

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

Sociology 475
Demography of Black Community Health
Spring 2007
Call #8128

Professor

Dr. H. D. Horton

AS320

[Email:hdh@csc.albany.edu](mailto:hdh@csc.albany.edu)

website:www.albany.edu/~hdh

<http://webct.albany.edu:8900/>

Phone: 442-4907

Office Hours

MT 4-5:30

Class Meetings

M 5:45-8:30 PM

BA209

Course Objectives: The purpose of this course is to provide the student with an introduction to the demography of health and healthcare issues of the black community. Specifically, the course emphasizes how *racism* in American society is a major determinant of the levels of sickness, disease and death that afflict black people. After a critical analysis of the epidemiology of slavery, the course precedes to provide linkages between racism, the access to health care, and morbidity within the black community. In addition, along with discussions on heart disease, diabetes, stroke, AIDS/HIV and other health issues, the topic of biological warfare against the black community will be addressed. An analysis of the impact of age, gender and social class on black health and healthcare will likewise be highlighted. Finally, the course concludes with a critical analysis of contemporary health policy in the U.S. and its implications for the black community in the 21st century.

It is important to note that this is a *writing-intensive course*. It is specifically designed for *senior-level sociology majors*. Hence, students are expected to have successfully completed the prerequisite courses: Soc 220, Soc 221, and Soc 235. *Students who are neither sociology majors nor seniors should not be in this course*. Sociology seniors who have not met these requirements should consult with the professor as to the advisability of remaining. Finally, given that this is a writing intensive course there is a considerable amount of work required. The reading is extensive and of course, the writing is - *intensive*. Students who are unwilling or unable to commit the time and the quality of effort that this course demands should drop.

Texts: Briathwaite, Ronald L. and Sandra Taylor. 2001. Health Issues in the Black Community
Braithwaite, Ronald L. et al. 2000. Building Health Coalitions in the Black Community
Jones, James H. 1993. Bad Blood: The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment
Roberts, Dorothy. 1997. Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction and the Meaning of Liberty

Course Requirements: Assigned readings and class attendance: The assigned readings for this course are all required. For the most part, these readings are easily understood. Consequently, the instructor will spend little time repeating or summarizing what you are required to read. These materials will be discussed in class, and you are encouraged to raise questions for purposes of clarification and elaboration. Because much additional material will be provided in class, and because this material as well as assigned readings will be covered on exams, regular class attendance (90%) is necessary for a

high level of performance and high grade. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain missed lecture notes, changes in course assignments, etc.

Group Assignments: The class will be divided into groups for the purpose of discussing and presenting the assigned readings. This is a very important part of the course because it provides students with presentation skills and the opportunity to collaborate: two very essential professional tools in modern society. Students will be graded based upon group participation. The grading will have two components: the grade from the professor (90%) as well as a peer-evaluation (10%). To avoid scheduling problems, all official group meetings will occur in class and on WebCT.

Written Assignments: Students will be required to submit 3-5 page book reports as well as written one-page summaries of articles assigned. Submissions must be typed and double-spaced. These assignments encourage preparation and facilitate class discussion. Students will lose 5 percentage points per day for late assignments.

Take Home Exams: *There will be 4 take home essay exams.* Each exam will consist of five questions. These exams must be typed and double-spaced. Students will be graded based upon the substantive knowledge that they demonstrate, the originality of their thinking and the quality of their writing. Exams will be due at the *beginning* of the next class period. *All late exams will lose 10 percentage points per day.*

Term Paper: A minimum 10 page research paper is required. Students must submit a one-page paper proposal prior to beginning work on the paper. The paper *must* adhere to the guidelines that the professor will provide in class. Papers must be submitted by the deadline in order to receive full consideration. Deadline for proposal: *February 5, 2002*. Deadline for paper: *April 2 2002*. *Late papers will lose 5 percentage points per day.* Students have the option of submitting an early draft of their papers for comments and suggestions by *March 5, 2002*. Papers received after this date will be considered as final drafts.

