates a Hispanic Health Disparity with available resources to address selected disparity. Application of this knowledge is assessed through the design and use of infographic website tools in the design and creation of a complementary fact sheet and infographic. Application of this knowledge is also gained via group design and development of a PSA using video making technology (e.g. iMovie).</p>	
19. Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation	6,7,8,9
<p>Assessment: Knowledge gained through the completion of a public health fact sheet, infographic, and PSA video that communicates a Hispanic Health Disparity with available resources to address selected disparity. Application of this knowledge is assessed through the completion and presentation of a fact sheet, infographic, and PSA. Students must present their projects to their peers and a public forum to departmental faculty and students, where their projects will be judged by departmental faculty and students on readability, visual effects, content, and cultural and linguistic competency.</p>	
20. Describe the importance of cultural competence in communicating public health content	6,8,9
<p>Assessment: Knowledge gained through the completion of a public health fact sheet, infographic, and PSA video that communicates a Hispanic Health Disparity. Application of this knowledge is assessed through the incorporation of the National CLAS standards in the projects.</p>	



MPH Hispanic and Border Health Concentration Competencies	Learning Objective
1. State and discuss the current major communicable, non-communicable, and environmental public health threats in Hispanic and border communities.	1,2,5
Assessment: knowledge is gained through weekly readings and student-led discussions on seminal health disparities literature and documentary videos. Knowledge and application of the competency are assessed through weekly 3-page written critical review and reflection of readings and videos. Knowledge and application are also assessed through the evaluation of student's participation in class discussions regarding the weekly readings.	
2. State the basic principles of prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases; discuss how these principles can be modified to accommodate cultural values and practices in Hispanic and border communities.	1,5,7
Assessment: knowledge is gained through students' review of National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities recommendations and identification of one Hispanic health priority in Healthy Border 2020 or US-Mexico Border Community Health Assessment Reports for their course projects. The competency's application is assessed by completing a fact sheet and infographic with statistical information on the Hispanic health priority area and prevention and control resources available to the Hispanic population. Accommodating cultural values is assessed by determining if the health communication factsheets and infographics meet CLAS (Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services) standards, assessing knowledge and application of the competency.	
4. Identify, access, and summarize the content of one or more current initiatives relevant to border health (e.g., Healthy Border 2020; US-Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership; Paso Del Norte Regional Strategic Health Framework).	4,6,8,9
Assessment: Knowledge gained through student's review of US-Mexico regional initiatives to address the US-Mexico border health priority selected by the students. Application is assessed through completing a fact sheet, infographic, and PSA video with initiatives listed as available resources/services on health priority.	
5. Identify health disparities and approaches to achieving health equity.	2,4,57
Assessment: knowledge is gained through students' reading and viewing of required course readings and health disparities documentary videos. Knowledge and application of the competency are assessed through completing weekly written summaries, critical review, and reflection on the readings. In addition, application is assessed by a student's participation in weekly class discussions on assigned readings and videos. Application of this competency will also be determined by a student's ability to identify a health disparity for their course projects.	



WEEKLY PLAN		
DATES	Weekly Topics & Discussions	Assigned Required Readings Other Assignments DUE
WEEK 1 Jan 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course overview/assignments, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual Summary/Reflection Papers • Orientation to Group projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Comment • Public Service Announcement Videos (3 min) • Introduction to the National Institute of Minority and Health Disparities (NIMHD) & National Partnership to End Health Disparities • Definitions of Health Disparities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 2 Readings Assignments • Summary/Reflection paper DUE Jan 23rd END of DAY • CLAS Certificate for Behavioral Health Professionals DUE Wed February 21st Submit certificate to BlackBoard • Group Selections
<p>Competency: MPH Hispanic and Border Health Concentration Competencies 6. Identify health disparities and approaches to achieving health equity.</p> <p>Communication Competency 20. Describe the importance of cultural competence in communicating public health content</p>		
WEEK 2 Jan 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of Health Disparities • Social determinants of health & health disparities • IN-CLASS FILM: Unnatural Causes: In Sickness and in Wealth (56 minutes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 3 Reading Assignments • Week 3 Summary Reflection Paper DUE Jan 30th END of Day • Group Identified Hispanic Health Disparity Topic using Health Disparity Widget DUE JAN 31st in Class Submission • Group Identify Regulation for Public Comment via regulations.gov DUE Feb 7th
<p>Competency: Policy in Public Health 15. Evaluate policies for their impact on public health and health equity</p> <p>Evidence-based Approaches to Public Health 4. Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy or practice 20. Describe the importance of cultural competence in communicating public health content</p>		



