Course Title: Neighborhoods, Health Systems and Population Health
Course Number: HSAP 0670J
Course Location: School of Public Health
Course Date & Time: Tuesday 2-5
Course Instructor: Jeannette Rogowski, Ph.D., University Professor, rogowsje@sph.rutgers.edu, (848) 932-8052
Office Hours: By appointment

Required Course Texts:


Additional/Supplemental Readings/Resources:
For doctoral students all supplemental readings are required. For MPH students readings are designated either as required or as recommended but not required. The recommended but not required readings for MPH students are marked by (**).

Course Description:

The health of populations depends on not only the characteristics and health behaviors of individuals but the social, economic and physical environments in which they live and the health care systems that provide their medical care. This course will explore the current evidence regarding the role of these factors as determinants of population health and identify emerging issues. The role of public policy in improving the health of populations will be discussed in the context of empirical research evidence.

Selected Department Competencies Addressed:
For MPH students:

- Use economic theories, concepts and methodologies in the analysis and evaluation of current health care issues and problems.
- Assess community health needs, disparities and the health care delivery system within the context of social, cultural, political, legal and economic forces.
- Apply quantitative and qualitative research methods in the analysis of health service and policy issues.
For Ph.D. students:

- Apply economic theories and demographic methods to the analysis of basic issues and trends in the population’s health, health care use, spending, and interventions.

- Construct conceptual and empirical models describing the behavior of individuals and households regarding their health status and their access to and use of health care services and private and public health insurance.

- Critically evaluate both proposed and implemented health policy interventions and the empirical research seeking to assess the impact of policy interventions in the health care sector.

Please visit the Department webpages on the School of Public Health’s website at http://sph.rutgers.edu/ for additional competencies addressed by this course for other degrees and departments.

Course Objectives:
By the completion of this course, students will be able to:
- Describe how social, economic, and health system factors affect population health and well-being.
- Critically evaluate research studies related to the socioeconomic and health system determinants of population health and well-being.
- Evaluate alternative public policy interventions to improve population health.

Course Requirements and Grading:
- Course requirements consist of active class participation by students, two class presentations and a paper. Final course grades will be assessed on the following basis:
  - Class participation: 10 percent of grade
  - Class presentations: 40 percent of grade
  - Paper: 50 percent of grade

Course Schedule:

Weeks 1 and 2
Neighborhoods and Health: An Overview
- Kawachi and Berkman, Chapter 1: Introduction; Chapter 2: Neighborhoods and Health: An Overview
- Kawachi and Berkman, Chapter 8: Area-Based Deprivation Measures: A U.K. Perspective
Week 3
Methodological Issues: Do Neighborhoods Cause Poor Health?

- Kawachi and Berkman, Chapter 3: Conceptual and Methodological Issues Related to the Presence of Multiple Levels of Organization.

Week 4
Neighborhoods and Obesity


Weeks 5 and 6
Neighborhoods: Impact on the health of the elderly and children

- Kawachi and Berkman, Chapter 14: Neighborhoods, Aging and Functional Limitations
- Kawachi and Berkman, Chapter 10: Infant Health: Race, Risk and Residence
- Schoeni, Chapter 12: Are Some Neighborhoods Better for Child Health than Others?
- **Leventhal and Dupéré. 2011. “Moving to Opportunity: Does Long-Term Exposure to 'Low-Poverty' Neighborhoods Make a Difference for Adolescents?” Social Science and Medicine, Vol. 73, No. 5, 737-743.

Week 7
Culture and Health

Week 8

Geographic Variations in Health Care Systems

Weeks 9 and 10

The Health Care System and Population Health

Week 11

International Evidence

Weeks 12 and 13

Policy and Population Health


- Kawachi and Berman, Chapter 15: Neighborhoods, Health, and Research, and their Relevance to Public Policy.

- **Schoeni, Chapter 11: Residential Environments and Obesity: What Can We Learn About Policy Interventions From Observational Studies.

School of Public Health Honor Code: The School of Public Health Honor Code is found in the student bulletin (sph.rutgers.edu/academics/catalog/index.html ). Each student bears a fundamental
responsibility for maintaining academic integrity and intellectual honesty in his or her graduate work. For example, all students are expected to observe the generally accepted principles of scholarly work, to submit their own rather than another's work, to refrain from falsifying data, and to refrain from receiving and/or giving aid on examinations or other assigned work requiring independent effort. In submitting written material, the writer takes full responsibility for the work as a whole and implies that, except as properly noted by use of quotation marks, footnotes, etc., both the ideas and the works used are his or her own. In addition to maintaining personal academic integrity, each student is expected to contribute to the academic integrity of the school community by not facilitating inappropriate use of her/his own work by others and by reporting acts of academic dishonesty by others to an appropriate school authority. It should be clearly understood that plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can lead to sanctions up to and including separation from the Rutgers School of Public Health.

Policy Concerning Use of Recording Devices and Other Electronic Communications Systems: When personally owned communication/recording devices are used by students to record lectures and/or classroom lessons, such use must be authorized by the faculty member or instructor who must give either oral or written permission prior to the start of the semester and identify restrictions, if any, on the use of mobile communications or recording devices.

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form.