COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers the social demography and social structure of Los Angeles and their consequences for health and other aspects of well-being. Los Angeles is a huge and highly diverse metropolitan area, which is often seen as a model (both good and bad) of future urban development in the United States and abroad. The goal is both to develop a deeper understanding of the Los Angeles region (and similar urban areas in the US and other countries) and to use Los Angeles as a laboratory for considering large issues of demographic change, social structure and inequality, race/ethnic and income segregation, immigration and settlement, and the consequences of these processes for residents’ health and welfare. The course also considers urban and public health policies.

Students are required to:

- Complete all readings and consider the issues they raise before coming to class;
- Participate in online discussions with classmates and the instructor on the day before class;
- Participate fully in class discussions at a professional academic level;
- Take full responsibility for assignments and submitting them on time;

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Completion of all readings and class room discussion (20% of grade)
2. Participation in online discussion prior to class (15% of grade)
3. Complete a short assignment (20% of grade)
4. Class presentation of project (10% of grade)
5. Final project (35% of grade)

Further details on each of these requirements is provided below.
Readings and Class Participation

Students are required to complete all readings and to think seriously about them before coming to class. Make sure you understand the central ideas raised in each reading, how the readings relate to each other, theoretical and analytic issues they raise, how the analysis was done and what the conclusions are.

Online Discussion Prior to Class

To jump start class discussions, each week a few students will be assigned to post “initial observations” about the readings for that week. Initial observations must be posted to the Chat section of the course website on ccle.ucla.edu by 6PM on Monday before each week’s class. Each student will be assigned to post initial observations for one week’s reading. Observations are intended to be provocative and stimulate other students (and the instructor!) to think about the material. However, they should not be offensive or potentially offensive to other participants. Observations should be brief (a paragraph or several sentences, perhaps) and can include:

- Questions that the readings raised individually or collectively
- Issues or questions related to the readings but on current events in Los Angeles
- Central themes of the readings (individually or collectively) which may not be readily apparent
- Critiques or discussion of limitations or strengths of the analysis
- Ideas generated by readings

As soon that week’s observations are posted (by 6PM on the Monday before class), other students should read the observations and add their own (comments on the student’s observations, other questions, ideas, or issues). The time for adding observations each week will close at noon on the day of the class. All students are expected to post comments and reactions to the readings each week (except the first week).

Short Assignment

Students are required to complete a short assignment, which will be due the sixth week of class. The assignment can take one of three forms:

1. An observational study of an organization, place, or neighborhood in Los Angeles County designed to answer a question about the social demography and social structure of Los Angeles. Write a short paper describing the central question you want to answer, how you picked what or where to observe, and how you did the observation study. Include a list of questions or issues you want to observe while at the study site.

2. Interview with a Los Angeles politician, city or county planner, senior utilities official, housing developer, religious leader, community organizer, non-profit leader, etc. designed to answer a question about the social demography and
social structure of Los Angeles. Write a short paper describing the central question you want to answer, how you picked the person to interview, the role of this person in Los Angeles and/or his/her community. Explain why you wanted to interview this person and what you wanted to find out about. Include a list of questions or topic areas covered in the interview. Interviews can take place in person or by phone.

3. **Policy Brief** on a current demographic, social and/or health issue in Los Angeles. [For instructions on how to write a policy brief, see: http://www.jhsphs.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/womens-and-childrens-health-policy-center/de/policy_brief/ If the hyperlink doesn’t work, cut and paste it into your browser. I *strongly* advise you to use items C., D., and E. on this website to help you write the policy brief.]

If you do an observation or interview, prepare a brief paper (~5-10 pages) describing what you did and analyzing what you learned. If you do a policy brief, follow the instructions given in the link above and prepare a polished 5-7 page brief.

You can also propose another form in which this assignment can be completed and I will consider it. However, you must have *advance permission* if you want to go this route. The goal is to “get your hands dirty” by exploring some aspect of Los Angeles in person.