WEEK 3 Jan 31st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Communications to Eliminate Disparities <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Health messaging Review PSA from Previous class APHA requirements for Film Festival Submission Public Comment Overview IN-CLASS WEBINAR VIDEO: Communicating About Disparities to Achieve Health Equity (Society for Health Communication) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 4 Communication Dissemination Plan Assignment DUE February 6th Group Identify Regulation for Public Comment via regulations.gov DUE Feb 7th.
<p>Competency: Communication</p> <p>18. Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors</p> <p>19. Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, in writing and through oral presentation</p> <p>20. Describe the importance of cultural competence in communicating public health content</p>		
WEEK 4 Feb 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Group Health Communication Plans Review Group Public Comment Selection IN-CLASS FILM: Unnatural Causes: When the bough breaks (29 minutes) 	<p>Week 4 Summary Reflection Paper DUE February 6th STUDENTS PRESENT PLAN FEB 7th DUE</p> <p>Week 5 Readings Assigned Due Feb 13th.</p>
<p>Competency: Public Health & Health Care Systems</p> <p>4. Discuss means by which structural bias, social inequities, and racism undermine health/create challenges in health equity at organizational, community, and societal levels.</p>		
WEEK 5 Feb 14	<p>Education and Health Disparities Unnatural Causes: Becoming American (29 minutes) Discussion</p>	<p>Week 5 Summary Reflection Paper DUE February 13th</p> <p>Week 6 Readings Assigned Due Feb 20th</p>
<p>Competency: Public Health & Health Care Systems</p> <p>6. Discuss means by which structural bias, social inequities, racism undermine health/create challenges in health equity at organizational, community, societal levels</p> <p>Planning & Management to Promote Health</p> <p>7. Assess population needs, assets, and capacities that affect communities' health</p> <p>Communication</p> <p>19. Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral Presentation</p> <p>MPH Hispanic and Border Health Concentration Competencies</p> <p>4. Identify, access and summarize the content of one or more current initiatives relevant to border health.</p>		



WEEK 6 Feb 21	Economic Stability and Health Disparities Unnatural Causes: Bad Sugar (29 minutes) Discussion	Week 6 Summary Reflection Paper DUE February 20th Week 7 Readings Assigned Due Feb 27th
Competency: Public Health & Health Care Systems 6. Discuss means by which structural bias, social inequities, and racism undermine health/create challenges in health equity at organizational, community, and societal levels		
WEEK 7 Feb 28	Health and Health Care – Health Disparities Unnatural Causes: Place Matters (29 minutes)	Week 7 Summary Reflection Paper DUE Feb 27th Week 8 Readings Assigned Due March 5 th
Competency: Public Health & Health Care Systems 6. Discuss means by which structural bias, social inequities, and racism undermine health/create challenges in health equity at organizational, community, and societal levels		
WEEK 8 Mar 6	Social and Cultural Context: Implicit Bias and Stereotyping Unnatural Causes: Collateral Damage (29 minutes)	Week 8 Summary Reflection Paper DUE March 5th Week 10 Readings Assigned Due March 19th
Competency: Public Health & Health Care Systems 6. Discuss means by which structural bias, social inequities, and racism undermine health/create challenges in health equity at organizational, community, and societal levels		
WEEK 9 Mar 11-15th	SPRING BREAK (no class March 13th)	
WEEK 10 March 20th	US Mexico Health Readings and video Race the Power of an Illusion: The Difference Between Us Discussion	Week 10 Summary Reflection Paper DUE March 19th Week 11 Readings Assigned DUE March 26th
Competency: MPH Hispanic and Border Health Concentration Competencies 2. State the basic principles of prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases: discuss how these principles can be modified to accommodate cultural values and practices in Hispanic and border communities. Identify health disparities and approaches to achieving health equity.		



