

# **Hot Topics in Social Justice and Injustice in America Today**

**Course Number: HNR 195I-014**

**Honors Colloquium**

**Course dates: 1/16/20-5/14/20**

**Description of Course** This seminar course will provide an overview of contemporary issues in social justice in the U.S. Through evidence-based readings, discussion, and guest lecturers students will become familiar with current societal issues, including income inequality, access to health care, the origins and impact of climate change, immigration, and reproductive rights. One field trip on a topic of student choice will provide hands-on experience and opportunity for linking readings, discussions and reality.

## **Course Prerequisites or Co-requisites**

This course is for students who are active in the Honors College.

## **Instructor and Contact Information**

Course Director: Paul Gordon, MD, MPH; Professor, University of Arizona

Rm 3122 College of Medicine

(520) 626-3969

[pgordon@email.arizona.edu](mailto:pgordon@email.arizona.edu)

Office hours: After class, or please email for appointment

Co-Directors: Patricia Kelly, PhD, MPH; Professor, University of Missouri, Kansas City

Joshua Freeman, MD; Chair Emeritus, Univ of Kansas, Clinical Professor, University of Arizona

Eve Shapiro, MD, MPH; Professor, Emerita, University of Arizona

## **Course Format and Teaching Methods**

Short lecture presentations followed by small group discussions

- Students will have assigned reading each week
- Students will submit a question from the readings by 6pm on the night before our session
- During the class session, one of the faculty will make a short presentation
- Discussion will then ensue based on one or more of the submitted questions

## **Course Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes**

Course Objectives: The objectives of this course are to provide students with an overview of issues of social justice in our health care system and our society. Through readings and discussions, students will gain a deeper understanding of these issues and think critically about measures to approach these issues.

Expected Learning Outcomes: At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Articulate political, policy and socio-economic factors integral to the topics discussed and engage in robust debate about these concepts
- Demonstrate understanding of the unique perspective of each of the week's readings' authors and articulate how they propose to address the issue
- Analyze and evaluate how cross-cultural and health disparities issues affect these issues of social justice
- Generate an informed opinion about the socio-cultural problems and issues discussed during class
- Demonstrate a well-developed critical faculty for distinguishing among the various theoretical and ideological interpretations of national events related to issues of social justice as they are presented in the media

## **Absence and Class Participation Policy**

Participating in the course and attending lectures and other course events are vital to the learning process. As such, attendance is required at all sessions. Absences may affect a student's final course grade. If you anticipate being absent, are unexpectedly absent, or are unable to participate in class online activities, please contact me as soon as possible.

That said, emergencies arise and life happens. **You may miss one day of class with no penalty for your grade, and without submitting any form of documentation. Each additional absence will result in a 5-point reduction in your final grade.** If an unexpected event (accident, extended illness, family event) occurs, please contact the instructors as soon as possible so that we can work with you to support your continued participation in the course, or direct you to resources as appropriate.

*To request a disability-related accommodation to this attendance policy, please contact the Disability Resource Center at (520) 621-3268 or [drc-info@email.arizona.edu](mailto:drc-info@email.arizona.edu). If you are experiencing unexpected barriers to your success in your courses, the Dean of Students Office is a central support resource for all students and may be helpful. The Dean of Students Office is located in the Robert L. Nugent Building, room 100, or call 520-621-7057.*

The UA's policy concerning Class Attendance, Participation, and Administrative Drops is available at <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/class-attendance-participation-and-administrative-drop>

The UA policy regarding absences for any sincerely held religious belief, observance or practice will be accommodated where reasonable: <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/religious-accommodation-policy>.

Absences preapproved by the UA Dean of Students (or dean's designee) will be honored. See <http://policy.arizona.edu/employmenthuman-resources/attendance>.

## **Makeup Policy for Students Who Register Late**

Students registering late (no later than the second week) may review readings and presentations from first week and will have a written assignment to be handed in by week 3 related to week one material.

## **Course Communications**

Online communication will be conducted via official UA e-mail address and D2L. You should expect a reply within 24 hours of your message; if not, please feel free to contact us again.

## Required Texts or Readings

All materials will be available via D2L

## Required or Special Materials

No special tools or supplies are needed

## Required Extracurricular Activities (if any)

No extra-curricular activities are required, although we will make a field trip to a Tucson agency as a group during the semester

## Assignments and Examinations: Schedule/Due Dates

### Exams and grading:

Weekly question submission from reading: 22%

Class Participation 23%

Class attendance 22%

Final exam (written assignment): 33%

1. Students will submit a thought provoking question from the readings by 6pm on the night before our session. The total of these 13 questions will be 22% of the class grade.
2. Attendance at all 15 class sessions is worth 23% of the grade
3. Participation in all 15 sessions is worth 22% of the grade. Participation will be scored as either participated or didn't participate.
4. The final examination will be a written assignment of approximately 1000 words. This will be worth 33%.

