

**Department of Health Outcomes and Biomedical Informatics
College of Medicine
University of Florida**

***GMS 6833: Health Outcomes Research in Vulnerable Populations
Fall 2020***

Class Meetings:	TBD
Class Location:	TBD
Credit Hours:	3 credits
Course Director:	Michelle Cardel, Ph.D., R.D.
Office Hours:	Thursdays, 3:50pm – 4:50pm and by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is for students to develop a working knowledge of the influence of health disparities on health outcomes among vulnerable populations in the United States and the role of health policy. The course will begin with an introduction to the concept of vulnerability and a vulnerability framework for research. Next, we will cover social, individual, and systematic influences on health and vulnerability. Finally, students will learn about interventions and policies aimed at reducing health disparities in vulnerable populations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to:

- Define vulnerability;
- Describe social, individual, and structural/systematic factors related to health inequalities among vulnerable populations (e.g., children, people with disabilities, racial/ethnic minorities, women, low socioeconomic status) in the United States.
- Identify and discuss major health issues facing vulnerable populations and why they should be addressed.
- Understand potential social and policy interventions to improve the health and reduce health disparities among vulnerable populations.
- Develop and conduct a policy analysis related to a specific vulnerable population.

PREREQUISITES

None

COURSE PROCEDURE

This course is intended to provide students with a broad overview of health outcomes and policy in vulnerable populations. A seminar series format will be employed. Each class session will have assigned readings that must be completed prior to class. Class discussion will center on the required readings.

STUDENT COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The following will be used to assess students' progress in achieving the course objectives:

- 1. Attendance and Participation.** All students are expected to be active and regular participants in class discussions. Students should come to class prepared to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the assigned readings as well as how the readings apply to their own research interests.
- 2. Review Article/Policy Analysis.** Students will prepare a final paper that is a review article or policy analysis of an issue related to a specific vulnerable population. The scope of the article should increase the student's knowledge in an area of their choice, not covered by the assigned textbook and general readings. Assignment 1: The student will provide a one-page description of their topic choice and rationale. Potential journal outlets for the final paper should also be included. **Due Class 4.** Assignment 2: Develop an outline of the entire article using bullet points, headings, and short topic sentences. References must be included (a minimum of 30 references). **Due Class 7.** Final draft of review article/policy analysis: The final drafted manuscript will be submitted to me for feedback and discussed during in-person one-on-one meetings the week of April 18th. **Due Class 13.** Final review article/policy analysis: The final paper should be organized into a narrative rather than a series of facts or bullets. It should be proofread with correct grammar and spelling. The final article should be double-spaced Times New Roman 12 pt. font with 1-inch margins. Citation style and paper formatting should correspond with the selected target journal. The manuscript should be ready to be submitted to the selected journal and include all necessary components per journal instructions (e.g., abstract, introduction, discussion, references). This manuscript should be the student's own original work and not previously submitted for credit or publication. Final articles are due on **Class 15**. Note that all assignments are **due by 5pm EST on the due date.**

EVALUATION AND GRADING

Grades will be based on attendance and participation in class discussions (40%); review article/policy analysis assignments (Topic: 15%; Outline: 15%) and the final review article/policy analysis manuscript (30%). All deadlines must be met. Any assignment turned in late will receive a 10-percentage point reduction in the final grade. The following grading system will be used: A (95% or higher), A- (90-94%), B+ (87%-89%), B (83%-86%), B- (80-82%), C+ (77%-79%), C (73%-76%), C- (70-72%), D+ (67-69%), D (63%-66%), D- (60-62%) and F (\leq 59%).

For additional grading policy information, you may visit the undergraduate catalog web page at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

TEXTBOOK AND READINGS:

The following textbook will be used for this course:

- Leiyu Shi & Gregory D. Stevens, *Vulnerable Populations in the United States*, 2nd Edition, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2010.

Supplementary readings will be assigned and may be changed or expanded beyond what is outlined in the syllabus.

TOPICAL OVERVIEW

Day	Major Topic	Required Readings	Assignments Due
Class 1	Introduction to the Course	None	
Class 2	Definition of Vulnerable Populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanic & Tanner, 2007 • Vladeck, 2007 	
Class 3	Vulnerability Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VP Chp. 1 • Conrad & Barker, 2010 	
Class 4	Social/Individual Factors and Health Vulnerability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VP Chp. 2 	Topic/Rationale Due
Class 5	Socioeconomic Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phelan et al., 2010 • Braveman et al., 2010 • Woolf & Braveman, 2011 	
Class 6	Social/Individual Factors and Health Vulnerability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Transgender Survey 	
Class 7	Childhood Determinants of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larson et al., 2008 • Perrin et al., 2007 • Shonkoff et al., 2009 	Outline Due
Class 8	Racial and Ethnic Disparities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ford & Airhihenbuwa, 2010 • Williams & Sternthal, 2010 • Perreira & Ornelas, 2011 	
Class 9	Multiple Risk Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VP Chp. 4 	Draft Section 1-Suggested
Class 10	Children and Healthcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Szilagyi, 2003 • Halfon et al., 2007 	
Class 11	Current Strategies to Reduce Health Disparities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VP Chp. 5 	Draft Section 2-Suggested
Class 12	Methods Aimed at Resolving Health Disparities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VP Chp. 6 	
Class 13	Lifecourse and Community Considerations to Reducing Health Disparities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frohlich & Potvin, 2008 • Israel et al., 2010 • Minkler, 2010 • Wallerstein & Duran, 2010 	Full Draft Due
Class 14	Meet with Dr. Cardel; one-on-ones		Final Feedback on Full Draft
Class 15	No Class-Reading Day		Full Article Due

