PSY 493: Health Disparities and Health Equity
Fall 2021 Course Syllabus
MWF, 8:00 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.
C304 Snyder Hall

Instructor: Kaston D. Anderson-Carpenter, PhD, MPH, BCBA-D, LBA
Office: Psychology 238
Phone: (517) 432-0686
Email: kaston@msu.edu *Preferred mode of contact*
Office Hours: By appointment only. https://kacarpenter.youcanbook.me/

Please make an appointment using the link above. I will not reply to individual inquiries regarding appointments.

Part 1: Overview

Course Description
This course focuses on theories, methods, and applications of health disparities research and practice. Using a multicultural perspective, we will examine the historical, ethical, and legal issues that influence health disparities and health equity. Analyses of primary literature will be integrated throughout the course to facilitate discussion and provide examples of methodologies in the field.

Textbook & Course Materials
You will receive an invitation from Kritik from Dr. Anderson-Carpenter; we will use the platform for submitting and providing feedback on writing assignments throughout the semester. The cost is $20.

All readings will be available in PDF format on D2L and are required. To do well in this course, you will also need:
- Internet connection (DSL, LAN, or cable connection desirable)
- Access to Desire2Learn (D2L), or other delivery platform.

Technical Assistance
If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem you can:
- Visit the Distance Learning Services Support Site
- Visit the Desire2Learn Help Site (http://help.d2l.msu.edu/)
- Or call Distance Learning Services: (800) 500-1554 or (517) 355-2345

Resource Persons with Disabilities (RCPD)
- To make an appointment with a specialist, contact: (517) 353-9642
  Or TTY: (517) 355-1293
- Web site for RCPD: http://MYProfile.rcpd.msu.edu
Part 2: Course Objectives and Grading Policies

The primary learning objectives for this course are:

- To understand the difference between health disparities and health equity, and the implications for both on research, policy, and practice
- To critique and evaluate existing research in health disparities and health equity
- To develop and support a scholarly position through clear, concise, and effective writing

You will meet the objectives listed above through a combination of the following activities in this course:

- Attend course lectures and participate actively in class activities
- Complete weekly required readings of the scientific literature in health disparities and health equity
- Provide helpful and specific feedback to peers that will facilitate stronger writing skills

Graded Course Activities

The table below describes the graded course activities including points and activity description. The first column includes the points possible, the second column describes the percentage or weight of each assignment, and the third column includes a description for each assignment.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Max Points</strong></td>
<td><strong>Assignment</strong></td>
<td><strong>Deadline (by 11:59pm Eastern)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>Kritik Submission: Literature Review Spreadsheet (5 sources)</td>
<td>9/17/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Lit Review Feedback</td>
<td>9/22/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Lit Review Feedback on Feedback</td>
<td>9/24/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>Kritik Submission: PRISMA Diagram &amp; Full Lit Spreadsheet</td>
<td>10/8/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Diagram Feedback</td>
<td>10/13/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Diagram Feedback on Feedback</td>
<td>10/15/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>Kritik Submission: Literature Review Draft</td>
<td>11/12/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Draft Feedback</td>
<td>11/17/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Draft Feedback on Feedback</td>
<td>11/19/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>Kritik Submission: Literature Review Final Draft</td>
<td>12/13/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>525</td>
<td><strong>Total Points Possible</strong></td>
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Late Work Policy
Any work submitted past the assignment deadline will receive a 10% reduction for each day late prior to being graded. For the purposes of this course, “late” is defined as one minute past the deadline, and the “next day” will occur every 24 hours thereafter.

Submitting Assignments
Assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through Kritik unless otherwise instructed. Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from Dr. Anderson-Carpenter before the due date. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances.

Viewing Grades
Because this is an intensive writing course and there are more students than instructors, you should expect to receive your grades and feedback for viewing in D2L within 7-10 calendar days.

The table below describes the relationships between course grades, percent, and performance. The highlighted row represents Dr. Anderson-Carpenter’s minimum expectation of each student.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Earned</th>
<th>Grade Point</th>
<th>Course Performance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>470-525</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Superior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>444-469</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>417-443</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>391-416</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>365-390</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>Adequate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>339-364</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Inadequate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>312-338</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-311</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>Unacceptable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Part 3: Course Policies

Commit to Integrity: Academic Honesty
Article 2.3.3 of the [Academic Freedom Report](#) states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, the (insert name of unit offering course) adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in General Student Regulations 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades; and Ordinance 17.00,
Examinations. (See Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide and/or the MSU Web site: www.msu.edu.)

Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the www.allmsu.com Web site to complete any course work in this course. Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Contact your instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also the Academic Integrity webpage.)

Limits to Confidentiality
Essays, journals, and other materials submitted for this class are generally considered confidential pursuant to the University's student record policies. However, students should be aware that University employees, including instructors, may not be able to maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues to protect the health and safety of MSU community members and others. As the instructor, I must report the following information to other University offices (including the Department of Police and Public Safety) if you share it with me:

- Suspected child abuse/neglect, even if this maltreatment happened when you were a child,
- Allegations of sexual assault or sexual harassment when they involve MSU students, faculty, or staff, and
- Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others.