<b>1/16</b>	<b>Introduction to Social Justice</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>1/23</b>	<b>Environmental Justice – Rosemont mine</b>	<b>Dr. Shapiro</b>
<b>1/30</b>	<b>Climate change – Extinction of life vs. corporate profit with Greta Thunberg</b>	
<b>2/6</b>	<b>Immigration – Arizona &amp; the US-Mexico border</b>	<b>Drs. Shapiro &amp; Freeman</b>
<b>2/13</b>	<b>Health care &amp; its inequities – Insulin &amp; Medical Bankruptcy</b>	<b>Drs. Freeman &amp; Gordon</b>
<b>2/20</b>	<b>Reproductive Rights and the social control of women – Naomi Klein &amp; Title X</b>	<b>Dr. Kelly</b>
<b>2/27</b>	<b>Gun violence – The human price of our values</b>	<b>Dr. Freeman</b>
<b>3/5</b>	<b>Mental illness &amp; homelessness – De-institutionalization</b>	<b>Dr. Kelly &amp; Isidore Shapiro (past-</b>

		<b>Commisioner of Mental Health)</b>
<b>3/19</b>	<b>Racism – movie 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Dr. Kelly</b>
<b>3/26</b>	<b>Criminal "justice" system – incarceration of people of color &amp; Felicity Huffman</b>	<b>Dr. Kelly</b>
<b>4/2</b>	<b>Income inequality – Chuck Collins – Just because you were born on 3<sup>rd</sup> base, doesn't mean you hit a triple &amp; limits of philanthropy</b>	<b>Drs. Freeman &amp; Gordon</b>
<b>4/9</b>	<b>Political system and campaign financing – Citizens United</b>	<b>Dr. Gordon</b>
<b>4/16</b>	<b>Corporate control – Opioid epidemic &amp; fossil fuel (Exxon's silence)</b>	<b>Dr. Freeman</b>
<b>4/23</b>	<b>Field trip</b>	
<b>4/30</b>	<b>War and the threat of extinction – Limited Nuclear Attack</b>	<b>Dr. Shapiro</b>

## Final Examination or Project

The final examination will be a written assignment of approximately 1000 words. This will be worth 33%. The written assignment will be due on Friday, May 8, by 17:00h.

Final Exam Regulations: <https://www.registrar.arizona.edu/courses/final-examination-regulations-and-information?audience=students&cat1=10&cat2=31>, and Final Exam Schedule, <http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/schedules/finals.htm>

## Grading Scale and Policies

### GRADING SCALE:

- A:** >90%
- B:** 80-89%
- C:** 70-79%
- D:** 65-69%
- E:** <65%

Late work will not be accepted. Distribution of scored components is as described above.

**Requests for incomplete (I) or withdrawal (W)** must be made in accordance with University policies, which are available at <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-grading-system#incomplete> and <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-grading-system#Withdrawal> respectively.

**Dispute of Grade Policy:** Dispute of a grade must occur within 14 days of its posting.

## Classroom Behavior Policy

To foster a positive learning environment, students and instructors have a shared responsibility.

We want a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where all of us feel comfortable with each other and where we can challenge ourselves to succeed. To that end, our focus is on the tasks at hand and not on extraneous activities (e.g., texting, chatting, reading a newspaper, making phone calls, web surfing, etc.).

Students are asked to refrain from disruptive conversations with people sitting around them during lecture. Students observed engaging in disruptive activity will be asked to cease this behavior. Those who continue to disrupt the class will be asked to leave lecture or discussion and may be reported to the Dean of Students.

## **Threatening Behavior Policy**

The UA Threatening Behavior by Students Policy prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to oneself. See <http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/threatening-behavior-students>.

## **Accessibility and Accommodations**

At the University of Arizona we strive to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability or pregnancy, you are welcome to let me know so that we can discuss options. You are also encouraged to contact Disability Resources (520-621-3268) to explore reasonable accommodation.

If our class meets at a campus location: Please be aware that the accessible table and chairs in this room should remain available for students who find that standard classroom seating is not usable <http://drc.arizona.edu/instructors/syllabus-statement>.

If you have reasonable accommodations, please plan to meet with me by appointment or during office hours to discuss accommodations and how my course requirements and activities may impact your ability to fully participate.

Please be aware that the accessible table and chairs in this room should remain available for students who find that standard classroom seating is not usable.

## **Code of Academic Integrity**

Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity as described in the UA General Catalog. See: <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/academic-integrity/students/academic-integrity>.

The University Libraries have some excellent tips for avoiding plagiarism, available at <http://new.library.arizona.edu/research/citing/plagiarism>.

*Selling class notes and/or other course materials to other students or to a third party for resale is not permitted without the instructor's express written consent.* Violations to this and other course rules are subject to the Code of Academic Integrity and may result in course sanctions. Additionally, students who use D2L or UA e-mail to sell or buy these copyrighted materials are subject to Code of Conduct Violations for misuse of student e-mail addresses. This conduct may also constitute copyright infringement.

## **UA Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment Policy**

The University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of discrimination; see <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy>

Our classroom is a place where everyone is encouraged to express well-formed opinions and their reasons for those opinions. We also want to create a tolerant and open environment where

such opinions can be expressed without resorting to bullying or discrimination of others.

### **Additional Resources for Students**

UA Academic policies and procedures are available at <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policies>

Student Assistance and Advocacy information is available at  
<http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/student-assistance/students/student-assistance>

### **Confidentiality of Student Records**

<http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/personal-information/family-educational-rights-and-privacy-act-1974-ferpa?topic=ferpa>

### **Subject to Change Statement**

Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.