DETAILED CLASS SYLLABUS

Week 1

Class 1: March 29 – Orientation to Population Health

- LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
  - Participate in a personal introduction regarding your background and what is the most significant thing you have learned in your lifetime about producing health
  - Review syllabus and expectations for output
  - List the difficulties getting poorer people to accept that their health status has much to do with factors beyond their control

- ASSIGNMENT:
  - Complete Response 0: “Web Ramble” for next class

- READINGS:

Class 2: April 2 – Determinants of Health in Rich Countries

- LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
  - Describe the various studies that associate hierarchy and health among rich countries
  - Describe associations between measures of income and various health-related outcomes in the United States

- ASSIGNMENT:
  - Response 1 due next class

- READINGS:

Week 2

Class 3: April 5 – Population Health From the Paleolithic On

- LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
  - List the stages of human development with corresponding trends in population health
  - Discuss the ways in which a human population is different than simply a collection of individuals
 Describe possible biologic mechanisms that underlie the association of hierarchy and health in humans and in non-human primates

**READINGS:**

**Class 4: April 9 – Health, Happiness, Inequality, and Hierarchy**

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**
- Discuss social capital as a potential pathway through which hierarchy exerts its health effects
- Describe possible paths to producing happiness as a population health concept

**ASSIGNMENT:**
- Response 2 and first dissemination exercise proposal due next class

**READINGS:**

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**Week 3**

**Class 5: April 12 – Early Life Lasts a Lifetime**

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**
- Describe three latent factors from birth to age 7 that affect adult health
- List three domains of development of children that have profound affects in later life
- Relate aspects of family, neighborhood and society to health impacts

**READINGS:**
Class 6: April 16 – Medical Care and its Impact on Health

- **LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**
  - Discuss studies that show an impact of preventive and curative health services on population health
  - Describe the studies on medical harm, and their limitations

- **ASSIGNMENT:**
  - Response 3 due next class

- **READINGS:**

Week 4

Class 7: April 19 – Physical Environment and Population Health

- **LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**
  - Explain the link between the environment and population health
  - Define environmental justice and cite three examples
  - Discuss problems of separating environmental contaminant exposure and health from poverty/SES and health.

- **ASSIGNMENT:**
  - "The Great Leveller" analysis due next class

- **READINGS:**
  - BOYCE, J. K., A. R. Klemer, et al. (1999). "Power distribution, the environment,


Class 8: April 23 – Western Europe

- LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
  - Describe the population health status of Norway
  - Evaluate the health system performance there
  - Identify disadvantaged groups in Norway

- ASSIGNMENT:
  - Response 4 due next class

- READINGS:


Week 5
Class 9: April 26 – Japan

- LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
  - State the past achievements of Japan’s health and relate this to reconstruction after World War II
  - List some features of Japan’s health care system
  - Discuss why a great disparity in health exists between the Japanese and the American populations in terms of health achievement

- ASSIGNMENT:
  - Dissemination Exercise #1 due next class

- READINGS:

Class 10: April 30 – Canada

- LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
  - Describe plausible reasons for Canada’s good standing in the Health Olympics

- ASSIGNMENT:
  - Response 5 due next class

- READINGS:
Week 6

Class 11: May 3 – Values and Beliefs about Inequality and How They Are Shaped

- LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
  - Describe different belief and value systems in populations and their relevance for hierarchy
  - Discuss the American Dream and how it is produced
  - Comment on the role of propaganda in a failed state democracy

- READINGS:
  - STRASBURGER, V. C. (2009). "Children, adolescents and the media: what we know, what we don’t know and what we need to find out (quickly!)." *Archives of Disease in Childhood* 94(9): 655-657. [GH 514 – Session 06]


Class 12: May 7 – Population Medicine: Where to Go From Here

- LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
  - Describe ways of changing hierarchical structures in various countries and populations
  - Analyze and discuss the effects of globalization on health, poverty, human rights, and the environment

- ASSIGNMENT:
  - Response 6 due next class

- READINGS:
  - DREGER. A. So you're a scholar who wants to make things happen. [Available at: http://www.bioethicsforum.org/dreger-activism-and-academia.asp] [GH 514 – Session 19]
  - “Money as Debt” Video. [Available at: http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-2550156453790090544&ei=qHKhS6-A1YiQqQOhudiZDA&q=money+as+debt+full#]
  - BRAVEMAN, P. A. (2007). "We also need bold experiments: A response to Starfield's "Commentary: Pathways of influence on equity in health"." Social
Week 7

Class 13: May 10 – Biology of Population Health

- LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
  - Describe possible biologic mechanisms that underlie the association of hierarchy and health in human and in non-human primate populations

- ASSIGNMENT:
  - Second Dissemination proposal due next class

- READINGS:

Class 14: May 14 – Population Health Perspective on Mental Illness

- LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
  - Describe the studies demonstrating a relationship between hierarchy and health among countries and within the USA
  - Consider reasons for the high rates of significant mental illness in the US compared to other studied countries
  - Critique the concept of relative poverty being a risk factor for psychopathology from an evolutionary perspective

- ASSIGNMENT:
  - Response 7 due next class

- READINGS:
Week 8

Class 15: May 17 – Former Soviet Union Countries

- LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
  - Describe the health achievements of countries of the Soviet Union from its origins to its demise
  - Discuss reasons for the decline of health in countries of the former Soviet Union

- READINGS:

Class 16: May 21 – India and China
LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
  o Analyze the different health outcomes in India and China emerging over the last half century
  o Relate health outcomes to country policies in force during this period
  o Predict ways in which the current forces at work may change future population health indicators in China
  o Describe possible reasons for Kerala’s remarkably different health outcomes from the rest of India

ASSIGNMENT:
  o Response 8 due next class

READINGS:

Week 9
Class 17: May 24 – Health and Development in Poorer Countries

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
  o Identify factors known to be associated with health outcomes in poor countries
  o Analyze the equity health association in terms of Nepal’s situation
  o List the various stakeholders in the development industry and comment upon their effectiveness for improving human welfare

READINGS:
Class 18: May 28 - Africa

- LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
  - Contrast the colonial history of African countries with the current situation
  - Present the health situation in Ghana today compared to a rich African country such as Botswana
  - Explain the impact of structural adjustment policies and political instability on health and development of Nigerians

- ASSIGNMENTS:
  - Response 9 and second dissemination exercise due in two Fridays (June 4)

- READINGS:
Week 10

Holiday: May 31 – Memorial Day – No Class

Class 19: June 4 – Population Medicine II: Sharing Dissemination Experiences

- LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
  - Assess one's abilities, interests and skills in terms of improving the health of whole populations

- READINGS:
  - Readings will depend on the students that volunteer to share their disseminations projects.