WEEK 11 March 27th	Hispanic Health Disparities Race the Power of an Illusion: The story we tell Discussion	Week 11 Summary Reflection Paper DUE March 26th Week 12 Readings Assigned DUE April 2nd
Competency: Public Health & Health Care Systems 6. Discuss means by which structural bias, social inequities, racism undermine health/create challenges in health equity at organizational, community, societal levels		
WEEK 12 April 3rd	Hispanic Health Disparities Race the Power of an Illusion: The House We Live In Discussion	Week 12 Summary Reflection Paper DUE April 2nd
Competency: Public Health & Health Care Systems 6. Discuss means by which structural bias, social inequities, racism undermine health/create challenges in health equity at organizational, community, societal levels		
WEEK 13 Apr 10	Work on Group Projects	
Discuss means by which structural bias, social inequities, racism undermine health/create challenges in health equity at organizational, community, societal levels Competency: Communication 18. Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors 19. Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral Presentation 20. Describe the importance of cultural competence in communicating public health content		
WEEK 14 April 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Presentation – Discussion and Feedback on PSA videos 	
Competency: Communication 18. Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors 19. Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral Presentation 20. Describe the importance of cultural competence in communicating public health content		
WEEK 15 April 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on Group Projects 	



Competency : Communication

18. Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors
19. Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral Presentation
20. Describe the importance of cultural competence in communicating public health content

WEEK 16 May 1	Present PSAs at CHS forum for Faculty to Review Turn in Final PSA Projects to blackboard or email Groups can also submit their PSAs to the APHA	
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SPRING 2024 SEMESTER
Eliminating Health Disparities
(PUBH 5322)

INDIVIDUAL READING ASSIGNMENTS: REFLECTIVE RESPONSES PAPER.

- You must include information from all articles in your reflective paper (reference articles). The length of the reflection reviewed must be **3 full** pages, not including references (Times New Roman 12 font, double-spaced, APA style). Turn in these assignments on Blackboard by the Tuesday end of the day before class. There will be nine reflection papers worth 20 points each. You will be required to submit your papers via Grammarly.com
1. **Page 1: APA title page**
 2. **Page 2: Synthesized summary of readings:** Please provide an overview and synthesized summary of the assigned readings. This summary can address either of the following questions:
 - a) Overall topic and theme of the readings
 - b) What are the major questions raised by the author(s) of the article?
 - c) What are the underlying assumptions or theoretical unpinning of this article?
 - d) What methodology was used? (Design, data source(s), analytic approach)
 - e) What are the main conclusions reached by the author(s)?
 - f) What theoretical or methodological contribution does the author's work make to the field of health disparities or health equity?
 3. **Page 2: Critical Review of the Articles:** In this section, please provide an objective critique of the readings. Please keep your critiques objective and based on existing scientific knowledge. You can analyze based on:
 - a) Proposed theoretical assumptions
 - b) Methodology
 - c) Findings or implications
 - d) Are the proposed solutions offered in this article, if any, feasible or practical in real-world terms? Explain why or why not.
 4. **Page 3: Reflective Section:** In this section, you write freely about your thoughts about the readings or share experiences that give your insight regarding the topic. This is the section in which you can express your thoughts on the readings.
 5. **Page 4: APA Reference Page**
- Your papers will receive a grade based on APA format, grammar, synthesis, and organization of thoughts, and completeness of paper.
 - Two students will lead the weekly discussion and facilitate discussion.
 - Students should be prepared to discuss the assigned readings from the perspective of their own field/topic of interest or expertise.