**Writing**

Your short assignment and the final project should be concise and well written. It should be of professional quality. For tips on writing and editing your own writing see: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/658/01/

http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/revising-drafts/

For help in writing, I strongly recommend the UCLA Graduate Writing Center (http://gsrc.ucla.edu/gwc/). Everyone could benefit from their services. The trick is to see them as early in the quarter as possible because the demand for their help increases as the quarter goes on.

**Class Presentation**

Prepare an in-class presentation of the results of your final project. Specific instructions will be provided in class.

**Final Project**

Students will write a paper for this course. The paper can take one of two forms:

1. A thorough and critical review of the literature on a particular topic and how it works or plays out in Los Angeles.
2. (Only for doctoral students. Masters students only if you have completed a multivariate statistics course, are experience in using a statistical package, have previously worked with the data you plan to use, and have the permission of the instructor): An empirical analysis of survey or other data on an important research question related to Los Angeles

Paper requirements will be discussed at greater length in class. A one page proposal for the paper is due by the fourth week of class. Students are urged to decide on a paper topic early and get started on the analysis in the first week or two of the quarter. Final papers are due on the final day of class.
Learning Objectives and Competencies

The following learning objectives and competencies have been adopted for this course.

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<tr>
<th>Learning Objectives</th>
<th>ASPH Competencies</th>
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<tr>
<td>Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:</td>
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<td>1. Describe the social, economic and physical factors which led to the development</td>
<td>H4. Describe how health inequities are related to historical and contemporary</td>
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<td>of the Los Angeles region (and similar urban areas in the US and other countries).</td>
<td>structural inequities in power and privilege.</td>
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<td>2. Discuss the relationships between demographic change, social structure and</td>
<td>H1. Access and understand the public health literature and information and apply</td>
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<td>inequality, race/ethnic and income segregation, immigration and settlement in</td>
<td>it to community health.</td>
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<td>large urban areas.</td>
<td>H4. Describe how health inequities are related to historical and contemporary</td>
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<td>3. Identify major social and health problems in the Los Angeles area and</td>
<td>structural inequities in power and privilege.</td>
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<td>understand their social, economic, policy, and other origins.</td>
<td>H3. Identify and explain how social, cultural, and behavioral factors affect the</td>
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<td>4. Assess the consequences of demographic and social structure for the health and</td>
<td>health of individuals, communities and populations.</td>
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<td>well-being of adults and children.</td>
<td>H4. Describe how health inequities are related to historical and contemporary</td>
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<td>5. Identify the effects of neighborhoods and other social and physical environments</td>
<td>structural inequities in power and privilege.</td>
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<td>on the health and well-being of families and individuals.</td>
<td>H1. Access and understand the public health literature and information and apply</td>
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Students will attain these objectives by attending and participating fully in class sessions and online discussions, doing required reading, and completing course assignments.
REQUIRED COURSE READING AND SCHEDULE

Week 1. Introduction and Early California History


At: http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/78spring/labor.htm

Explore: the Tongva/Gabrielino Tribal Website: http://www.gabrielinotribe.org/
Explore: the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Website: http://www.santaynezchumash.org/

Week 2. Los Angeles History, Growth, and Development to Early 1900s


Chapter 1 "From Pueblo to Town"

Chapter 2 "Private Enterprise, Public Authority, and Urban Expansion."

Chapter 4, “The Great Migration."

Week 3. Los Angeles, 1900-Present


Chapter 9 “Los Angeles Becomes Industrial"

Chapter 12 “The Los Angeles Region Transformed"
Week 4. Demographic Change in Los Angeles

For those with no previous training in demography:


For everyone:


Short Pieces on Contemporary Demography:


Johnson, Hans and Joseph Hayes. The Demographics of Mortality in California. At: http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/caccounts/CC_504HJCC.pdf


Week 4. Inequality

Short Articles

DeSliver, Drew (2013) “U.S. Income Inequality, on the rise for decades, is now highest since 1928” Pew Research Center. At: http://pewrsr.ch/1bkeYHr


Regular Readings


Week 5. Immigration


Week 6. Race and Ethnicity


Week 7. Residential Segregation


**Short Reports:**


**Week 8. The Great Recession**


**Week 9. Neighborhoods**


Week. 10 Health and Well-being


