



**RWJF Center for Health Policy, and
Department of Sociology**

**Immigration and Health Policy Analysis: Comparative Perspectives
SOC 595, ECON 595, POLS 512, and PH 560**

Fall 2009, Wednesday 7:00-9:30pm
Social Science Building 78, Room 1061

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Course Description: In this course, we will explore and explain the relationship between forms of social organization and health outcomes. Specifically, we will study how migration policies in different countries shape migration patterns and the ways immigrants experience health and illness, as well as how they access and use medical services in the host country. Our quest is to decipher what health researchers have come to label as the 'healthy immigrant paradox'.

Although there is an increasing interest in the study of immigration and health, the field is still quite young and lacking robust explanations of how migration and immigration relates to health and illness. In fact, health research has produced counterintuitive information. For instance, although migrants arrive to their destinies young and healthy, the healthy status declines rapidly. The explanations for the rapid decline in the healthy conditions vary and remain inconclusive.

Throughout the course, we will research and compare migration policies and health outcomes among different countries. We will specifically survey state migration policies and the categories that define immigrant status. We will then identify health and illness outcomes as well as patterns of medical services utilization among immigrant populations. Based on the empirical information, we will develop explanations about the relationship between immigrant status and health outcomes.

Course Objectives: One of the main objectives of the course is to focus on creating new knowledge rather than just consuming knowledge. In addition to learning about the relationship between immigration and health, I have designed the course to provide you with knowledge and skills that you can apply in other contexts. I encourage you, your team, and the class to plan to turn your course work into an academic presentation or a manuscript for publication.

In this course, you should expect to learn:

- Selected explanations of migration and health
- To conduct and document web-based archival research
- To collect and interpret policy and epidemiological information
- Prepare and report analyses orally and in writing

Course Design: This is a research-based, writing intensive, and therefore an active learning course. As part of the course, you and a research partner will conduct research on migration policies and health outcomes in a country of your choice. I have integrated the research experiential component to help us visualize the materials discussed in class. As we continue to work in class, we will move to intuitive forms of learning and to the development of new forms of knowledge.

I have integrated three components to the design of the course. (a) Building conceptual and theoretical tools: during our class sessions, we will use the assigned reading materials to discuss and synthesize explanations about migration, immigration, and health. (b) Developing research and writing skills: in class, we will discuss research and writing skills that you and your teammate will need in the development of each segment of the research project.

Lastly, (c) critical analysis of policies and epidemiological information: we will integrate the reading materials and information gathered in class discussions. The comparative and analysis will emerge from our in-class discussions, where we will critically examine assigned reading materials in light of your ongoing research. In an incremental format, we will develop explanations of how migration policies produce specific health outcomes.

Course Assessment: Evaluating and assessing your learning experience and skill development in our class is a monumental task. For the purpose of our course, I will evaluate your progress based on three areas: a. attendance and active class participation (20 percent); b. ten two-page work-in-progress reports (40 percent); and, your active participation in all research activities (40 percent).

a. Attendance and reading assignments

The success of the course depends on your attendance to and preparation for each class session. I encourage you to attend all class session, to have critically read each reading assignment, and to come prepared to ask and to answer questions. On-time attendance and active participation in class will account for twenty percent of your course grade.

b. Individual work-in-progress reports

As part of the course work, you and a teammate will work on a semester-long research project, which both of you will develop in small increments. The two-page individual work-in-progress reports are a part of the research project. In each report, you will integrate the information you have researched, segments from reading assignments, and class discussions.

Sharing the two-page report by 6:00pm on the day before our class sessions will allow me to give you immediate feedback on your work and continually support your ongoing research efforts. Please see the course assignment guidelines for further instructions. Each of the ten work-in-progress report accounts for four percentage points towards your final course grade.

c. Team research project

A main course component is your active engagement in a team-based and a semester-long research project. You and a teammate will research migration and health policies in a country of your choice. The team will combine the empirical information with course readings and class discussion to formulate explanation about the relationship between migration policies and health outcomes.

During the semester, you and your teammate will receive instructions and support from me and other colleagues at the university to develop your research project. I will provide each team member with feedback on the progress of your research. The team will present orally to the class a synthesis of your work and will submit two interim and a final report.

In this part of the course requirement, you will be responsible for completing the following tasks:

- Research the history and demographic characteristics
- Research migrant and health policy
- Research health and illness outcomes
- Analyze and synthesize the information gathered
- Deliver to the class three oral presentations on synthesis of research and analysis
- Submit in writing two interim and a final report of your research results and analysis

I encourage you to meet with me on a regular basis individually or as a group to discuss your research strategies, the progress on your research, and analysis and writing. Please see the course assignment guidelines for further instructions. Your active participation in the research activities will account for 40 percent to your course final grade.

