

# WST 4941C

## Practicum in Health Disparities in Society

Summer C 2024

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**Office hours:** By appointment

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide students with opportunities for learning and working in organizations in ways that connect their coursework in health disparities in society to community settings. The applied portion of the course allows students to work in a community setting, assisting in the key endeavors of the organization, while gaining professional experience. The academic component provides a framework to think critically about health justice, that is, how we can put theories related to health disparities and equity into action.

Students are encouraged to employ critical thinking and to rely on data and verifiable sources to interrogate all assigned readings and subject matter in this course as a way of determining whether they agree with their classmates and/or their instructor. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint or belief.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Gain first-hand experience working in an organization that is focused on health equity.
2. Apply knowledge from health disparities coursework to practical and professional experiences outside of the classroom and vice versa.
3. Clarify career goals.

## CREDIT HOURS, COURSE REQUIREMENTS, AND MODALITIES

**Course Credits:** 3

**Course Prerequisites:** WST 2322 Introduction to Health Disparities, and enrolled in Health Disparities in Society minor; or permission of instructor.

**Course Time Requirements:** You need to complete at least 120 hours at your practicum site. In addition to working the required number of hours, students will need to complete reflection and discussion assignments on Canvas, manage their time sheets, and work with their site to obtain two performance evaluations.

**Required Materials:** All assigned readings, course forms/records, and evaluations are on Canvas.

**Instructional Format:** Experiential learning in community agencies with asynchronous companion assignments on Canvas.

## ASSIGNMENTS

**Time Worked:** Students will keep track of the hours they work at their site over the course of the term, using the Google sheet provided by the instructor. Alternate time sheets used by the site may be accepted upon request. Supervisors will be asked to attest to the hours completed on the mid-term and final evaluations of the students.

**Reflections:** These assignments are designed for you to reflect on your practicum experiences, tie those experiences to your other coursework, and consider your career goals. More instructions, and specific prompts for the different reflections, are on Canvas.

**Discussions:** These assignments are designed for you to engage with your peers. You will write on various experiences of your practicum. Discussion boards are a place to share your thinking and materials with the class and to provide and get feedback. More instructions, and specific prompts for the different discussions, are on Canvas.

**Evaluations:** At both the mid-term and end of semester, you will need to work with your supervisor to complete and discuss the evaluation form and then upload it to Canvas.

## GRADING

### SUMMARY OF GRADING ASSIGNMENTS AND PERCENTAGE POINTS

Assignment	Point value	Number of assignments	Total points accruable
Earning 120 hours at site	75	n/a, ongoing	75
Reflections	3	3	9
Discussion boards	2-3	3	8
Evaluations	2-3	3	8

**Total** **100**

### FINAL GRADE

At the end of the semester, final grades will be determined by the following formula:

94 and more points = A	80-83 points = B-	67-69 points = D+
90-93 points = A-	77-79 points = C+	64-66 points = D
87-89 points = B+	74-76 points = C	60-63 points = D-
84-86 points = B	70-73 points = C-	59 and fewer points = E

In cases where the number of points falls in between letter grades, points will be rounded to the nearest whole number.

### IMPORTANT GRADE NOTE

A grade of C- or lower will not qualify for credit toward a major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule or College Basic Distribution credit. For more information, see "Grades and Grading Policies" at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

## COURSE AND UF POLICIES

### Summer C 2024 UF Classroom and Campus Expectations

These are classroom and campus expectations for Spring 2024 as outlined in recent administrative memos:

In response to COVID-19, the following recommendations are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit One.UF for screening/testing and vaccination opportunities.
- If you are sick, stay home. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate

care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 to be evaluated.

- As with any excused absence, you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up missed work.

**Attendance and Absence Policy:** Attendance at the practicum site is mandatory (unless otherwise agreed upon with your preceptor) and students need to report as scheduled and on time. See the Undergraduate Catalog, <http://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies>.

**Background Check:** Students assigned to agencies serving vulnerable populations (children, disability, HIV) will complete a Level 2 background check that includes fingerprinting. Many sites [SWAG/Library Partnership/One Park Library Resource Center, Center for Independent Living, Elder Options, Community Hospice and Palliative Care, Meridian Behavioral Health] will pay the associated cost. Ask about a background check when you interview with your preceptor. If your site requires a background check, ***fill out the required forms and return them to your preceptor ASAP***. The Level 2 background check takes 6-8 weeks to complete and ***you cannot start your practicum*** until the results are received by your site.