Grading:

Essay Exams	25%
Term Paper:	25%
Book Reports:	20%
Article Summaries:	15%
Group Participation	15%

Policy on making-up missed worked: Students will be allowed to make-up missed work only under the following circumstances:(1) written certification from a physician is presented indicating that the student was too ill to be present on the due date; (2) a written certification of a death in the family is presented; (3) written certification from a coach is presented stating that attendance was necessary at a previously scheduled intercollegiate event; (4) when written certification is available for some other extra-ordinary event that makes class attendance and/or assignment submission impossible.

COURSE OUTLINE

I. Introduction to the Demography of Black Community Health

Roberts, Dorothy. Killing the Black Body. (in its entirety)

Taylor, Sandra and Ronald Braithwaite. 2001. "African American Health: An Overview." Chapter 1 in Braithwaite and Taylor (hereafter, B & T).

Chohall, Alwyn T. and Hope E. Bannister. 2001. "The Health Status of Children and Adolescents." Chapter 2 in B & T.

Taylor, Sandra. 2001. "The Health Status of Black Women." Chapter 3, B & T.

Braithwaite, Ronald L. 2001. "The Health Status of Black Men." Chapter 4, B & T.

Jackson, James S. and Sherill L. Sellers. 2001. "Health and the Elderly." Chapter 5, B & T.

Neighbors, Harold W. and David R. Williams. "The Epidemiology of Mental Disorder, 1985-2000." Chapter 6 in B & T.

EXAM ONE: February 12, 2007

II. Chronic Diseases and the Black Community

Flack, John M. et. al. 2001. "Hypertension and Other Risk Factors for Stroke." Chapter 10, B & T.

Elders, Joycelyn M. and Frederick G. Murphy. 2001. "Diabetes." Chapter 12 in B & T.

Essien, Joyce et. al. 2001. "Pediatric Asthma in African American Children." Chapter 15 in B & T.

Whitten, Charles F. 2001. "Sickle Cell Anemia." Chapter 13 in B & T.

Ellis, Herman M. and Robert S. Levine. 2001. "Tuberculosis." Chapter 14 in B & T.

Jones, et al. 2001. "Cancer." Chapter 11 in B & T.

Callender, Clive O. and Margretta B. Hall. 2001. "The Dilemma of Organ and Tissue Transplantation." Chapter 9 in B & T.

EXAM TWO: March 19, 2007

III. Lifestyle Behaviors and Institutional Racism

Jones, James H. Bad Blood (in its entirety).

Hammond, Rodney W. and Deborah Prothrow-Stith. 2001. "The Epidemic of Homicide and Violence." Chapter 8 in B & T.

Taylor, Wendell et. al. 2001. "Physical Activity." Chapter 21 in B & T.

Kumanyika, Shriki and Angela Odoms. 2001. "Nutrition." Chapter 20 in B & T.

Harper, Frederick D. 2001. "Alcohol Use and Misuse." Chapter 19 in B & T.

Headen, Sandra W. and Robert Robinson. 2001. "Tobacco: From Slavery to Addiction." Chapter 17 in B & T.

Strickland, Tony L. 2001. "Substance Abuse." Chapter 18 in B & T.

Sweet, Loretta et al. 2001. "HIV/AIDS." Chapter 16 in B & T.

EXAM THREE: April 23, 2007

IV. Black Community Health and Policy Issues

Braithwaite, Ronald et al. 2000. Building Health Coalitions in the Black Community. (in its entirety)

Wimberly, Anne E. Streaty. 2001. "The Role of Black Faith Communities in Fostering Health." Chapter 7 in B & T.

Thomas, Stephen B. And Sandra Crouse Quinn. 2001. "Closing the Gap: Eliminating Health Disparities." Chapter 26 in B & T.

Bullard, Robert D. et al. 2001. "The Quest for Environmental Justice." Chapter 22 in B & T.

Resincow, Ken and Ronald Braithwaite. 2001. "Cultural Sensitivity in Public Health." Chapter 25 in B & T.

Corbin-Smith, Giselle and Kimberly R. Jacob Arriola. 2001. "Research Ethics: A Legacy of Distrust." Chapter 23 in B & T.

Walker, Bailus Jr. 2001. 2001. "Health Policy Challenges." Chapter 24 in B & T.

FINAL EXAM: May 14, 2007