Who lives, Who dies - Insight into Social Medicine

Faculty Sponsor: Robin Ball

Location: 2011 VLSB
Time: Thursday 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Units: 2 (P/NP)
CCN: 27386

Facilitators:
David Deng Email: david960617@berkeley.edu
Sean Yonamine Email: tokyo97@berkeley.edu

Prerequisites:

- **Recommended Interests:** Public Health, IB, MCB, MEB, ESPM, Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology. Students broadly interested in pursuing a career in the health field.
  - Please note that a science background is not required.*
  (Note: For pre-medical students, this course will review concepts found on the Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior section of the MCAT, including how sociocultural factors and access to resources impact healthcare.)

Course Description:

*This course is adapted from the medical anthropology department of Harvard Medical School.

The course will explore how social and psychological influences create health disparities, while gaining knowledge of key concepts in social medicine. After creating a platform based on the fundamental ideas of social medicine, we will direct our attention to a social complication called “chronic emergencies.” Through case studies, we will examine and dissect the mechanisms in which a society isolates and outcasts individuals from access to proper healthcare. Our examples will be drawn from across the globe. Lectures and course material will delve into many aspects of social medicine, such as psychological stigmas of HIV/AIDS, and health care policies. We will focus on how to identify, analyze, and potentially ameliorate global healthcare problems.

Course Objectives:

At the end of this decal course, the student will be able to:

- Explore how poverty, social stigmatization and discrimination become embodied as a barrier to equal access to healthcare and how society is desensitized to justify such inequalities.
- Investigate the consequences of severe deprivation and its impact on low socioeconomic status communities, undocumented immigrants, HIV/AIDS patients, people with psychological disorders and the LGBT community.
- Examine attempts to expand healthcare access, reduce burdens of diseases and discuss possible future solutions for more infiltrated medical attentions.
Course Grading:

The course is graded on a P/NP basis. Regular attendance, participation and completion of assignments is required for a passing grade (P). In the case of problems in these areas, we may ask students to drop the course, or in the worst case scenario, grant a NP grade. A rough weighting of grade breakdown is as follows, with a minimum of 70% being required to pass unconditionally.

Attendance 30%

Attendance will be taken every class. One unexcused absence is allowed, after which every additional absence will be 3% off of the final grade. Absences for midterms with prior notice or emergencies are acceptable.

Participation 20%

In addition to attending class, students are expected to come to class having studied the course material (lecture slides and reading). Students are expected to bring questions based on the respective week’s material and will solve these questions in an active group discussion.

Homework 25%

There will be homework most weeks: this will usually be composed of a readings accompanied by a reading reflection (2 Page-Doub le Spaced). The reflections will be based on the assigned reading and will provide additional insight into the concepts that we have discussed in class. You have one homework that you may drop the grade for.

Final project (Presentation) 25%

In groups, students will be expected to utilize our model of identification-dissection-solution for a public health-related topic of their interests. Students will be expected to collaborate with others and do their own research on their respective topic. The presentation will be graded on the depth of analysis and effort.

Course Schedule

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Course Content</th>
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| Week 1 (1/31) | **Topic:** What is Social Medicine in the 21st century?  
Hyperlink: [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3455991/](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3455991/) |
| Week 2 (2/7)  | **Topic:** “You will never see a billionaire in an ER waiting room”  
| Week 3 (2/14) | **Topic:** “Perfect Storm”  
| Week 4 (2/21) | Topic: Zone of Social Abandonment and Social Death: Mental Illness and Stigmatization  
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| Week 5 (2/28) | Topic: “Uninsured, Unwanted, Unworthy?”  
| Week 6 (3/7) | Topic: Book Review: “Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies”  
Reading: Holmes, Seth M. *Fresh fruit, broken bodies migrant farmworkers in the United States*. Univ. of California Press, 2014. |
| Week 7 (3/14) | Topic: Case Study: Palliative Oncology  
| Week 8 (3/21) | Topic: How to Survive a Plague  
Hyperlink: [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3780739/](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3780739/) |
| Week 9 (3/28) | SPRING RECESS |
| Week 10 (4/4) | Topic: “Home is Where the Harm is”  
Reading: Lubell, J. “The Impacts of Affordable Housing on Health: A Research Summary”  
_The Center for Housing Policy._  
Hyperlink: [https://www.enterprisecommunity.org/resources/positive-impacts-affordable-housing-health-research-summary-13889](https://www.enterprisecommunity.org/resources/positive-impacts-affordable-housing-health-research-summary-13889)  
| Week 11 (4/11) | Topic: Starving Child and Vulture  
| Week 12 (4/18) | Topic: Cause of Death: “Too Poor”  
Hyperlink: [https://www.lrb.co.uk/v37/n03/paul-farmer/who-lives-and-who-dies](https://www.lrb.co.uk/v37/n03/paul-farmer/who-lives-and-who-dies) |
| Week 13 (4/25) | FINAL PRESENTATIONS |