

WST 4704 (class #22772) – Spring 2025  
**DISCRIMINATION AND HEALTH**  
*MWF 11:45-12:35 in Rolfs 0205*

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**PROFESSOR:** Alyssa N. Zucker, Ph.D.

**OFFICE:** Ustler Hall 204

**PHONE:** 352-273-0384

**E-MAIL:** [azucker@ufl.edu](mailto:azucker@ufl.edu)

**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays 10:30-12 and Wednesdays 1-2:30; all office hours will be available simultaneously in person and on [Zoom](#). Please drop in during these times, no appointment necessary (or email to schedule an appointment at a different time).

**TEACHING ASSISTANT:** Sonbol Bahramikamangar

**E-MAIL:** [sonbol.bahramika@ufl.edu](mailto:sonbol.bahramika@ufl.edu)

**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment

**COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

From the course catalog: Examines discrimination and health from a variety of perspectives. Explores links of discrimination experiences with health behaviors and outcome, discrimination in healthcare settings, and routes to improving health at individual, group, and legislative levels. Addresses multiple forms of discrimination (e.g., race, sex, class, sexual orientation/gender identity) and their intersections.

By the end of the course, students will:

- List and discuss physical and mental health challenges and disparities faced by populations targeted by discrimination.
- Analyze how social and environmental factors create, contribute to, and exacerbate health challenges for people targeted by discrimination.
- Evaluate how multiple systems of power and oppression interlock to shape individuals' experience of the world and impact their health.

Content Warning: we will be tackling hard topics in this class, looking directly at material related to oppression, COVID-19 and other illnesses, and untimely death. My aim is that we will do so in a way that is educational, empowering, and hopeful. However, I acknowledge that some people may not have the bandwidth to tackle these topics at this moment in time. If that is the case for you, I urge you to consult with me and/or choose a different class instead.

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.

This class counts as a social science or gender and science course for Women's Studies majors; an HESJ elective for students with the Health Equity and Social Justice specialization; a TPS elective for majors or minors in Theories and Politics of Sexuality; and as a category A or B elective for the Health Disparities in Society minor.

### COURSE MATERIALS

- **Required Book** (accessible electronically through the UF library reserve system or purchase your own hard or e-copy)  
Donoghue, E. (2020). *The pull of the stars*. New York: Little, Brown, and Company. [referred to as PotS in the course calendar]
- All other assigned material is available through Canvas.
- Materials and Supplies Fees: None

### ASSESSMENT AND GRADES

#### Graded Course Activities

All assignments are explained in detail on Canvas.

Assignment	Point value	Number of assignments	Total points accruable
Personal Reflections	5	2	10
Reading Reflections	5	8	40
Wikipedia project	varies	multiple	45
Public Engagement	5	1	5
<b>Total</b>			<b>100</b>

#### Grading Scale and Policies

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. All grading will be done in compliance with the UF grading policy <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES

### Attendance policy

While attendance is not required in this class, students are strongly encouraged to attend each session to benefit from lecture, discussion, and small group activity.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

### Students requiring accommodation

Students who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

### UF course evaluation process

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 <http://gatorevals.aa.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 Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <http://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

## ADDITIONAL POLICIES

**For a list of additional campus resources, see section C 5 here:**

[https://syllabus.ufl.edu/media/syllabusufledu/syllabi\\_policy\\_09\\_09\\_2022.pdf](https://syllabus.ufl.edu/media/syllabusufledu/syllabi_policy_09_09_2022.pdf)

### University Honesty Policy

University of Florida students are bound by the Honor Pledge. On all work submitted for credit by a student, the following pledge is required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Student Honor Code and Conduct Code (Regulation 4.040) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code, as well as the process for reported allegations and sanctions that may be implemented. All potential violations of the code will be reported to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. If a student is found responsible for an Honor Code violation in this course, the instructor will enter a Grade Adjustment sanction which may be up to or including failure of the course. For additional information, see

<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

### In-class recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party-note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

### **Procedure for conflict resolution**

Any classroom issues, disagreements or grade disputes should be discussed first between the instructor and the student. If the problem cannot be resolved, please contact the Undergraduate Coordinator (Dr. Joanna Neville: [jneville@ufl.edu](mailto:jneville@ufl.edu)) or the Graduate Coordinator (Dr. Kendal Broad: [klbroad@ufl.edu](mailto:klbroad@ufl.edu)) for undergraduate and graduate courses, respectively. Be prepared to provide documentation of the problem, as well as all graded materials for the semester. Issues that cannot be resolved departmentally will be referred to the University Ombuds Office (<http://www.ombuds.ufl.edu>; 352-392-1308) or the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu>; 352-392-1261).