ELIMINATING HEALTH DISPARITIES SPRING 2024 PUBH 5322

For this course, students will complete 2 group projects. The first project is the Public Comment Project. The second project is to create a Public Service Announcement. Descriptions for each are below.

Project 1: Public Comment on Bill/Resolution/Law related to Health Disparities (100)

As a group, you will identify local, state, or federal bills, resolutions, or laws related to health disparities and health equity. Once you have identified a bill you will summarize the proposed bill/resolution/law during a class discussion and prepare a public comment on the proposed bill considering health disparities. You will have to identify a bill, resolution, or law that is requesting public comment.

Public Comment Assignment:

WHAT IS A PUBLIC COMMENT?

A mechanism that is already built into the federal rule-making process. Federal agencies implement laws passed by Congress through rules and regulations. When any federal agency needs to create a new regulation, it starts with a regulation proposal in the [Federal Register](#). Under the Administrative Procedures Act (1946), the agency is then required to request comments on that proposal by all members of the public. (Source : Public Comment Project)

A SHORTLIST OF TIPS FOR WRITING EFFECTIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS

The most valuable public comments are *unique, fact-based, and succinct*. The agency will have to sort through many identical form letters and expressions of personal opinion. As a scientist, your ability to synthesize data and research is your greatest strength when writing a public comment.

A few general guidelines:

1. Your comment can report on scientific evidence that opposes or supports the theory behind the regulation. Providing additional supporting evidence helps strengthen the agency's position by creating a stronger scientific foundation for their action.
2. Include a heading that states the regulation name and the docket ID number. While this may seem superfluous, it demonstrates that you are taking the time to carefully review the document and be well informed.
3. Use an opening sentence to establish your credibility. State who you are and summarize any of your experiences that are relevant to the topic of the proposal.
4. Use the next few sentences to succinctly summarize the data or research that you have provided. You can (and are encouraged) to go into further detail later in your comment, but starting with the equivalent of a discussion section will help the agency respond more effectively.
5. You do not have to come to a conclusion or judgement regarding the entirety of the regulation, but you do have to clearly communicate the implications of the research you present. Avoid leaving it up to the agency to infer how research or data relates to the regulation.



6. If you are citing specific papers in your comment, including your sources will help the agency staff find them later.
7. Check out the agency's mission statement and any statutes relevant to the regulation. Federal agencies' actions are driven by their mission and held to the standards dictated by statutes, so make your comment stronger by explaining how your information contributes to their mission

Peer Evaluation (25 points):

Each of your group members will assess your contribution to the project and will be worth 20 points. The average of your group's assessment for each member will be the points allocated to each student.

Additional Resources:

<https://publiccommentproject.org/how-it-works>

https://www.regulations.gov/docs/FactSheet_Public_Comments_Make_a_Difference.pdf

<https://www.usa.gov/how-laws-are-made> (under The Rule Making Process is the link for seeking public comment) you can check here if the bill you address is actually seeking public comment

Templates on how to write a public comment:

<https://publiccommentproject.org/comment-templates>

Project 2: Public Service Announcement Video (100 points)

Group Public Service Announcement (80 pts)

Select one of the health disparity priority health areas to be the topic of your PSA. Create a short 2 to 3-minute video to communicate a health disparity to the residents of El Paso. The purpose of your video should be to raise awareness of the disparity related to your topic. Please use a social causation perspective to communicate how and why the disparity exists.

Peer Evaluation (25 points):

Each of your group members will assess your contribution to the project and will be worth 20 points. The average of your group's assessment for each member will be the points allocated to each student.

Assessment:

Your individual projects and group projects will be assessed based on whether you followed direction, completeness, writing, grammar, and attention to a selected audience. Please refer to the grading scale in the syllabus.