

# WST 4941C Practicum in Health Disparities

## Fall 2020



**Instructor:** Laura K. Guyer, PhD, MEd, RDN

**Office:** 205 Ustler Hall

**Phone:** 352-332-0523

**Office Hours:** By appointment using Zoom or phone

**2 Class Meetings:** Aug 31 and Nov 30 by Zoom

**Practicum Dates:** August 31-December 9

**Practicum Time:** 10 hours/week [120 hours total for the semester]

**Classroom:** none

**TA:** none

**Affordable UF Initiative:** *This instructor uses instructional materials costing less than \$20 per-credit hour to reduce the financial burden associated with higher education. All resources needed for course success are available free-of-charge on the Canvas website.*

**Course Description:** This is a service-learning capstone experience for seniors enrolled in the Health Disparities in Society minor. Students work in safety net clinics, non-profit health organizations and city, state and federal agencies work to increase access to care and health outcomes among underserved and disadvantaged populations. They explore relationships among power inequities, social disadvantage and the intersections of race/ethnicity, language, gender identity, sexual orientation, SES, disability and geography in creating health disparities.

**Course Credits:** 3

**Section:** HDSP

**Class number:** 20213

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

**Course Time Requirements:** Mastery of course content requires 120 hours [Carnegie I standard = 2 hrs work outside of class/1 hr of class meeting]. Plan to spend 9 hrs/wk completing experiential learning experiences, readings and assignments.

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**Course Website:** All course readings, assignments and forms are posted to the Canvas course website. Technical support for this course is provided by the UF Help desk:

- [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu)
- (352) 392-HELP (select option 2)
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

**Required/Recommended Readings:** All assigned readings, course forms/records and evaluations have been uploaded to the course site on Canvas. When you are off campus and need to access articles online, use <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/ufproxy.html>.

**Course Library Guide:** An online library guide with videos, books, journals, workshop summaries and resources about health disparities is available at [http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/health\\_disparities](http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/health_disparities).

**Instructional Methods:** This is a hybrid, preprofessional service learning course that integrates in-class problem solving, group discussion, guided reflective learning and experiential learning. The readings, reflection and discussion assignments and practicum projects address all levels of the cognitive, affective and psychomotor learning domains. The course provides opportunity for students to apply theories of social inequality and research data to populations with health disparities. The content progresses systematically from basic to more complex concepts and promotes the knowledge, attitudes, values and skills needed for successful health care practice in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Teaching Philosophy:** Learning is a shared responsibility between students and the instructor and those most engaged will learn the most. My responsibility as the instructor is to be a content expert in each course topic and engage the range of student learning styles using a variety of instructional methods. Students are responsible for preparing for each class and participating actively in the learning process.

Theorist Malcolm Knowles defined *andragogy* (adult learning) as "the art and science of helping adults learn." You are adults. With Knowles' definition in mind, this course will enable you to:

1. Be self-directed learners;
2. Contribute to and participate in the learning environment;
3. Tie new learning to existing information, attitudes and experiences;
4. Apply new learning to immediate tasks, problems and issues.

**Course Goals:** This course is a pre-professional experience that provides opportunity to:

1. Experience the challenges and barriers to care encountered by populations at-risk for health disparities.
2. Understand the issues affecting agencies that work underserved populations.
3. Develop skills and professionalism through practice and assignments.
4. Examine the delivery of health care, communication strategies used by interprofessional teams.
5. Identify barriers to care in health systems.
6. Experience change in knowledge, attitudes and behaviors through guided reflection assignments and self-assessment.

