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Service Learning in Health and Wellness

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CUNY City College

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SCI36000 – Service Learning in Health and Wellness
Fall 2017, NAC 4/206
Tuesday 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Instructor: Leo Spsychala, MPH
Office: Marshak 533
Office Hours: Tuesday 4:00-5:00 PM, or by appointment
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Course Description:

This course challenges students to use practical and classroom knowledge to address critical public health issues facing underserved communities. Students will examine community health profiles to identify and develop solutions to prevalent health issues within Harlem, with each semester focusing on one specific issue facing the Harlem community. Additionally, health disparities including differences in incidence, prevalence, treatment, mortality and burden of illness that exist among various populations will be explored. The course includes a service-learning component that will allow students to design and develop programs to address these issues with local community partners.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- Perform an analysis of specific healthcare statistics for the United States versus those of the Harlem community
- Explain the factors affecting healthcare disparities and the impact of these disparities on an identified healthcare issue
- Discuss the scope of diseases related to the identified healthcare issue in the United States and Harlem, including prevalence, incidence, mortality, morbidity as well as the social and economic burden on the healthcare system
- Translate the results of social science research into action via a service learning project

Grading Policy

The grading for the course will be based on the following:

1. Attendance and participation – 10%
 - Each student is required to attend all classes, contribute to class discussions, participate during group exercises and be prepared to discuss the assigned reading materials. Texting or being on social media during class time is not participating and points will be deducted. Students who miss more than two classes will be dropped from the course.
2. Homework – 10%
 - Assignments and due dates are listed on the syllabus and are to be submitted on the class blog before the start of class. More details about the assignments are listed on Blackboard under each course week.
3. Exams – 20%
 - There will be two non-cumulative exams (midterm and final) given in class for the course. The content of the exams will be based on class lectures as well as reading assignments. No makeups will be given.
4. Final project proposal – 10%
 - Your group will decide on a topic and project that they want to focus on for the service-learning project. Your group will partner with a local community organization to fulfill this project. This will be a two-page proposal outlining your project, and the organization you will be working with. All papers should be double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font, 1” margins all around and should contain at least 3 sources that you found on your own (not ones I assigned for class – though you can use those in addition to your 3 original sources)
5. Midterm group presentation – 10%
 - After your group decides on a topic for your project, you will collaborate to give a PowerPoint presentation on your topic in class. More details will be provided in class and on Blackboard.
6. Final project presentation – 40%
 - Each group will present together on their service-learning project in the final class, outlining your topic and project that you completed this semester. Your grade will be based on your presentation as well as the quality of your project in both design and implementation. (30%)

Note: Students are required to work in groups throughout the semester. While being a team player is critical for doing well in this course, overall grades will be based on individual effort and contribution to the group work.

Communication:

Students are responsible for reading all emails and Blackboard updates sent to them from Mr. Spychala and the coordinator. We will also make every effort to reply to any inquiries within 24 hours. Students are also responsible for checking the course Blackboard for announcements, required readings, assignments, class events, grades and other course related topics.

Class Events and Resources:

All students are required to be present at class events, which count towards your class participation grade. Events will be announced during class and via email or Blackboard and may be held outside of regular class hours. The majority of the resources for class projects and events will be provided. We will have a fundraising event for our final class presentation to cover the cost of food, the date will be announced after consulting with the class on their schedule.

Class Outline and Late Assignments:

The course outline is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Late assignments will not be accepted unless you can provide documentation of an extenuating circumstance. Assignments will be marked down half a grade for every day it is late, regardless of reason.

Academic Integrity:

The CUNY Policy on plagiarism says the following about plagiarism (the CUNY Policy can be found in Appendix B.3 of the CCNY Undergraduate Bulletin):

“Plagiarism is the act of presenting another person’s ideas, research or writings as your own. The following are some examples of plagiarism, but by no means is it an exhaustive list:

1. Copying another person’s actual words without the use of quotation marks and footnotes attributing the words to their source.
2. Presenting another person’s ideas or theories in your own words without acknowledging the source.
3. Using information that is not common knowledge without acknowledging the source.
4. Failing to acknowledge collaborators on homework and laboratory assignments.
5. Internet plagiarism includes submitting downloaded term papers or parts of term papers, paraphrasing or copying information from the internet without citing the source, and “cutting and pasting” from various sources without proper attribution.

The City College Faculty Senate has approved a procedure for addressing violations of academic integrity, which can also be found in Appendix B.3 of the CCNY Undergraduate Bulletin.”

Be aware that if we suspect plagiarism **we will follow this procedure, no exceptions made**; i.e. we will report you to the Academic Integrity Official. Disciplinary sanctions range from failing the class to expulsion from the college.

Course Outline

Please note: Some readings may be added/changed during the semester. Always check Blackboard for the most current assignment and reading list.

Week	Date	Topic	Assignments and Readings (Due before class, available on Blackboard)
1	08/29/17	Introduction to Public Health and Service Learning	HW: Introductions and Availability on Blackboard Discussion Board
2	09/05/17	Healthy Aging and the Elderly Paper and Presentation Discussion	NYAM: <i>Age Friendly New York City, A Findings Report</i> (selected pages, on Blackboard) <i>Identifying and Engaging Community Partners</i>
3	09/12/17	Proposal Development in Groups How to Use CCNY Databases Community Health & Outreach	Hann: <i>Transforming Public Health Through Community Partnerships</i> HW: Meet with your groups (in person or virtually). Come to class with 3 ideas and 3 different organizations for your project
	09/19/17	Thursday Schedule	Classes follow a Thursday schedule, no class
4	09/26/17	Public Health Nutrition	Proposal Due Freudenberg: <i>Eating in East Harlem</i>
5	10/03/17	Health Disparities	Dilworth-Anderson: <i>Social Justice, Health Disparities, and Culture in the Care of the Elderly</i>
6	10/10/17	Midterm	Exam #1
7	10/17/17	Epidemiology & Study Designs **All groups must have an organization by this date	NY Times: <i>Health Care Systems Try to Cut Costs by Aiding the Poor and Troubled</i> HW: Answer the questions posted the Blackboard discussion board using the NYC.gov health data portal
8	10/24/17	Student Presentations	Presentations Due
9	10/31/17	Health Insurance & The Affordable Care Act (ACA)	The Atlantic: <i>How the American Health Care Act Leaves Near-Elderly People Behind</i> HW: Do some research online about a healthcare system of another country of your choosing and compare it to the US system. Answer the questions posted on the discussion board and come prepared to discuss in class.

10	11/7/17	Fed Up Documentary	Location TBA
11	11/14/17	In-class Project Updates Climate Change, Environmental Health and the Public Health Threat	HW: Come to class prepared to give everyone an update on your projects <i>AJPH: Climate Change: The Public Health Response</i>
	11/21/17	Friday Schedule	Classes follow a Friday schedule, no class
12	11/28/17	Health Policy and Economics	HW: Listen to the podcast “ <i>This American Life</i> – <i>Someone Else’s Money</i> ” and answer the questions posted on Blackboard
13	12/05/17	Final Exam	Exam #2
14	12/12/17	Final Group Presentations (We Meet in Marshak 801, dress professionally)	Presentations Due