RACIAL AND ETHNIC HEALTH DISPARITIES

“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane.”
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

- How do patterns of mortality, disease, and health care access in the United States differ based on race and ethnicity?
- How do socioeconomic status, occupation, and residential neighborhoods affect health outcomes?
- Students will brainstorm how various forms of interventions could reduce health status and health care disparities across racial and ethnic groups.

This course critically examines health and health care disparities among racial/ethnic minority groups in the United States. It utilizes sociological, demographic, epidemiological and psychological concepts to introduce students to health disparities research and contemporary debates in this interdisciplinary field of study. Students will learn about health indicators across population groups and explore theories used to understand gaps and discrepancies in healthcare between and among populations. In particular, the course will examine the ways in which multiple forms of interpersonal and institutional discrimination, neighborhood and community factors, and inequalities in socioeconomic status influence health behaviors, access to health care services and health status outcomes across racial and ethnic groups. Students will learn how to communicate ideas about the social causes and solutions to health inequalities in the United States as well as create policy recommendations that address some of the many shortcomings of modern American healthcare.

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