#### Grading:

Class meetings (2 @25 pts. ea)	50 pts.
Syllabus Quiz	20 pts.
OSHA Quiz	25 pts.
Precept. Interview, Precept. Expect, HIPAA, HIV 500	8 pts.
REAP Reflections (10 @5 pts. ea.)	50 pts.
REAP Discussions (10@5 pts ea.)	50 pts.
Weekly Time Record (15@2 pts. ea)	30 pts.
Mid-point Student Evaluation	100 pts.
Mid-practicum Evaluation	10 pts.
Final Student Evaluation	100 pts.
Practicum Evaluation	10 pts.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>453 pts.</b>

#### Grading Scale:

%	93+	90- 92.9	87.0- 89.9	83.0- 86.9	80.0- 82.9	77.0- 79.9	73.0- 76.9	70.0- 72.9	67.0- 69.9	63.0- 66.9	60.0- 62.9	<60
Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E

#### POLICIES

**Attendance and Absence Policy:** Attendance in the two class meetings and at the practicum site is mandatory and students will report as scheduled and on time. See the Undergraduate Catalog, <http://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies>. Students are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives as defined by the instructor. Absences count from the first class meeting.

**Late Assignment Policy:** The due date for *every assignment* is posted and visible from the first day of class. Assignments may be accepted after the posted due date when students meet the criteria for an *excused* absence. When submitted late and *unexcused*, one letter grade will be deducted for each late day and after 3 days will not be accepted. Students are responsible for meeting assignment due dates.

#### ASSIGNMENTS

**Reflection-Discussion Posts:** Reflection is a powerful instructional method that promotes comparison of knowledge, attitudes and skills to the outcomes of experiential learning. Guided reflection enables the integration of new learning with the previous baseline to increase knowledge, change attitudes and behaviors and develop new skills.

**Part I:** Throughout the practicum, students will write a short 1-page REAP (Reflection-Experience-Assessment-Plan) on topics associated with health disparities. REAP assignments are due each Friday before 11:59 pm.

**Part II:** After posting your REAP, review and respond to a classmate's REAP before Sunday at 11:59 p.m.

**Exams and Quizzes:** There are no exams or quizzes in this course.

**Preceptor's Evaluation:** Preceptors provide written formative evaluation of progress at the mid-point of the semester and written summative evaluation at the end. When assigning final grades, Dr. Guyer considers these grade points earned.

## Practicum Time

- **Time Requirement:** This practicum is a graded, 3-credit service-learning capstone course with 120 total hours.
- **Time Records:** Upload a timesheet *every week*.

**Incomplete Grade and Contract:** Students unable to complete the required assignments and/or 120 practicum hours due to hardship, emergency or extenuating circumstances may elect to receive the grade of incomplete “I.” Notify the instructor as soon as you are aware that course completion is not possible. **Review carefully** the CLAS policy for awarding incomplete grades, <https://www.clas.ufl.edu/forms/incomplete-grade-policy-clas.pdf> and complete the **Incomplete Grade Contract** on Canvas. When the outstanding work is completed, the instructor will submit a **Change of Grade** form <https://www.clas.ufl.edu/forms/incomplete-grade-contract.pdf>. **Review carefully** UF’s policy on “I” grades, <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies> - the University allows only 150 days to complete outstanding work.

**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/Cone Park Library Resource Center, Center for Independent Living, Elder Options, 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.

**Training:** All students must complete the training described below by the posted due date:

1. **HIPAA Certificate:** HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Protection Act) for General Awareness <http://privacy.health.ufl.edu/training/hipaaPrivacy/instructions.shtml>. The training module *HIPAA for Research* can substitute for this requirement. Existing HIPAA certificates must not expire until AFTER the practicum’s last day. HIPAA ensures that students (1) understand the importance of patient confidentiality and (2) can protect privacy by identifying information that cannot be shared with others.
2. **FDOH HIV/AIDS 500 The Basics of HIV/AIDS Testing, Counseling and Linkage.** Register at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/aids/prevention/testing-counseling.html> for this no-cost, online course. A certificate is awarded upon course completion. Students assigned to sites where HIV/AIDS testing is part of the practicum experience will also complete the FDOH HIV/AIDS 501 course to be certified for providing HIV Testing, Counseling and Linkage. Your preceptor will tell you the dates and places where this course is offered and the fee will be waived for practicum students.
3. **Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety training and online quiz.** There is no charge for this training. Students must score at least 80% on the quiz.
  - **OSHA Training for Healthcare Part 1:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-PQiLegq3c>
  - **OSHA Training Part 2:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4tekyH8fyM>

