This course is an introduction to mental and physical health disparities. It focuses on the current prevalent areas of concern in health disparities, that is, disparities by socioeconomic class, race, ethnicity, sex, gender, and sexual orientation. The course should be of interest to anyone concerned with understanding health disparities and attempting to grasp the commonalities and differences among them. By the end of this course, the student should have a solid introduction to health disparities.

Requirements
Each student will select a substantive area to investigate in detail and to summarize for the seminar by means of an oral presentation. The student will generate a final paper, no more than 15, double-spaced pages, that further elaborates on the area of interest or that addresses another area of concern in health disparities. The term paper will be due at the last meeting of the seminar. It must adhere to APA style.

The first half of most weekly meetings will be devoted to review and discussion of the assigned readings, and the remaining half to a student’s oral presentation. For both parts of the weekly gathering, the assigned readings and oral presentations, critical evaluation of the literature and originality of ideas will be rewarded, as will class participation.

Required Text

Note. By the beginning of the course, you should have read Mullainathan and Shafir’s book on Scarcity, as instructed. For the remaining readings, read the required readings in the order listed. Recommended readings are identified by an asterisk. All articles have been uploaded to Blackboard.

Abbreviations
AJPH = American Journal of Public Health
JAMA = Journal of the American Medical Association
PNAS = Proceedings from the National Academy of Sciences

INTRODUCTION
February 2: Introduction. Definitions and Nuances
February 9: Epidemiology of Health Disparities

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

February 16: Individual Perspectives 1: Biology, Stress, Coping, Social Relationships
February 23: Ontological and Phylogenic Developmental Perspective II


March 2: Individual into Macro Perspectives III: Intersectionality


March 9: Macro Perspectives IV


**HEALTH DISPARITIES**

March 16: SES and Health: Theoretical Issues

make people sick. Science, 344(6186), 829-831.


**March 23: SES and Health**


**March 30: Spring Recess; no class**

**April 6: Racial Disparities**


Historical Context:

April 13: Ethnic Disparities


April 20: Sex Disparities


Remember Haegerich et al., (2014) from the readings for “Epidemiology of Health Disparities”


April 27: Gender Disparities

→Cisgender Individuals:

→Transgender Individuals:

May 4: Sexual-Orientation Disparities


May 11: What Has Not Been Addressed? Wrap-Up

**FINAL PAPER IS DUE on MAY 11TH by 5:00 pm.**