Course Title:
Advanced Research Topics in Community Health Sciences:
Violence, Health and Prevention

Course Website:

Meeting Days/Time: Tuesdays; 5-7 pm

Instructor: Mekeila Cook, PhD
UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs
Bio-Behavioral Sciences and Neuroscience
David Geffen School of Medicine
Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior
Email: mcook01@ucla.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays 4-5 pm in CHS 36-081C

Course Description:
Violence is a public health issue that continues to gain national attention. Recent events such as school and university shootings, the national conversation about rape and sexual violence on college campus, and the long-standing work in intimate partner violence prevention illustrate that violence in US culture is endemic, and directly and indirectly touches all of our lives. This course will address violence from a public health perspective, with an emphasis on gender-based violence. We will begin with an overview of various prominent theoretical perspectives of violence, including the ecological model applied to violence. We will review multiple forms of violence such as child abuse, sexual violence and the implications of current events on the national dialogue regarding violence. The course will conclude with a review of violence prevention initiatives and interventions. There will be guest experts present during some classes to discuss specific violence prevention efforts. It is therefore imperative that students attend each class and be on time.

Course Objectives:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Objective</th>
<th>Related MPH Competencies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Identify the magnitude of violence in the United States and access national sources of violence data.</td>
<td>1. Access and understand the public health literature and information and apply it to community health.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Examine and critique violence-related theory and research.</td>
<td>2. Describe theories, concepts, models from the social and behavioral sciences and apply these theories to community health practice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Conceptualize and describe social factors that cultivate and inhibit violence, and including gender-based violence.</td>
<td>3. Identify and explain how social, cultural, and behavioral factors affect the health of individuals, communities and populations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Analyze social policies, public health interventions and community initiatives</td>
<td>4. Describe how health inequities are related to historical and contemporary structural inequities in power and privilege.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Describe, explain and apply procedures for evidence-based planning and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The syllabus is subject to change. If changes are necessary, students will be notified by the Instructor.
related to violence prevention.

Course Requirements:

- Weekly attendance to and participation in class discussions
- Submission of current news report or research article related to the week’s readings
- Weekly blog entry regarding the reading assignment and class discussion (250-400 words)
- Final paper proposing a new policy or intervention (6-8 pages)

Class Participation:

This class is designed to facilitate group discussion. It is imperative that each student read the assignments prior to class and attend each class on time. We will have various guest speakers and students are expected to engage in class discussion. If you will be late or absent from class, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor BEFORE class begins. Emergencies may arise; it remains the student’s responsibility to be in contact with the instructor as soon as possible if absence from class is necessary.

Weekly reading assignments:

All articles will be posted to the course website and can be found online. Students are expected to read the assigned readings prior to class meeting. The purpose of this assignment is to prepare students for class discussion.

Weekly online post:

Two (2) students per week will be assigned to post one current event or published article (within the last six to twelve months) relevant to the week’s topic of discussion on the course website. This assignment will be due by 9 pm on Sunday before the class meeting. Students should be prepared to briefly discuss their posting during class. The purpose of this assignment is to identify and analyze current events relating to the weekly topic. Students will be graded as completing or not completing the assignment.

Weekly blog submission:

Students will be required to keep a weekly online blog in which they will submit their perspectives, impressions and personal reflections regarding the assigned readings. Blogs will be uploaded in a Google Document and shared only with the Instructor. Blog entries will need to be uploaded no later than 9 pm on the Sunday prior to class. Students will be graded as completing or not completing the assignment by the deadline.

Final paper:

Students will be required to write a 6-8 page paper of their choosing either: 1) propose a state-level policy related to violence prevention, or 2) propose a community-level violence prevention implementation of community health programs, policies and interventions.

Note: The syllabus is subject to change. If changes are necessary, students will be notified by the Instructor.
intervention. The purpose of this assignment is for students to develop skills in developing policies to address violence or in developing an intervention to reduce violence. Additionally, this assignment will be used to assess what each student has learned throughout the quarter. Students will need to submit their paper topic by week 6 for approval by the Instructor. The final paper will be due during finals week, Tuesday, March 15, 2016. The paper will be graded based on the rubric provided in week 3 of the class.

**Grading:**
Grading will be based on the student’s performance in the following areas:
- Weekly Attendance and Class Participation: 25%
- Weekly news or article online post: 5%
- Weekly Blog Entry: 25%
- Final Paper: 45%

**Course Schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Guest Lecturer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Overview of Gender-Based Violence and the Social Consequences</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Theoretical Frameworks and Social Determinants of Violence</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Child Abuse</td>
<td>Chris Blodgett, PhD, Director of the Washington State University Child and Family Research Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Youth Violence: Bullying and Dating Violence</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Intimate Partner Violence</td>
<td>Debbie Lee, Vice President, Futures Without Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Sexual Violence on Campus</td>
<td>Dana Bolger, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Know Your IX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Violence and Culture</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Violence Prevention and Interventions</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Violence Prevention and Interventions</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Guest Panel of Survivors and Stakeholders</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Course Readings:**

**Week 1: Overview of Gender-Based Violence and the Social Consequences**


**Week 2: Theoretical Frameworks and Social Determinants of Violence**


**Week 3: Child Abuse** (Guest Lecturer: Chris Blodgett)


**Week 4: Youth Violence: Bullying and Dating Violence**


**Week 5: Intimate Partner Violence** (Guest Lecturer: Debbie Lee)


**Week 6: Sexual Violence on Campus** (Guest Lecturer: Dana Bolger)


**Week 7: Violence, Sex and Culture**


Note: The syllabus is subject to change. If changes are necessary, students will be notified by the Instructor.

**Week 8: Prevention and Intervention – Youth**


**Week 9: Prevention and Intervention – Intimate Partner Violence**


**Week 10: Guest Panel**

• No Assigned Readings

**Recommended Readings for Further Study**


Note: The syllabus is subject to change. If changes are necessary, students will be notified by the Instructor.


Note: The syllabus is subject to change. If changes are necessary, students will be notified by the Instructor.