

Health Policy in Social Context

Fall 2023

Draft Syllabus

CRN: GR 10220

Credits: 4

Days & Times*:**

1st intensive weekend: Fri 10/20, 6-9:30p, Sat 10/21, 1-4:30p, Sun 10/22. 10a-1p

2nd intensive weekend: Fri 11/17 6-9:30p, Sat 11/18, 1-4:30p, Sun 11/19. 10a-1p

Location: Zoom, Canvas (to be posted on Canvas)

Faculty: Wenhong Wang, Ph.D. wangw@evergreen.edu

***** Please reserve the entire two weekends, especially 10/21 and 11/18, Saturday mornings from 9a-12p and evenings from 6p-10p for class related work.**

Course description:

What is disease? What is health? How are health and disease distributed among the populations? What factors determine the life expectancy of Americans? What role does a universal health care system play in Americans' health? How do health policies and other policies influence health outcomes? To answer these questions, we need to examine health and medicine in their social, cultural and historical contexts.

In this 4-credit intensive weekend class, we will investigate the social and cultural constructions of health and illness with a focus on the social determinants of health. The relationship between race and health will be given special attention. Students will develop skills to examine how social factors shape health outcomes and learn to collectively tackle the issue through engaged problem solving.

Learning objectives:

By the end of this class, students will

1. Develop a clear understanding of health as a social construction
2. Be able to identify major social determinants of health and use this framework to analyze health and disease patterns
3. Be able to identify race as a major social determinant of health and an awareness of its intersections with other social determinants of health
4. Be able to identify the connections between health policy, other policies and health outcomes
5. Start to explore ways to address health disparities through policy change and community action

Texts:

- Ansell, David. (2019). *The Death Gap: How Inequality Kills*. University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 978-0226641669 (available as an E-book on the [Evergreen library website](#), currently with 2 person access at the same time)
- Roberts, Dorothy. (2011). *Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-create Race in the Twenty-first Century* (available as an E-book on the [Evergreen library website](#))

Both of them are available at the Greener Bookstore at <https://www.evergreen-greener-bookstore.com/> (select TESC-Fall 2023, MPA Health Policy, 10220, Wenhong Wang – 10220 and Add booklist)

We are also going to read other selected book chapters, articles and watch relevant documentaries to be posted to Canvas.

Highly recommended:

- Bodenheimer, Thomas & Grumbach, Kevin (2016). *Understanding Health Policy: A Clinical Approach* 7th Edition. McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 978-1259584756
- Quadagno, Jill. (2017). *One Nation Uninsured*. Oxford University Press

Course expectations and credit:

**** **All your written work should be submitted to Canvas, typed in Times New Roman font, 12 points, double-spaced, using APA citation style.** To learn APA Style, check American Psychological Association website: <http://www.apastyle.org/learn/index.aspx> or Purdue Writing & Grammar Guide <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>. Check for grammatical and spelling mistakes before turning in your work.

You will be evaluated in this course based on your progress in meeting the course objectives described above, as assessed by the following assignments and requirements. **You will be awarded 4 credits in health policy upon meeting all the requirements of the course.** To earn full credit for the course, students must satisfactorily meet all the following requirements:

1. **Participation, preparatory work, assignments and discussion:** Students must attend all the class sessions, and come fully prepared having finished readings and other preparatory work. Students should actively participate in class discussion and other activities. As members of the learning community, your participation is essential for the learning of the entire class as well as your own. If you are unable to attend class, please discuss this with faculty in advance to find a way to make up the work. There are preparatory work during the weeks when there are no class meetings. On selected evenings of the weekend meetings, students will be required to submit seminar preparatory work before class and respond to two peers' seminar posts after class. For details of the assignments, go to pages 5 to 8 of this document. With the exception of video notes, book report on Dorothy Roberts' *Fatal Inventions: How Science, Politics, and Big*

Business Re-create Race in the Twenty-First Century, and final synthesis paper, all other assignments will be open to the whole class on Discussion. **To help faculty have a better understanding of the students' interests and learning needs, students will turn in an intake form by Saturday, September 30, 2023, on Canvas.**

2. Prior to our 2nd intensive weekend sessions, you will prepare a 4-5page (about 1,200-1,500 words) book report on Dorothy Roberts' *Fatal Inventions: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-create Race in the Twenty-First Century* by **Thursday November 16 midnight**. For detailed instructions, see pages 10-19.
3. **Final synthesis paper:** After the two intensive weekend class meetings, students will write a 1,500 – 2,400 word (5 to 8 –page) paper reflecting on your learning in this class. This paper is an opportunity for you to demonstrate your critical thinking skills, analytical writing skills and the ability to ask meaningful questions to take your learning to the next level. In this paper you will elaborate on a major theme or key concept that has been covered in the course. Your essay will integrate course readings, videos, discussions, assignments. **The final synthesis paper is due on Saturday, midnight December 3, 2023.**

***** Late assignments:** Turning in assignments late is unacceptable. However, if there is an unavoidable need to turn in an assignment late, the student should contact the faculty no later than the original assignment due date to discuss options.