### Course technology

All students are required to access course materials on Canvas via e-learning. Additionally, I expect you to check your UF email daily for any updates I send out.

### Late policy

You may not receive extensions on work in the class or take make-up exams, except in the most extraordinary circumstances (in which you will need documentation from the Dean's Office or Health Services). **Work which is turned in late for any other reason will lose five percent of its points for each day that it is late.** The "day late" begins immediately after the time the assignment is due.

### Netiquette and communication courtesy

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy while at their practicum placement, in all email messages, threaded discussions, and chats.

### Academic etiquette

Respect for opinions voiced in class is essential and I expect everyone to treat each other professionally. In order for us to learn from each other, we have to allow each other to make mistakes, and to offer unpopular positions for debate. However, name-calling, other forms of verbal harassment, sexual harassment and microaggressions will not be tolerated and will result in being asked to leave the class.

### UF Academic Integrity

This course will subscribe to the University of Florida Student Honor Code. A central part of the UF Honor Code is the Honor Pledge: "*The Honor Pledge We, the members of the University of*

*Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Student Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by Students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."* Further information about the UF Honor Code and guidelines for Academic Honesty are [here](#). In this course, plagiarism or cheating of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in failing the course and other disciplinary action. In all instances, you must do your own work. There is no excuse for plagiarism, or for submitting another's work, ideas, or wording as your own. This includes using direct quotes from online sources without citation or submitting a paper you bought but did not write. Ignorance is not an excuse. Please be aware that there are various anti-plagiarism techniques available for use by University of Florida faculty that enables faculty members to determine if research papers have been plagiarized. There is a difference between plagiarism and collaboration. Collaboration, for purposes of this class, is the act of discussing ideas with classmates, debating issues, and examining readings from the class together so that each of you arrives at your own independent thought. Collaboration in this class is encouraged.

### **Student conduct code and sexual harassment**

This course also operates under UF's Student Conduct Code. The Student Conduct Code is a set of standards and regulations which describe the rights, privileges, and responsibilities for all currently enrolled students at the University of Florida. For more information, click [here](#). UF provides an educational and working environment for its students, faculty, and staff that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment. For more information, see [UF policies regarding harassment](#). Furthermore, in order to make this an effective course for everyone, all participants will be expected to meet the professional standards of integrity expected for members of the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research. This means I expect all participants to interact with peers "professionally," meaning with honesty, ethical behavior, cultural sensitivity, teamwork, and effective communication. Additionally, I expect all course participants will fulfill work obligations in a thoughtful and timely way, and display collegiality and sensitivity to faculty and other students.

### **UF gender equity**

The Office for Accessibility and Gender Equity provides support to anyone affected by sexual or gender-based misconduct, harassment, or discrimination. Please know that both your instructor and TA in this course are considered Officials with Authority who are required to report violations of the gender equity policy. "Title IX is a federal law that requires officials with the authority to take action, to report violations of the gender equity policy. Officials with authority must report these violations to the Title IX Coordinator or their deputies. The obligation to report applies whenever an Official with Authority receives, in the course and scope of employment, information about the alleged misconduct and policy violation. The report must include all information known to the employee which would be relevant to an investigation or redress of the incident, including whether the alleged victim has expressed a desire for confidentiality." For further information, including how to make a report, click [here](#). Below are some specialist support services. You might not need them,

but you might know someone who does. For specialist support in the aftermath of sexual assault, the Office of Victim Services on campus offer confidential, free support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

*Office of Victim Services*

1515 Museum Road, (352) 392-5648 (Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)  
(352) 392-1111 (after business hours and on weekends)

*Alachua County Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center*

352-264-6760 Monday-Friday, 8:30AM - 5PM, some services available 24/7

*Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network* 352-377-8255 (24-hour helpline)

## **Accommodations**

The University of Florida is committed to providing equal educational access to students with disabilities. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) collaborates with campus partners to facilitate access and inclusion for Gators with disabilities. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the UF Disability Resource Center (0001 Building 0020- Reid Hall, [accessuf@dso.ufl.edu](mailto:accessuf@dso.ufl.edu); Voice 352-392-8565; Fax, 352-392-8570) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodations. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. Information for students from the DRC is available [here](#). In this course, I am committed to providing equitable education access through reasonable accommodations as outlined in your accommodation letter. Please notify me within the first two weeks of class about any accommodations needed for the course. Late notification may cause the requested accommodation to be unavailable.