Accommodating Learning Styles: I like to honor each person's learning style and to invite you to meet with me to discuss your specific style. I am committed to work with you to make your participation in this course a fun and a rich learning experience. I encourage you to discuss your individual learning style as soon as possible to make the necessary accommodations.

Sources of Readings: I have selected our set of readings from the field of sociology and other disciplines. You will find the reading assignments in the four main books I have selected, and as pdf files of chapters from books and various articles. You are welcome to purchase the four books at the south campus bookstore.

- Bean D. Frank, and Gilian Stevens. 2003. *America's Newcomers and the Dynamics of Diversity*. New York, NY; Russel Sage Foundation. ISBN 0-87154-124-6
- Burke, Peter. 2005. *History and Social Theory*. Second Edition. Ithaca, NY; Cornell University Press. ISBN 978-0-8014-7285-7
- White, Kevin 2009. *An Introduction to the Sociology of Health and Illness*. Second Edition Thousand Oaks, CA; SAGE Publications. ISBN 9781412918794

I have also selected a few chapters from books and various articles. You will find these items as pdf files at the UNM WebCT course site. Please note that I have included full citations to all materials we will use in class. In turn, I expect you to document, using in-text citations and bibliographies, the works that you will use in writing assignments. Although we will discuss citation format in class, please let me know if you need assistance in becoming familiar with a citation format.

Course program and reading schedule

Please note that I have listed the readings and assignments on the day on which these are due. You will find the full citation to the chapter and articles we are using in class at the end of the syllabus. In addition to the readings due on each day, I have noted when we have special guest speaker, and when individual and research team items are due.

Introductions and Planning

- August 26

Introductions and Approach

Discussion of the course and course work (Hernández-Arias 2009a:1-6)

Tasks and expectations (Hernández-Arias 2009b:1-10)

Explanations and Building Explanations

Immigration's nuances and complexities (Bean and Stevens 2003:1-15)

Introduction to sociology and health (White 2009:1-13)

Theorists and historians (Burke 2005:1-20)

- August 29 - Optional

Mentorship Education Program

The organizer of the MEP Annual Training Institute cordially invited to join health researchers and their mentors at the institute's reception. The invitation is an opportunity for you to meet junior and senior health researchers that are meeting in Albuquerque. For more details about the location and time, please contact me.

Conceptual and Research Tools

- September 02

The State as a Social Determinant of Health Outcomes

Presentation: Robert O. Valdez, PhD, Executive Director

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy

Design and Methods

Models and methods (Burke 2005:21-43)

Examples of comparative health research (Ovretvit 1998:27-44)

Conducting research in sociology (Johnson, et al. 2006:99-154)

Research Team: Presenting your selected country

- September 09

Research Resources on Migration and Health Policies

Presentation: Richard Carr, MLS, Coordinator, References & User Support Services

Health Science Library and Information Center

Writing as Work in Progress

Purpose, perspectives and philosophies (Ovretvit 1998:45-62)

A handbook of style for sociology (Johnson, et al. 2006:13-98)

The Endnote guided tour (Endnote, 2009:41-96)

Individual work-in-progress: Historical and demographic characteristics

- September 12 - Optional

Invitation for a potluck gathering

I like to invite you to an informal potluck gathering at my house in the NW of Albuquerque.

The idea is for us to have the opportunity to get to know each other in an informal setting.

Partners are welcome. For more details about the location and time, please contact me.

Migration, Immigration, and Health Policies

- September 16

Defining the State and Belonging

Creation of states in international law (Crawford 2005:3-36)

Economic organization (Swedberg 2003:53-73)

Defining the immigrant (Loue 1998:19-36)

Explaining migration and immigration

Central concepts (Burke 2005:44-115)

U.S. Immigration: a historical perspective (Waddell 1998:1-17)

Migration flows, theories and contexts (Bean and Stevens 2003:16-41)

Individual work-in-progress: Type of government and migration policies

- September 23

Defining health, illness and medicine

The social construction of medical knowledge (White 2009:14-32)

The development of the sociology of health (White 2009:33-54)

Practical issues in comparative health research (Ovretvit 1998:121-134)

The state, public health, and welfare

Central Problems (Burke 2005:116-140)

Which face? Whose nation? (Markel and Stern 2000:93-112)

Citizenship identity and social inequality (de la Paz 2004:1-10)

Individual work-in-progress: Migration policies and health

- September 30

Research Team Presentation and Report:

Written team report I: What characterize the migration and health policies in your country?