Evaluation: A written self-evaluation and faculty evaluation are required for credit. All final evaluations are to be submitted via my.evergreen.edu. An evaluation conference will be held at the end of the class.

Academic integrity: Plagiarism (i.e., using other peoples' work as your own) may result in total loss of credit for the class and may result in dismissal from the MPA program. See the MPA Handbook and College statement on academic honesty for more information.

Multiculturalism and diversity: Faculty and students will actively work towards contextually weaving multiculturalism and diversity throughout our learning as related to readings, lectures, workshops, seminar, and other class activities. In a learning community students and faculty share the responsibility for the teaching and learning environment. Multiculturalism and diversity is to be understood as: aiming to promote constructive community discourse about issues of culture, power, and differences including but not limited to race, ethnicity, color, nationality, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, class, sexual orientation, age, religion, (dis)ability, and veteran status.

Accessibility:

If you are a student with disability who would benefit from support or services to ensure full access to this course, please contact Access Services at 360-867-6348 or accessservices@evergreen.edu as soon as possible and get in contact with faculty for possible accommodation. For more information, please visit the Access Services website at <https://www.evergreen.edu/access>.

Conduct and conflict resolution: Discuss any problems involving others in the learning community directly with the individuals involved (so long as the concerned party feels safe doing so). Respect for

others is fundamental to an open, free, and educational dialogue. All students are expected to support and contribute to a well-functioning MPA classroom and learning community. Behavior that disrupts the learning community may be grounds for disciplinary action, including dismissal from the MPA program. All students will be held accountable for maintaining the highest of academic standards. We will abide by the social contract: WAC 174-121-010 College philosophy. We will abide by the student conduct code (including academic integrity and plagiarism): Chapter 174- 123 WAC, Student Conduct Code & Grievance/Appeals Process. We will abide by the non-discrimination policies and procedures at TESC.

Guest policy: Guests are welcome to visit our learning community during class time with discretionary approval from course faculty in advance of the requested visit. It is the host student's responsibility to contact the faculty with details about the requested guest visit and await approval. Guests must abide by all social contract conduct code, and nondiscrimination policy guidelines as aforementioned in this syllabus.

Unexpected class cancellation or delay:

If class is cancelled or delayed, a message will be posted on our course Canvas site as soon as possible.

Calendar (Faculty may make changes as needed)

Theme	Date	Readings and videos	What's Due
Preparation	Saturday, 9/30/2023		Intake Form
Preparation	Wednesday, 10/18	Ansell, preface to chapter 4	Seminar response to Ansell preface to chapter 4
1st intensive weekend			
First meeting Social Determinants of Health Guest speaker: Stephen Bezruchka	Friday, 10/20 6:00pm – 9:30pm	Bezruchka chs 8-10; Documentary Unnatural Causes (use your Evergreen log-in to access the episode): <i>Episode 1: In Sickness and In Wealth (56 mins)</i> ;	Notes on Documentary Unnatural Causes Episode 1: In Sickness and In Wealth ; Finish reading Bezruchka
Second meeting Health Care System	Saturday, 10/21 1:00pm-4:30pm	Bodenheimer & Grunbach ch 1-3, 5, 10 <i>Escape Fire</i> documentary (available on Evergreen library website)	Seminar post before class and responses to two seminar peers' posts after class; <i>Escape Fire</i> notes due before class
Third meeting Health policy in social context	Sunday, 10/22 10am-1pm	<i>Food Inc.</i> documentary (available on Evergreen library website)	<i>Food Inc.</i> seminar preparation due before class
2nd intensive weekend			
First meeting Race and medicine	Friday, 11/17 6:00pm – 9:30pm	Roberts ;	Book report on Roberts due before 5:30pm
Second meeting Racism and health	Saturday, 11/18 1:00pm-4:30pm	Quadagno ch 2-3; Ansell ch 5-8; Documentary <i>Unnatural Causes</i> (use your Evergreen log-in to access the episodes): <i>Episode 2: When the Bough Breaks (29 mins)</i> , <i>Episode 4: Bad Sugar (29 mins)</i>	Seminar post before class and responses to two seminar peers' posts after class; Documentary notes

Third meeting Race and health policy	Sunday, 11/19 10am-1pm	Bonilla-Silva; Matthew, ch 8-Conclusion Ansell ch 11-12 Optional: Segal ch 1 & 6	Seminar post and responses to two seminar peers' posts
	Date Sunday, 12/3		Final synthesis paper