IDIS 150 Health in America – SOFI Summer 2013

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Catalog description: An exploration of the economic, political, cultural, societal, and ethical aspects of health in America. Focus on contemporary health issues including obesity, tobacco use, substance abuse, mental health, violence, and access to health care. Every semester.

Course description: Students will gain an understanding of health as a contemporary and complex social issue by examining the economic, political, cultural, social, and ethical influences on the leading health indicators identified in Healthy People 2020. Information gathered from the Internet, scholarly literature, and the popular press will be applied in classroom discussions, student presentations, and debates.

Course objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to
1. Briefly describe the role of Healthy People 2020 and the leading health indicators in the health of the U.S.
2. Explain the scientific underpinnings of obesity, tobacco use, substance abuse, environmental health, mental health, and violence.
3. Explain the components of “access to care”.
4. Summarize economic, political, cultural, social, and ethical influences on selected leading health indicators (LHI) –
   • tobacco use,
   • mental health
   • substance abuse,
   • obesity,
   • violence,
   • Sexual Behavior
   • access to health care
5. Identify patterns of influence common to the health indicators listed above.
6. Develop a well-researched and well-reasoned position on a dilemma related to at least one LHI.
7. Propose a creative approach to improving the nation’s performance related to one LHI.


Course requirements

1. Change Worksheet: For each topic the students will creatively come up with a change idea on how to improve health for this topic. The students will use the format provided online.

2. Exams/Quizzes Each exam will ask students to identify potential economic, political, cultural, societal, and ethical issues inherent in hypothetical health-related situations. Exams will be based on chapters in the text as well as slides from the instructor.

Grading Policy
The scores for the semester will be added according to the scheme above and converted to a letter grade as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>below 60%</td>
<td>D/F</td>
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</tbody>
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Please note: Students are expected to use (and will be graded on their use of) the following standards in completing their work:

Clarity - responses are understandable and incorporate examples or illustrations.
Accuracy - responses are supported by information from the text, relevant websites, or other sources.
Depth - responses are complete and address the complexity of the issue being discussed.
Breadth - responses consider and describe more than one point of view or pose additional questions.
Logic – responses are organized and make sense.

Late work: All work should be submitted on time. Assignments submitted on days subsequent to the due date will be penalized 50%. There will be NO opportunity to make up exams unless an unforeseen emergency arises.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:
Academic dishonesty is defined to include any form of cheating and/or plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, such acts as stealing or altering testing instruments; falsifying the identity of persons for any academic purpose; offering, giving or receiving unauthorized assistance on an examination, quiz or other written or oral material in a course, or falsifying information on any type of academic record. Plagiarism is the presentation of written or oral material in a manner which conceals the true source of documentary material; or the presentation of material which uses hypotheses, conclusions, evidence, data, or the like, in a way that the student appears to have done work which he/she did not, in fact do. The University regulations are very explicit about academic misconduct and cheating, and these regulations will be fully enforced.