These reports may trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. In almost all cases, it will be your decision whether you wish to speak with that individual. If you would like to talk about these events in a more confidential setting you are encouraged to make an appointment with the MSU Counseling Center.

Inform Your Instructor of Any Accommodations Needed
From the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD): Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at rcpd.msu.edu. Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a Verified Individual Services Accommodation ("VISA") form. Please present this form to me at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date may not be honored.
Drops and Adds
The last day to add this course is the end of the first week of classes. The last day to drop this course with a 100 percent refund and no grade reported is (insert date). The last day to drop this course with no refund and no grade reported is (insert date). You should immediately make a copy of your amended schedule to verify you have added or dropped this course.

Commercialized Lecture Notes
Commercialization of lecture notes and university-provided course materials is not permitted in this course.

Internet
Some professional journals will not consider a submission for publication if the article has appeared on the Internet. Please notify your instructor in writing if you do not want your course papers posted to the course Web site.

Disruptive Behavior
Article 2.III.B.4 of the Academic Freedom Report (AFR) for students at Michigan State University states: "The student's behavior in the classroom shall be conducive to the teaching and learning process for all concerned." Article 2.III.B.10 of the AFR states that "The student has a right to scholarly relationships with faculty based on mutual trust and civility." General Student Regulation 5.02 states: "No student shall . . . interfere with the functions and services of the University (for example, but not limited to, classes . . .) such that the function or service is obstructed or disrupted. Students whose conduct adversely affects the learning environment in this classroom may be subject to disciplinary action through the Student Judicial Affairs office.

Attendance
Students whose names do not appear on the official class list for this course may not attend this class. Students who fail to attend the first four class sessions or class by the fifth day of the semester, whichever occurs first, may be dropped from the course.

Participation
You are expected to participate in all class activities as listed on the course calendar. Participation includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Completing all class assignments on time
- Actively engaging in small-group and class discussions
- Asking thoughtful questions in class
- Proactively seeking guidance from the instructor when needed
- Providing helpful feedback to classmates

Build Rapport
If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let Dr. Anderson-Carpenter know as early
as possible. As you will find, building rapport and relationships are key to developing a good professional reputation. Make sure that you are proactive in informing Dr. Anderson-Carpenter when difficulties arise during the semester so together, we can find a solution.

### Part 4: Course Outline and Schedule

Please refer to the course calendar for specific meeting dates and times. Activity and assignment details will be explained in detail within each week’s corresponding learning module. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Anderson-Carpenter.

### Part 1: Theoretical Frameworks in Health Disparities & Equity

**Sep. 1-3: Course Introduction & Using Zotero**

**Sep. 6-10: Health Disparities vs. Health Equity: Are They the Same?**

- Required readings:

- Recommended readings:

- Developing a Research Question or Identifying an Area of Inquiry

  - **Email Dr. Anderson-Carpenter your literature review topic by Due Sept. 10th at 11:59 pm**

**Sep. 13-17: Intersectionality & Syndemic Theory**

- Required Readings:
• Recommended Readings:

• Conducting a Literature Review & Reading Scholarly Work

• Kritik Submission Due: Literature Review Spreadsheet (5 sources)

Sep. 20-24: Ecological Model & Minority Stress Model
• Required Readings—Last name A-M:

• Required Reading—Last name N-Z:

• Conducting a Literature Review & Reading Scholarly Work

• Kritik Feedback on Lit Review Spreadsheet due (Sep. 22nd)
• Kritik Feedback on Feedback due (Sep. 24th)

Sep. 27-Oct. 1: Life Course Theory & Fundamental Cause Theory
• Required Readings:
Recommended Readings:


Part 2: Applications in Health Disparities Research & Action

Oct. 4-8: Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration

- Required readings:

- Productive Writing and Silencing Your Inner Critic

- **Kritik Submission Due: PRISMA Diagram and Full Literature Review Spreadsheet (10 sources)**

Oct. 11-15: Gender Identity & Sexual Orientation

- Required reading:
• Citing Sources, Academic Integrity, and Plagiarism

• Kritik feedback on PRISMA diagram due. Feedback is required for the diagram only. (Oct. 13th)
• Kritik Feedback on Feedback due (Oct. 15th)

Oct. 18-22: Socioeconomic Status and Social Class
• Required readings:

Oct. 27-29: HIV, Substance Use, and Violence
• Required reading:

Part 3: Promoting Health Equity & Reducing Health Disparities

Nov. 1-5: Conducting Community Assessments
• Required reading:

• Establishing a Consistent Writing Habit

Nov. 8-12: Community Engagement & Capacity Building
• Required readings:
• How to Be a Good Self-Editor

• Kritik submission due: Literature review draft

Nov. 15-19: Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)

• Required readings:

• Recommended reading:

• How to Be a Good Peer-Reviewer

  • Kritik feedback due: Literature review draft (Nov. 17th)
  • Feedback on feedback due (Nov. 19th)

Nov. 29-Dec. 3: Debates and Controversies in Health Disparities & Health Equity

• Required reading: TBD

• Disseminating Your Work to Your Audience

Dec. 6-8: Putting It All Together & Course Reflections

Dec. 13: Final draft of literature review due on Kritik