

Course Title	Health Inequality within and between countries				
Course Code	MPH-532				
Course Type	Elective				
Level	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cycle				
Year / Semester	2 / 3				
Teacher's Name	Dr Premila Webster				
ECTS	10	Lectures	12	Interactive learning activities	15
Course Purpose and Objectives	<p>The main objectives of the course are to enable students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyse the basic features of health inequality both within and between countries and critically evaluate how the social determinants of health, contribute to excess morbidity and mortality and therefore to health inequality.</li> <li>Analyse the different models of aetiological pathways used to explain health inequality both within societies and between countries.</li> <li>Design programmes and devise policies for tackling health inequality both within countries and at a global level.</li> </ul>				
Learning Outcomes	<p>After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyse the basic features of health inequality and inequity both within and between countries.</li> <li>Evaluate how environmental factors, including geography, contribute to health and healthcare access inequalities both within and between countries.</li> <li>Evaluate how socioeconomic factors (social class, educational attainment, employment, income/wealth) contribute to health and healthcare access inequalities, both within and between countries.</li> <li>Evaluate how gender, ethnicity and cultural factors contribute to health and healthcare access inequalities within societies and countries.</li> <li>Critically evaluate the contribution of environmental, social and economic factors to health inequalities both during early child development as well as throughout the lifecourse.</li> <li>Analyse the parallel contribution of ill health towards social deprivation throughout the lifecourse.</li> <li>Apply the different models of aetiological pathways to explain health inequality within societies, including the psycho-social model, the materialist model, the behavioural/cultural model, the access to healthcare model, and the life-course model, and critically evaluate the strengths and limitations of each.</li> <li>Apply the different models of aetiological pathways used to explain health inequality between countries, including poverty and affluence, income inequality, literacy and education (and health education), access to and organization of healthcare, and critically evaluate the strengths and limitations of each approach.</li> </ol>				

	<p>9. Analyse how social and environmental determinants impact on the vulnerability of communities and countries to disasters, including the effects of climate change, and justify the importance of sustainable development and environmental justice in reducing health inequalities.</p> <p>10. Advocate the importance of improving early child development, access to fair employment and decent work, social protections and the living environment as cornerstones for addressing health inequalities.</p> <p>11. Critically evaluate governmental initiatives and social policies put forward in different countries around the world (e.g. UK, Sweden, The Netherlands, USA, Australia, South Africa) for tackling health inequality within their societies and correlate these initiatives with the concepts of health literacy, empowerment, justice and human rights.</p> <p>12. Critically evaluate inter-governmental initiatives and policies from the WHO and other organizations put forward for tackling health inequality at the global level.</p> <p>13. Design programmes and devise policies for tackling health inequality both within countries and at a global level.</p>								
Prerequisites	MPH-511	Required	None						
Course Content	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction to Health Inequality</li> <li>2. Environmental and geographical inequalities in health and health care access</li> <li>3. Socioeconomic inequalities in health and health care access</li> <li>4. Ethnic inequalities in health and healthcare access</li> <li>5. Gender inequalities in health and healthcare access</li> <li>6. The health impacts of social, economic and environmental determinants during critical developmental windows as well as throughout the lifecourse</li> <li>7. Models of aetiological pathways for explaining health inequality within societies</li> <li>8. Models of aetiological pathways for explaining health inequality between countries</li> <li>9. Social and environmental determinants of disaster vulnerability in the context of sustainable development and environmental justice</li> <li>10. Tackling health inequalities at the country level</li> <li>11. Tackling health inequalities at the global level</li> <li>12. Designing programmes and policies for tackling health inequality within and between countries.</li> </ol>								
Teaching Methodology	<p>This programme is delivered via distance learning (online) and includes recorded lectures, interactive online tutorials (Webinars) and discussion forums, as well as online exercises and other activities.</p>								
Bibliography	<p><b>Required Textbooks / Reading:</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Title</th> <th>Author(s)</th> <th>Publisher</th> <th>Year</th> <th>ISBN</th> </tr> </thead> </table>				Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN					

