

SOCI 479 Social Determinants of Health - DRAFT

Dr. Gerry Veenstra
ANSO 1321
gerry.veenstra@ubc.ca

Course Description

This course examines key social determinants of health in Canada, namely, socioeconomic status and social class, gender, immigration and race/ethnicity. All of the empirical studies covered in the course are quantitative in nature which means that students who are not comfortable with statistics may not want to take this course. We meet Wednesdays 3:00–6:00 pm in GEOG 147.

Prerequisite

Three credits of introductory sociology or permission from the instructor

Evaluation

Based on in-class exercises (50%), a group presentation (20%) and a final exam (30%)

Group Presentation

Early in the term students will be assigned to groups of two or three persons each. Each group will deliver a presentation of approximately 15 minutes on content that supplements the course materials.

Lectures

There will be some lecturing by the instructor but large chunks of class time will be comprised of completing and discussing exercises. Students are expected to have read the relevant readings beforehand and come to class ready to discuss them in detail.

Canvas

This course uses the learning analytics platform Canvas for submission of exercises and reporting of grades.

Academic Accommodation

Students are expected to regularly attend classes. Students who encounter medical, emotional or personal problems that affect their ability to attend classes should contact Arts Academic Advising. Students who are unable to meet course requirements at the scheduled times should apply to Arts Academic Advising for academic accommodation. UBC accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Disability Resource Centre. The university also accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance, submitting assignments or completing scheduled tests or examinations. A list of religious holidays involving fasting, abstention from work or study or participation in religious activities is available on the UBC website. Students should let the instructor know in advance if they will require accommodation on these grounds. Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations or other commitments should not assume they will be accommodated and should discuss their commitments with the instructor early in the term. Please refer to the UBC Academic Calendar for a more thorough discussion of academic concession.

University Policies

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available on the UBC Senate website.

Copyright

All materials of this course (course handouts, lecture slides, etc.) are the intellectual property of the course instructor or licensed to be used in the course by the copyright owner. Redistribution of these materials by any means without permission of the copyright holder(s) constitutes a breach of copyright and may lead to academic discipline. Please note that recording lectures is not permitted.

Schedule

Topic 1 (Jan 8): Introduction

- No assigned readings

Topic 2 (Jan 15): Socioeconomic Status and Health I

- Braveman P., Egerter S. & Williams D.R. 2012. The social determinants of health: Coming of age. *Annual Review of Public Health* 32, 381-398.
- Adler N.A. & J.O. Ostrove. 2006. Socioeconomic status and health: What we know and what we don't. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* 896, 3-15.
- Adler N.A., Bush N.R. & Pantell M.S. 2012. Rigor, vigor, and the study of health disparities. *PNAS* 109, S2, 17154-17159.

Topic 3 (Jan 22): Socioeconomic Status and Health II

- Veenstra G. & Vanzella-Yang A. 2020. Does household income mediate the association between education and health in Canada? Unpublished paper.
- Veenstra G. & Vanzella-Yang A. 2020. Family income and self-rated health: Temporality, volatility, trajectory. Unpublished paper.
- Veenstra G. & Vanzella-Yang A. 2020. Family income and self-rated health: Using fixed effects models to control for unobserved confounders and investigate causal temporality. Unpublished paper.

Topic 3 (Jan 29): Socioeconomic Status and Health III

- Williams S. 1995. Theorizing class, health and lifestyles: Can Bourdieu help us? *Sociology of Health & Illness* 17, 577-604.
- Godley J. & McLaren L. 2010. Socioeconomic status and body mass index in Canada: Exploring measures and mechanisms. *Canadian Review of Sociology* 47, 381-403.
- Burnett P.J. & Veenstra G. 2017. Margins of freedom: A field-theoretic approach to class-based health practices. *Sociology of Health & Illness* 39, 7, 1050-1067.

Topic 4 (Feb 5): Gender and Health

- Hammarstrom A. et al. 2014. Central gender theoretical concepts in health research: The state of the art. *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health* 68, 185-190.
- Courtenay W. 2000. Constructions of masculinity and their influence on men's well-being: A theory of gender and health. *Social Science & Medicine* 50, 1385-1401.
- Denton M. et al. 2004. Gender differences in health: A Canadian study of the psychosocial, structural and behavioural determinants of health. *Social Science & Medicine* 58, 2585-2600.

Topic 5 (Feb 12): Immigration and Health

- Edge S. & Newbold B. 2013. Discrimination and the health of immigrants and refugees: Exploring Canada's evidence base and directions for future research in newcomer receiving countries. *Journal of Immigrant & Minority Health* 15, 141-148.
- Setia M.S. et al. 2011. Self-rated health in Canadian immigrants: Analysis of the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada. *Health & Place* 17, 658-670.
- Lu Y. et al. 2017. Health of newly arrived immigrants in Canada and the United States: Differential selection on health. *Health & Place* 48, 1-10.

Topic 6 (Feb 26): Racial Health Inequalities I

- Gravlee C.C. 2009. How race becomes biology: Embodiment of social inequality. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 139, 47-57.
- Williams D.R. & Mohammed S.A. 2013. Racism and health I: Pathways and scientific evidence. *American Behavioral Scientist* 57, 1152-1173.
- Frank R. 2007. What to make of it? The (re)emergence of a biological conceptualization of race in health disparities research. *Social Science & Medicine* 64, 1977-1983.

Topic 7 (Mar 4): Racial Health Inequalities II

- Veenstra G. & Patterson A.C. 2016. Black-White health inequalities in Canada. *Journal of Immigrant & Minority Health* 18, 1, 51-57.
- Ramaj C. et al. 2016. Equally inequitable? A cross-national comparative study of racial health inequalities in the United States and Canada. *Social Science & Medicine* 161, 19-26.
- Veenstra G. 2019. Black, White, Black and White: Mixed race and health in Canada. *Ethnicity & Health* 24, 2, 113-124.

Topic 8 (Mar 11): Racial Health Inequalities III

- Veenstra G. 2011. Mismatched racial identities, colourism, and health in Toronto and Vancouver. *Social Science & Medicine* 73, 8, 1152-1162.
- Monk E.P. 2015. The cost of color: Skin color, discrimination, and health among African Americans. *American Journal of Sociology* 121, 2, 396-444.
- Louie P. 2019. Revisiting the cost of skin color: Discrimination, mastery, and mental health among Black adolescents. *Society & Mental Health* (e-pub ahead of print).

Topic 9 (Mar 18): Intersectionality and Health I

- Bowleg L. 2012. The problem with the phrase *Women and Minorities*: Intersectionality—an important theoretical framework for public health. *American Journal of Public Health* 102, 1267-1273.
- Hankivsky O. 2012. Women's health, men's health, and gender and health: Implications of intersectionality. *Social Science & Medicine* 74, 1712-1720.

- Bauer G. 2014. Incorporating intersectionality theory into population health research methodology: Challenges and the potential to advance health equity. *Social Science & Medicine* 110, 10-17.

Topic 10 (Mar 25): Intersectionality and Health II

- Veenstra G. 2013. Race, gender, class, sexuality (RGCS) and hypertension. *Social Science & Medicine* 89, 16-24.
- Richardson L.J. & Brown T.H. 2016. (En)gendering racial disparities in health trajectories: A life course and intersectional analysis. *SMM-Population Health* 2, 425-435.
- Brown T.H. et al. 2016. Using multiple-hierarchy stratification and life course approaches to understand health inequalities: The intersecting consequences of race, gender, SES, and age. *Journal of Health & Social Behavior* 57, 2, 200-222.

Topic 11 (Apr 1 & 8): Group Presentations