COURSE OBJECTIVE: This seminar will examine the nature of the relationship between social inequality and health disparities.

SOCIAL STATUS AND HEALTH STATUS

September
12 Introduction - Adopting a Population Health Perspective
19 Social Determinants of Health: Structural and Personal Factors
26 Understanding the Social Gradient and Health

SOCIAL INEQUALITY AND HEALTH

October
3 Income and Health: Can Money Buy Good Health?
10 Employment and Health
17 Gender and Health
24 Minority Status, Immigration and Health
SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS AND HEALTH: UNDERSTANDING THE PSYCHOSOCIAL PATHWAYS

October
31 The Convergence of Structure and Agency: Health Lifestyles

November
7 Psychological Distress, Sense of Control, and Social Inequalities in Health

RESEARCH PROPOSAL PRESENTATIONS

November
14
21

REDUCING INEQUALITIES IN HEALTH

28 Health Policy Initiatives: From Lalonde (1974) to Romanow (2002) and Beyond

December
5 Policy Brief – Population Health Promotion Strategy

EVALUATION INFORMATION

The formal requirements of this seminar consist of three class presentations and two papers.

Assignment One

Presentation: Each student will be required to give a class presentation on one of the structural determinants of health (i.e., one of the topics listed in the section entitled Social Inequality and Health). The topic selected will determine the date of the class presentation. (10 MARKS)

Paper: The first paper will take the form of a comprehensive review essay on the issue selected for class presentation. This essay will critically synthesize the literature and will be due no later than one week after the date of the presentation. (35 MARKS)
Assignment Two

Presentation: The second class presentation will be on a research problem selected for investigation. Any aspect of social inequality and health may be selected, but the instructor must approve the research topic.

Each student will be required to distribute a one-page abstract of their presentation and suggested readings to all members of the seminar one week in advance of the date of the presentation. This is intended to facilitate discussion and constructive feedback. The presentation should highlight both conceptual and methodological aspects of the research topic. The date of this presentation will be scheduled in class. (10 MARKS)

Paper: The second paper will take the form of a research proposal. This paper should include: conceptualization of the research problem; formulation of testable hypotheses (if appropriate); review of relevant research literature; and a prospective research design (e.g., sampling, measurement and data analysis strategy). A clear rationale must be provided for the methodology selected.

More specifically, the research proposal should include the following:

Statement of Objectives: a clear statement of the purpose of the proposed research, the uniqueness of the study and its expected contribution;

Literature Review: relevant background information and a summary of the present state of knowledge in the field;

Conceptual Framework: the theoretical/conceptual model guiding the research including specific testable hypotheses or the research questions to be addressed;

Research Design: a description and justification of the proposed methodology including sample selection and data collection procedures (e.g., specific data sources and types of measures to be used);

Data Analysis Strategy: a description of the data management techniques and statistical tests to be used;

Timeframe and Feasibility of the Study: a statement of the length of time and types of resources necessary to successfully complete the study successfully;

Policy and Program Implications of the Research: relevance of the proposed study to health policy in Canada and to national population health strategies.

The second paper will be due no later than one week after the last day of classes. (35
Assignment Three

Presentation: The third class presentation will be a policy brief to be presented to the Minister of Health recommending the best strategy for population health promotion. This presentation will be in the last scheduled class. (10 MARKS)

PLEASE NOTE:

LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE GRADED.

Academic Integrity: Students should acquaint themselves with the University’s policy on “Personation at Examinations” (Section 7.2) and “Plagiarism and Cheating” (Section 7.1) found in the University of Manitoba Graduate Calendar.

Voluntary withdrawal deadline date: November 15, 2006.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION: The grade distribution for this course is as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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CLASS PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

SOCIAL INEQUALITY AND HEALTH

October
3
10
17
24

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

November
14
21

POLICY BRIEF

December
5
The following references are organized in terms of the topics included in the course outline. It is expected that the literature reviewed for the class presentations and the required papers will not be restricted to this reading list.

A POPULATION HEALTH PERSPECTIVE


SOCIAL DETERMINANTS AND THE SOCIAL GRADIENT IN HEALTH


INCOME INEQUALITY AND HEALTH


EMployment and Health


Gender and Health


MINORITY STATUS, IMMIGRATION AND HEALTH


Bolaria, B. and Bolaria, R. (Eds.) (1994) Immigrant Status and Health Status 
Halifax: Fernwood.

THE CONVERGENCE OF STRUCTURE AND AGENCY: HEALTH LIFESTYLES


PSYCHOSOCIAL EXPLANATIONS OF THE LINK BETWEEN SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS AND HEALTH

inequalities in health. Social Science and Medicine, 60: 2129-2133.


REDUCING HEALTHY INEQUALITIES: HEALTH POLICY INITIATIVES


