

Department: AASI

Course No.: 3215

Credits: 3

Title: Critical Health Issues of Asian Americans

Contact: Usha Palaniswamy

Content Area: CA4 Diversity and Multiculturalism

Diversity: CA4 Non-International

Catalog Copy: AASI 215 Critical Health Issue Asian Americans 3 Credits (Also offered as AH 215).

Palaniswamy. Examination of critical health issues affecting Asian American sub populations. Topics to include gender specific health problems; cultural issues; and health care issues.

Course Information: *Course Objectives*

1. To describe the health status of the fastest-growing minority group in the United States.
2. To describe areas of need in research regarding the health needs of Asian Pacific Americans.
3. To explain areas of need in the delivery of care.
4. To introduce a multidisciplinary model that would closely integrate research and practice with a holistic approach to health care in Asian Pacific Americans.
5. To review the cultural issues and discuss the concepts of health and health beliefs and how they affect health behavior.
6. To introduce how community-based services address the specific needs of each Asian Pacific population.
7. To provide a cross-culturally applicable theoretical framework within which to study health concerns of Asian Pacific Americans.

Meets Goals of Gen Ed.: AASI 215 (AH 215) Critical Health Issues of Asian Americans. Also listed as an elective component for HUMAN RIGHTS MINOR. The highest attainable health status, access to healthcare services and disease preventing strategies is one of the fundamental rights of every human being. Health and general well-being cannot be achieved when other fundamental rights of a human being are neglected or violated. In the United States there is a wide disparity in the health status of the mainstream and the minority populations and within the subgroups of a single minority group. The Asian Americans and the Pacific islanders (AAPI) are one of the fastest growing and most diverse of the minority populations. This course looks at health and human rights problems from the multiple perspectives of the social sciences (political science, psychology, philosophy, public health policy, sociology, and law) as well as the natural and quantitative sciences (medicine, biology, physiology, demography, statistics, epidemiology) and enables us to envision more promising solutions, offering future research perspectives and design more accurate evaluation techniques and research methodology to put forward to the policymakers to promote human rights and health, in order to eliminate disparity among all (specifically the AAPI), in health status and utilization of health services in the United States.

CA4 Criteria: Develop an understanding of and sensitivity to issues involving human rights and migration, Criteria 5 - Describes and discusses the changes that occur in health beliefs, and other health care issues due to societal, economics and political influences

Supplementary Information: Course text & readings:

1. Zane NWS, Takeuchi DT, Young KNJ (eds .). Confronting Critical Health Issues of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans. Sage Publications, Inc., 1994.
2. Uba L. Asian Americans: Personality Patterns, Identity, and Mental Health. Guilford Press, 1994.
3. Other published papers and journal articles given out in class for discussion.

Student Responsibilities and Evaluation:

Class participation and lead discussion based on assigned readings	(10%)
Midterm	(25%)
Final research paper	(20%)
Presentation	(20%)
Final Exam	(25%)

GRADING:

94-100 =A	74-76 =C
90-93 =A-	70-73 =C-
87-89 =B+	67-69 =D+
84-86 =B	64-66 =D
80-83 =B-	60-63 =D-
77-79 =C+	<60 =F

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Date Topic

Week 1: Introduction and overview of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States .
(Overview of course topics, assignments and expectations).

Reading : Chapter 1, research article related health issues in Asian Americans

Week 2 Methodology in Public Health data and Mortality, Limitations of mass data

Reading : Chapter 2 & 3, research article related to methodology in research models in Asian Americans

Week 3 Cancer

Reading : Chapter 4, research article related to cancer in Asian Americans

Week 4 Hepatitis B

Reading : Chapter 5, Research article related to hepatitis-B in Asian Americans

Week 5: Obesity and Diabetes

Reading : Chapter 6, research article related to diabetes in Asian Americans

Week 6: Hypertension and other Cardiovascular disease

Reading : Chapter 7, research article related to hypertension and cardiovascular disease in Asian Americans

Week 7: Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

Reading : Chapter 8

Week 8: Mental Health & Tuberculosis (Midterm Exam)

Reading : Chapter 9, research article related to cancer in Asian Americans

Week 9: Parasitic Infestations & Substance use and Abuse

Reading : Chapter 10 & 11, research article related to cancer in Asian Americans

Week 10: Access to Health Care, Supply of health care professionals

Reading : Chapter 12 & 13, research article related to cancer in Asian Americans

Week 11: Health Policy Framework

Reading : Chapter 14 & 15, research article related to health policies, integration of traditional medicine and emerging models

Week 12: Emerging Models of health care for Asian Americans

Week 13: Student Presentations

Week 14: Student Presentations

Final Exam

Final Paper and Presentation:

The project requires that you take one topic from the list of lectures in one group of Asian Americans (or a topic on which you are interested in reporting, with approval of the instructor). Preferably choose one single AA group for reporting of various diseases. The reports should represent- 1) short immigration history of the specific population; 2) macro level or environmental/societal/policy issues which contribute to the incidence or prevalence of the disease or condition; 3) micro level or the epidemiology of the condition; and 4) personal interviews with individuals who either are involved in treating the disorder or have the disorder, and how they manage within the current health care structure. The presentations will be about 15 to 20 minutes each, depending upon the makeup of the class, and require the submission of a five-page report.