Global Health Inequalities

Autumn 2022

Instructor: Maria Brunette, Ph.D.

HTHRHSC 4590 Online w/weekly 1-hr synchronous sessions Class # 35925 (undergraduate) Class #35930 (graduate) – Register for 3 credits

The focus of this General Education (GE) course is on recognizing health inequalities locally and beyond. Students examine <u>why</u> communities in both, the Global North and South are not having *equitable* access to *high-quality* health services and most importantly <u>what can be done</u> to promote health equity. Topics include systemic/structural racism, maternal and child health, infectious diseases, cancer health equity, nutrition and food insecurity, and the Opioids epidemic among others. Class discussions and activities incorporate critical perspectives on the role of Social Determinants of Health (SDH). The theme for this General Education (GE) course is *Citizenship for a Just and Diverse World*.

Course objectives:

- Human health & wellbeing: Successful students will explore social, economic, political, and environmental factors that affect how people experience health and have a major impact in their lives and wellbeing. The in-depth exploration will be done from a social justice and systemic perspective addressing access, or lack thereof, to opportunities.
- **Citizenship for a just and diverse world:** Successful students will examine notions of justice and inequities and discuss how these interact with historically and socially constructed ideas of global citizenship and social justice in the United States and beyond.
- On being educated global citizens: Successful students will be interculturally competent global citizens who can engage with significant aspects of the human condition -in particular health among the urban poor.

The instructor, an Industrial & Systems Engineer, brings her experience of working in Developing Countries to the classroom -she has been a researcher for the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and the World Health Organization. Dr. Brunette's current work sits at the intersection of Global Public Health, Health Systems Engineering, and Community-Based Participatory Research among urban poor communities.