### **Health and Wellness**

- U Matter, We Care: [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu); 352-392-1575.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu>; 352-392-1575.
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Care Center; 352-392-1161.
- University Police Department: <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>; 352-392-1111 (911 for emergencies).

### **Academic Resources**

- E-learning technical support: [learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:learning-support@ufl.edu); <https://elearning.ufl.edu>; 352-392-4357.
- Career Connections Center: Reitz Union; <http://www.career.ufl.edu/>; 352-392-1601.
- Library Support: <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>.
- Academic Resources: 1317 Turlington Hall; 352-392-2010; <https://academicresources.clas.ufl.edu>.
- Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall; <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.

**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)

## COURSE CALENDAR

This calendar is subject to change for pedagogical or logistical reasons. To the extent possible, students will be notified in advance of any such changes.

Day	Date	Topic	Read/Watch before today's class	Due Today
<b>Part 1: Theoretical Models</b>				
M	1/13	Course Introduction		
W	1/15	Health Disparities	Braveman et al.	
F	1/17	Wikipedia Assignment (Intro to project)		Personal reflection 1
M	1/20	<b>No Class-MLK Day</b>		
W	1/22	Social Determinants of Health I	Marmot The Social Factors of Health ( <a href="#">video</a> )	Wiki work due
F	1/24	Social Determinants of Health II	Ogunwole & Golden	Reading reflection
M	1/27	Discrimination and Mental Health		
W	1/29	Discrimination and Physical Health	Gravlee	Reading reflection
F	1/31	Discussion & Wikipedia Assignment (sources & plagiarism)	<a href="#">Majmudar</a>	Wiki work due
M	2/3	Wikipedia Assignment (content gap; finding articles)		Wiki work due
W	2/5	Intersections of Oppression I	Bowleg	Reading reflection
F	2/7	Intersections of Oppression II	Poteat Kapilashrami & Hankivsky	Wiki work due
M	2/10	Discussion		Wiki work due
W	2/12	Wikipedia Assignment (finalize topic, find sources)		
F	2/14	Wikipedia Assignment (find sources)		Wiki work due
M	2/17	LGBTQ+ Discrimination & Health	Zucker	
W	2/19	Patient perspectives	Feinberg	Reading reflection
F	2/21	Discussion	Transgender Healthcare Storytime ( <a href="#">video</a> )	Wiki work due
M	2/24	Provider perspectives	Nunez-Smith et al.	
W	2/26	Wikipedia Assignment (thinking about Wikipedia discussion and peer review)		
F	2/28	End of unit/catch up day		Wiki work due

Day	Date	Topic	Read/Watch before today's class	Due Today
<b>Part 2: Maternal Mortality (MM)</b>				
<b>M</b>	3/3	Maternal Mortality unit overview	Douthard et al.	
<b>W</b>	3/5	Discrimination and MM	Taylor	Reading reflection
<b>F</b>	3/7	<b>No Class</b> -work on your Wiki peer review response		Wiki work due
<b>M</b>	3/10	Abortion care to reduce MM	Latt et al.	
<b>W</b>	3/12	Contraception to reduce MM		
<b>F</b>	3/14	Discussion	Clifton	Wiki work due
<b>M</b>	3/17	<b>No Class</b> -Spring Break		
<b>W</b>	3/19	<b>No Class</b> -Spring Break		
<b>F</b>	3/21	<b>No Class</b> -Spring Break		
<b>M</b>	3/24	Reproductive Justice	Ross (pp. 170-80 only)	
<b>W</b>	3/26	Complications of LARCs and racism	Meier et al.	
<b>F</b>	3/28	Discussion	Martin (audio/print)	Wiki work due
<b>M</b>	3/31	PotS Discussion of Red	PotS Red (pp. 1-92)	Reading reflection
<b>W</b>	4/2	<b>No Class</b> -keep reading PotS		Wiki work due
<b>F</b>	4/4	PotS Discussion of Brown	PotS Brown (pp. 93-161)	Reading reflection
<b>M</b>	4/7	PotS Discussion of Blue	PotS Blue (pp. 163-231)	Reading reflection
<b>W</b>	4/9	<b>No Class</b> -keep reading PotS		
<b>F</b>	4/11	PotS Discussion of Black	PotS Black (pp. 233-291)	
<b>M</b>	4/14	Wikipedia Assignment final discussion		
<b>W</b>	4/16	End of unit/catch up day		
<b>Part 3: Making Changes</b>				
<b>F</b>	4/18	Structural competency	Creer-Perry et al.	
<b>M</b>	4/21	State/Policy changes	Hatzenbuehler et al.	Wiki work due
<b>W</b>	4/23	Course wrap-up		
<b>M</b>	4/28	<b>No Class</b> -Finals		Personal reflection 2