

Health Equity and Social Justice Syllabus

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Course Description

Through an Equity Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Lens we will examine social justice and health equity in North America. Using self-reflection and collaborative learning, learners will have the opportunity to examine the intersectionality of social justice and health equity with factors such as socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, nationality, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability and ability, relationship status, political ideology, religion/spirituality, and others such as medical choice. Learners will apply critical thinking to examine how these factors may intersect with inherent structural processes in institutions and society to create power imbalances that may perpetuate oppression and inequities. Learners are encouraged to engage in open dialogue and discussions as we examine articles, videos, blogs, social media clips and other resources to formulate their unique individual ideas.

Learning Objectives

1. Understand and articulate the meaning of the concepts health equity, health equality, social justice, social determinants of health (SDOH) and intersectoral frameworks
2. Demonstrate an understanding of systems of oppression, specifically in relation to colonialism, operating at a structural level and the impact on diverse groups, for example
 - Examining the intersections of the social determinants of health (SDOH), indigeneity and colonial history in Canada
3. Demonstrate an awareness of the historical and political significance of the concepts of health equity and the social determinants of health (SDOH), including
 - Examining the intergenerational trauma caused by a history of medical experimentation, and its impact on health equity and ethics
 - Examining the intersections of the social determinants of health (SDOH), indigeneity and colonial history in Canada
4. Evaluate the ways in which current and historical social policies address or entrench inequities between diverse groups, for example
 - Examining power, oppression, and their intersection with social justice to influence policy on health equity
5. Develop a critical analysis of some of the major debates and theories in the field of health equity and social justice by
 - Exploring the commission on social determinants of health's framework on the social determinants of health and health inequalities theoretical framework

Course Schedule, Readings and Assignments

Date	Topics and Assignments	Resources LMS
Week 1	Introduction to course Overview of health equity and related concepts Profile of health inequity and inequality in Canada The intergenerational trauma caused by a history of medical experimentation, and its impact on health equity and ethics	
Week 2	Exploring determinants of health, social determinants of health (SDOH) and the commission on social determinants of Health's framework on the social determinants of health and health inequalities theoretical framework Discussion post	
Week 3	Examining the intersections of the social determinants of health (SDOH), indigeneity and colonial history in Canada Discussion post	
Week 4	Examining health inequities across the life course using theory and an intersectional framework Discussion post	
Week 5	Examining power, oppression, and their intersection with social justice to influence policy on health equity Discussion post	
Week 6	Wrap up	