Health Inequality: An Introduction to Concepts, Theories and Methods (2 <sup>nd</sup> ed.)	Bartley M.	Wiley	2016	978-0745691091
Social Determinants of Health (2 <sup>nd</sup> ed.)	Marmot M, Wilkinson RG	Oxford University Press	2005	978-0198565895
Health inequalities: Persistence and change in European welfare states	Johan P. Mackenbach	Oxford Academic	2019	9780191869112

**Recommended Textbooks / Reading:**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>ISBN</b>
The Health Gap: The Challenge of an Unequal World	Marmot M.	Bloomsbury Press	2015	978-1632860781
Social Causes of Health and Disease (2 <sup>nd</sup> ed.)	Cockerham WC	Polity	2013	978-0745661209
Social Epidemiology (2 <sup>nd</sup> ed.)	Berkman LF, Kawachi I, Glymour M.	Oxford University Press	2014	978-0199395330
Equity, Social Determinants and Public Health Programmes	World Health Organisation	World Health Organisation	2010	9789241563970, ISBN number :97892

				406847 99
Key Policies for Addressing the Social Determinants of Health and Health Inequities	Matthew Saunders, Ben Barr, and Phil McHale	World Health Organisation	2017	

**Additional bibliography / resources:**

- Marmot MG, Smith GD, Stansfeld S, Patel C, North F, Head J, White I, Brunner E, Feeney A. Health inequalities among British civil servants: the Whitehall II study. *Lancet*. 1991 Jun 8;337(8754):1387-93. doi: 10.1016/0140-6736(91)93068-k. PMID: 1674771.
- Marmot M, Feeney A. General explanations for social inequalities in health. *IARC Sci Publ*. 1997;(138):207-28. PMID: 9353666.
- Marmot M, Shipley M, Brunner E, Hemingway H. Relative contribution of early life and adult socioeconomic factors to adult morbidity in the Whitehall II study. *J Epidemiol Community Health*. 2001 May;55(5):301-7. doi: 10.1136/jech.55.5.301. PMID: 11297647; PMCID: PMC1731896.
- Ferrie JE, Shipley MJ, Stansfeld SA, Smith GD, Marmot M; Whitehall II Study. Future uncertainty and socioeconomic inequalities in health: the Whitehall II study. *Soc Sci Med*. 2003 Aug;57(4):637-46. doi: 10.1016/s0277-9536(02)00406-9. PMID: 12821012.
- Mackenbach JP. The persistence of health inequalities in modern welfare states: the explanation of a paradox. *Soc Sci Med*. 2012 Aug;75(4):761-9. doi: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2012.02.031. Epub 2012 Mar 20. PMID: 22475407.
- Mackenbach JP. Re-thinking health inequalities. *Eur J Public Health*. 2020 Aug 1;30(4):615. doi: 10.1093/eurpub/ckaa001. PMID: 32558893; PMCID: PMC7445033.
- LIFEPATH consortium. Socioeconomic status and the 25 × 25 risk factors as determinants of premature mortality: a multicohort study and meta-analysis of 1.7 million men and women. *Lancet*. 2017 Mar 25;389(10075):1229-1237. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(16)32380-7. Epub 2017 Feb 1.
- Mackenbach JP, Stirbu I, Roskam AJ, Schaap MM, Menvielle G, Leinsalu M, Kunst AE; European Union Working Group on Socioeconomic Inequalities in Health. Socioeconomic inequalities in health in 22 European countries. *N Engl J Med*. 2008 Jun



	5;358(23):2468-81. doi: 10.1056/NEJMsa0707519. Erratum in: N Engl J Med. 2008 Sep 18;359(12):e14. PMID: 18525043.
Assessment	Online quiz (formative) Coursework (1 essay, 1 mini project on health inequality within countries) – 35% Mandatory interactive activities – 5% Final Exam – 60%
Language	English