## **Community resources**

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor are available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helpful resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1. Here are additional resources:

- Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit [shcc.ufl.edu](http://shcc.ufl.edu).
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center: For immediate medical care in Gainesville, call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road,

Gainesville, FL 32608; [ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center](http://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center).

### Extra course fees

There are no additional fees for this course.

### Academic resources

The following are academic resources that may be helpful for completing this course:

- [\*E-learning technical support\*](#)- 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or email to [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu). [Student help FAQs](#)
- [\*Library support\*](#)- Ask-a-librarian. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources
- [\*Teaching Center\*](#)- Broward Hall, (352) 392-2010 or 392-6420. Study skills workshops, study groups, and tutoring.
- [\*University Writing Studio\*](#)- 2215 Turlington Hall, (352) 846-1138, The [UF Writing Program](#) offers all UF students help in the ongoing process of becoming better writers. One-on-one tutoring, online tutoring, and workshops.
- [\*Career Connections Center\*](#) - 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

### Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Elearning/Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>

### Consider adding a (second) major in Women's Studies!

Do you want to learn about issues of diversity, power, equity, and justice and gain the scholarly knowledge and skills to change the world? Adding the Women's Studies major can deepen your critical thinking, analysis, and skills in intersectional feminist approaches to **studying and transforming gender, race, class, sexualities and other systems of power**. The Women's Studies major shows graduate schools and employers that you bring advanced knowledge and skills about diversity and equity issues. The 30-credit Women's Studies major consists of four core courses and six electives. It's simple to combine with another major, and up to 15 credits can double count with another degree (English, Psychology, and Sociology in particular have many courses that can double count). It's also the perfect complement to pre-health studies. Contact undergraduate coordinator Dr. Alyssa Zucker ([azucker@ufl.edu](mailto:azucker@ufl.edu)) to make an appointment to discuss adding the major.

## SCHEDULE

Please note that students in this course all have different start and end dates for their work assignments. Given that, the following deadlines are based on what the average student who starts in mid-May and ends in early August should be able to complete. You will not be penalized if your submissions arrive earlier or later than these suggestions, as long as all of your work for the course is completed by the end of the Summer C semester, August 9.

Week	Suggested deadline	Work due
1	5/17	Update personal time sheet with hours earned at practicum site. <b>Reflection 1 (May 17)</b>
2	5/20 5/24	Update personal time sheet with hours earned at practicum site. <b>Discussion 1 (May 20)</b> <b>Discussion 2 (May 24)</b>
3	5/31	Update personal time sheet with hours earned at practicum site.
4	6/7	Update personal time sheet with hours earned at practicum site.
5	6/14	Update personal time sheet with hours earned at practicum site. <b>Time Worked Submission 1 (June 14)</b>
6	6/21	Update personal time sheet with hours earned at practicum site.
7	6/28	Update personal time sheet with hours earned at practicum site. <b>Reflection 2 (June 24)</b> <b>Evaluation 1 (June 28)</b>
8	7/8	Update personal time sheet with hours earned at practicum site. <b>Time Worked Submission 2 (July 8)</b>
9	7/12	Update personal time sheet with hours earned at practicum site.
10	7/19	Update personal time sheet with hours earned at practicum site. <b>Reflection 3 (July 19)</b>
11	7/26	Update personal time sheet with hours earned at practicum site. <b>Discussion 3 (July 26)</b>
12	8/2	Update personal time sheet with hours earned at practicum site. <b>Evaluation 2 (August 2)</b> <b>Time Worked Submission 3 (August 2)</b>
13	8/5	Update personal time sheet with hours earned at practicum site. <b>Evaluation 3 (August 5)</b>

### DISCLAIMER

This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly in via Canvas, are not unusual and should be expected.