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 appreciating and 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 and single-sided copied 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 Texts


Note. By the beginning of the course, you should have read Mullainathan and Shafir’s book on Scarcity (see citation above), 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

September 2: Introduction
September 9: Definitions and Nuances


September 16: Epidemiology of Health Disparities


THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

September 23: No class; CUNY follows Friday schedule

September 30: Individual Perspective I: Biology, Stress, Coping, Social Relationships


October 7: Individual into Macro Perspectives II: Intersectionality


October 14: Macro Perspectives III


*Steele, C.M. (1997). A threat in the air: How stereotypes shape intellectual identity and performance. *American Psychologist, 52*, 613-629. (Note. The Spencer et al. article to which he refers was in press at the time. Its actual published citation is...*)


October 21: Ecological-Developmental Perspective IV


October 28: SES and Health: Theoretical Issues


November 4: SES and Health


November 11: Racial Disparities


**November 18: Ethnic Disparities**


**November 25: Sex Disparities**


**December 2: Gender Disparities**


**December 9: Sexual-Orientation Disparities and Wrap Up**


**FINAL PAPER IS DUE DURING THE LAST SESSION, on DECEMBER 9TH.**