- October 5-6 - Optional

Bi-national Policy Forum on Migration and Health

Hilton Santa Fe, Buffalo Thunder Resort; Santa Fe, NM. This is a great opportunity to learn from and to interact with individuals working on immigration and health in different countries in the Americas. For more details about accommodations and expectations from your participation, please contact me.

Linking Policies and Health Outcomes

- October 07

Research Resources on Migrant and Immigrant Health Outcomes

Presentation: Richard Carr, MLS, Coordinator, References & User Support Services
Health Science Library and Information Center

Interpreting Epidemiologic Information

Introduction to epidemiology (CDC, 2009:1.1-1.94)

Measures of risk (CDC, 2009:3.1-3.66)

Individual work-in-progress: Overall organization of the medical or health system

- October 14

Physical health and illness outcomes

Health of the foreign-born population (Stephen, et al. 1994:1-10)

Assuring the health of immigrants (Kandula, et al. 2004:357-376)

Immigrant economic incorporation (Bean and Stevens 2003:114-142)

Rethinking Health Outcomes

Foucault and the sociology of medical knowledge (White 2009:117-129)

Materialist approaches to the sociology of health (White 2009:79-103)

The functions and reproduction of migrant labor (Burawoy 1996 [1976]:32-72)

Individual work-in-progress: Primary physical health and illness outcomes

- October 21 Fall break, no class

- October 28

Mental health and illness outcomes

Physical and mental health characteristics (Dey and Lucas 2006:1-20)

Mental health of undocumented Mexican immigrants (Sullivan and Rehm 2005:240-251)

Discrimination and immigrants in Spain (Agudelo-Suárez, et al. 2009:1866-74)

Mental health as an interactive product

Race Ethnicity, and health (White 2009:155-169)

Immigration and race-ethnicity (Bean and Stevens 2003:224-249)

The social determination of ethnic/racial inequalities (Nazroo and Williams 2006:238-266)

Individual work-in-progress: Primary mental health and illness outcomes

- November 04

Utilization of Medical Services

A comparison of health status and health care (Hernández-Quevedo, et al. 2009)

Health status and health services utilization (Laroche 2000:51-75)

Health care use among undocumented immigrants (Berk, et al. 2000:51-64)

Limitations to the use of medical services

Linguistic incorporation among immigrants (Bean and Stevens 2003:143-171)

Social illegitimacy as a foundation of health inequality (Fassin 2004:201-214)

Health and labor market disadvantage (Bartley, et al. 2006:78-96)

Individual work-in-progress: Primary use of medical services

- November 11
Dominant explanations of health outcomes among immigrants
Howard Waitzkin, MD, PhD, Distinguished Professor
Family and Community Medicine and Department of Sociology
Explanations of integration
The new immigrants and theories of incorporation (Bean and Stevens 2003:94-113)
Acculturation (Clark and Hofsess 1998:37-59)
Arab immigrants: a new case for ethnicity and health? (Read, et al. 2005:77-82)
Individual work-in-progress: Patterns of explanations about immigrants, health, illness and medicine

- November 18
Research Team Presentation and Report
Building Explanations: How do health research present and explain health and illness patterns and use of medical services among immigrant populations?

- November 25 Thanksgiving, no class session

Rebuilding and Building Explanations

- December 02
Reconsidering dominant explanations
Diversity and change in America (Bean and Stevens 2003:250-262)
Immigration research in the US: origins and future (Rumbaut 2000:23-43)
The rise of non-state actors in migration regulation (Lahav 2000:215-241)
Incorporating Additional Explanatory Factors
Social theory and social change (Burke 2005:141-171)
Social organization, stress and health (Brunner and Marmot 2006:6-30)
Cat's dilemma and questions in economic sociology (Swedberg 2003:283-304)
Individual work-in-progress: Factors missing in the patterns of explanations

- December 09
Immigrants as Political Agents
Gillian Madeiros, PhD, Research Fellow
RWJF Center for Health Policy and Department of Political Science
Explaining migration policy and health outcomes
Postmodernity and postmodernism (Burke 2005:172-189)
Postmodernity, epidemiology and neo-liberalism (White 2009:55-79)
Immigration research: from a status to stratification (Hernandez-Arias, 2009:1-32)
Individual work-in-progress: New forms of explanations

- December 16
Research Team Presentation and Final Report
Building Explanations: What alternative factors contribute to explaining health and illness outcomes as well as access to and use of medical services among immigrants?

References:

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