**Course Evaluation:** Participation in this course includes providing professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction using the online course evaluations at GatorEvals. Guidance for providing appropriate feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students>. You will be notified by email when the evaluation period opens and can complete the evaluation on the Canvas course website, visit <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students and faculty after the semester ends and grades have been submitted, visit <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results>.

**UF Honor Code:** Students must act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity. As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following 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.*”

**Violations of the Student Honor Code will lead to course dismissal.** Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community and enrolled students commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the Honor Code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action. Visit <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers should connect with the Disability Resource Center and request academic accommodations; visit <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started>. Students who qualify for accommodations should share accommodation letters with instructors and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester. Dr. Guyer requests that you to set an appointment before the end of the first week of class to discuss your learning needs and complete required forms/contracts.

The DSO also provides **FREE** screening for learning issues that affect students and impact performance in reading/writing activities. If you struggle consistently with reading comprehension, writing fluency, processing/retaining information from class and/or time management issues, contact the Center. Learning Specialists will subsequently develop an individualized program of accommodation.

**Student's Complaint Process:** UF has a written policy to enable students to file a complaint about a course:

- Residential Courses: [https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF\\_Complaints\\_policy.pdf](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf)
- Online Courses: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>

**Counseling and Student Health:** Students sometimes experience stress from academic expectations and/or personal and interpersonal issues that may interfere with academic performance. If you find yourself facing issues that have the potential to or are already negatively affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and/or seek help through University resources available to you:

- **Counseling and Wellness Center (CWC)** 352-392-1575 offers a variety of **FREE** and low cost support services such as psychological assessment, intervention and assistance for math and test anxiety. Visit the website for more information. Online and personal assistance is available. Other free workshops and programs are:
  - ✓ Biofeedback training
  - ✓ Crisis/emergency service
  - ✓ Testing and referrals
  - ✓ Anxiety/Stress Management
  - ✓ Academic concerns
  - ✓ LGBTQ+ support
  - ✓ Culture and diversity
  - ✓ Kognito training - recognize at-risk students, be aware of campus resources and know how to take action
- **You Matter We Care:** <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu>. Students feeling overwhelmed or stressed should contact the program office sponsored by the Dean of Students and Counseling Center staff.
- **The Student Health Care Center at Shands** is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health @Shands offers a variety of clinical services and is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 352-392-0627 or visit the website at <https://shcc.ufl.edu>.
- **Crisis intervention** is available 24/7 at the Alachua County Crisis Center, 352-264-6789. Visit <http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/pages/CrisisCenter.aspx>. Do not wait until you reach a crisis to schedule an appointment. Get the help needed to work through stressful situations that impact your personal life and academic performance. You are not alone.

**Career Connections Center (CCC)** offers many **FREE** programs, events and services to help you explore majors and careers, prepare for the future, start a job or internship search, and develop flexible plans to reach career goals. Visit <http://www.career.ufl.edu>. You can also benefit from completing the **FREE** online self-assessments at <https://career.ufl.edu/students/chomp/>

## Weekly Course Schedule

Week #	Reflection-Discussion Topic [+ 9-10 practicum hours]
1	Getting Started: Agency Mission, Target Population, Programs
2	Leadership + Practicum
3	Communication + Practicum
4	Decision-making + Practicum
5	Cultural Competence + Practicum
6	CLAS Standards + Practicum
7	Formative Mid-semester Evaluation + Practicum
8	Health Literacy + Practicum
9	Workforce Diversity + Practicum
10	Experiential vs Traditional Learning
11	Evaluation as a Learning Tool + Practicum
12	Practicum
13	Practicum
14	Practicum

