

WST 4941C: Practicum in Health Disparities in Society Spring 2024

Course and Contact Information

Course Meetings: Asynchronous, and in-person as determined by site supervisor

Course Location: Practicum site

Professor: Dr. Cinnamon Williams

Email: ci.williams@ufl.edu

Office: Ustler Hall

Please visit Canvas for more detail about my office hours and how to schedule meetings with me.

Teaching Assistant: Rose Capo

Email: rachel.capo@ufl.edu

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.

Learning 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

Credit Hours: 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
Reflection	3	3	9
Discussion Boards	2-3	3	8
Evaluations	2-3	3	8
Total			100

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 Calendar

Week	Dates work due	Work due
1	1/12	Update time sheet with hours earned at practicum site. Reflection 1 (January 12)
2	1/15	Update time sheet with hours earned at practicum site. Discussion 1 (January 15) Discussion 2 (January 19)
3	1/22	Update time sheet with hours earned at practicum site.
4	1/29	Update time sheet with hours earned at practicum site.
5	2/5	Update time sheet with hours earned at practicum site.
6	2/12	Update time sheet with hours earned at practicum site.
7	2/19	Update time sheet with hours earned at practicum site.
8	2/26	Update time sheet with hours earned at practicum site. Reflection 2 (March 1)
9	3/4	Update time sheet with hours earned at practicum site. Evaluation 1 (March 8)
10	3/11	Update time sheet with hours earned at practicum site.

11	3/18	Update time sheet with hours earned at practicum site.
12	3/25	Update time sheet with hours earned at practicum site.
13	4/1	Update time sheet with hours earned at practicum site.
14	4/8	Update time sheet with hours earned at practicum site.
15	4/15	Update time sheet with hours earned at practicum site. Reflection 3 (April 12)
16	4/22	Update time sheet with hours earned at practicum site. Evaluation 2 (April 24) Evaluation 3 (April 26) Discussion 3 (April 26)

University Policies

Attendance and Make-up Work: Attendance is required for every class meeting. If you need to miss a session for any reason, please let me know that you will not be in attendance via email. Be mindful that excessive absences can cause your grade to suffer or result in you failing the course. All assignments should be submitted by the stated deadlines. The deadline for the final paper is inflexible. The requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with [university policies](#).

Accommodations: Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first [register with the Disability Resource Center](#) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation: 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.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 <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Honesty: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the 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.” [The Conduct Code](#) specifies

a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

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.

Campus Wellness Resources

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, call 352-392-1575, or visit the [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the [Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the [Student Health Care Center website](#).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608. You may also visit the [UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit [the GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.

Campus Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Visit the [Career Connections Center website](#), or call 352-392-1601 for career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Visit the [UF Libraries homepage](#) to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Visit the [Teaching Center website](#), or call 352-392-2010 for help with general study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: Visit the [Writing Studio website](#), or call 352-846-1138 for help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the [Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage](#) for more information.

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

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) to make an appointment to discuss adding the major.