GUEST LECTURES

We will have the pleasure of 4 guest lectures during the semester. They will include:

Date	Name	Title of Presentation
tbd	Dr. Dominick Lemas	CBPR: Lessons from the Center for Alaska Native Health Research
tbd	Dr. Betsy Shenkman	Health Policy & Healthcare in Children
tbd	Dr. Christine Wegner	Reducing Health Disparities through Physical Activity & Sport
tbd	Dr. Sarah Szureck	CBPR with Tallahassee Food Network Addressing Health Disparities

COURSE POLICIES

Class Decorum

Please: (1) be on time, (2) respect others' points of view, (3) listen quietly when others are speaking, and (4) turn off cell phones, laptops, alarms, and other such distractions.

Canvas

Course information, readings, and grades are available on Canvas at <http://lss.at.ufl.edu/>. You must have a Gatorlink account to log on. *You are expected to check the web site on a regular basis (i.e., at least one day prior to each class meeting).*

Getting Help

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at: learning-support@ufl.edu or by calling (352) 392-HELP - select option 2. Additional information is available at: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Returned Assignments

Keep copies of all assignments that you submit and of all grades until you receive official notification of your final course grade.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is mandatory. Excused absences follow the criteria of the UF Graduate Catalog (e.g., illness, serious family emergency, military obligations, religious holidays), and should be communicated to the instructor prior to the missed class day when possible. The UF Graduate Catalog is available at <http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/>. Students should read the assigned readings prior to the class meetings, and be prepared to discuss the material. Regardless of attendance, students are responsible for all material presented in class and meeting the scheduled due dates for class assignments.

Policy on Make-Up Work

Students are allowed to make up work only as the result of illness or other unanticipated circumstances. In the event of such emergency, documentation will be required in conformance with university policy. Work missed for any other reason will earn a grade of zero.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students requiring accommodations must first register with the Dean of Students' Office. The Dean of Students' Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the faculty member when requesting accommodation. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

U Matter, We Care

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

Academic Honesty

Each student is bound by the academic honesty guidelines of the University and the student conduct code printed in the Student Guide and on the University website, available at <http://regulations.ufl.edu/chapter4/4017.pdf>). The Honor Code states: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity." Cheating or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

Policy on Style for Citation and Plagiarism:

The two key purposes of citation are to (1) give appropriate credit to the authors of information, research findings, and/or ideas (and avoid plagiarism) and (2) facilitate access by your readers to the sources you use in your research.

Quotations: When directly quoting an outside source, the borrowed text, regardless of the amount, must be surrounded by quotation marks or block quoted. Quoted text over two lines in length should be single-spaced and indented beyond the normal margins. Every quote must include a source—the author, title, volume, page numbers, etc.—whether an internal reference, footnote, or endnote is used in conjunction with a bibliography page.

Paraphrasing or Citing an Idea: When summarizing an outside source in your own words or citing another person's ideas, quotation marks are not necessary, but the source must be included. This includes, but is not confined to, personal communications from other students, faculty members, experts in the field, summarized ideas from published or unpublished resource, and primary methods derived from published or unpublished sources. Use the general concept of "when in doubt – cite."

Plagiarism is a serious violation of the academic honesty policy of the College. If a student plagiarizes others' material or ideas, he or she may receive an "E" in the course. The faculty member may also recommend further sanctions to the Dean, per College disciplinary action policy. Generally speaking, the three keys of acceptable citation practice are: 1) thoroughness, 2) accuracy, and 3) consistency. In other words, be sure to fully cite all sources used (thoroughness), be accurate in the citation information provided, and be consistent in the citation style you adopt. All references should

include the following elements: 1) last names along with first and middle initials; 2) full title of reference; 3) name of journal or book; 4) publication city, publisher, volume, and date; and 5) page numbers referenced. When citing information from the Internet, include the WWW address at the end, with the “access date” (i.e., when you obtained the information), just as you would list the document number and date for all public documents. When citing ideas or words from an individual that are not published, you can write “personal communication” along with the person’s name and date of communication.

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