



INSTITUTE FOR
INTERNATIONAL
MEDICINE

INMED Healthcare for Marginalized Americans Course Syllabus

Course Faculty:

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Learning Support:

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Overview:

Many people live on the margins of American society due to their race, language, ethnicity, income, immigration status, and more. The United States is distinct from other developed countries in that there is no single national health care system that provides access for all of its inhabitants. Also notable in America is the relative lack of attention to social needs which are so essential for health. As a result, marginalized people are frequently unable to access vital health care. This course explores the complex patchwork of ingredients which comprise American health care systems, with special attention to its deficiencies for marginalized people. The profound impact of the social determinants of health is examined. Existing health resources are evaluated. Obstacles to care are identified, along with “work around” solutions commonly used by marginalized people. Promising solutions to the healthcare dilemma for US marginalized people are explored. Course participants are challenged to advocate for a more equitable US health care system.

Competency Objectives:

At the completion of the INMED Healthcare for Marginalized Americans Course learners will be able to demonstrate using case-studies and simulation:

- Comprehension of the obstacles and resources which exist for US marginalized people in accessing health care
- Acquisition of skills, arising from an approach of cultural humility, which will improve the care of marginalized people

- Effective strategies for addressing the social determinants of health in the lives of marginalized people.

Timeframes:

This course includes 8 weeks of structured learning, and assignments due each Sunday night. Each week includes a *required* virtual class with the faculty for discussions, simulations, case studies and final exams. This weekly *required* virtual class may last up to 60 minutes.

Academic Credit:

Completion of this course requirements earns two credit hours of academic credit.

Enrollment Qualifications:

This course is open to all healthcare professionals and healthcare profession students, as well as non-healthcare professionals. Healthcare for Marginalized Americans is especially appropriate for public health personnel, public leaders and policymakers, social workers, and those providing primary health care.

Computing Requirements:

The following are the minimum computing requirements for participating this course. Students must have ready access to and be functionally proficient with:

- A personal computer with an up-to-date operating system and ample memory for downloads
- A web browser, preferably the most up-to-date version of Chrome, Internet Explorer, Firefox, or Safari
- Applications capable of opening and editing Microsoft Word documents and of viewing PDFs
- An Internet connection, preferably high speed
- Capability of viewing YouTube and Vimeo videos

Education Methods:

Learners will achieve the course competency objectives through the following educational methods:

- Assigned book and article readings
- Critical analysis

- Group discussions
- Essay composition
- Applied skills simulation

Textbook Required:

The American Healthcare Paradox, by Elizabeth H. Bradley and Lauren A. Taylor. PublicAffairs, 2013

Note: Although this textbook was published in 2013, it remains a relevant, timely, and comprehensive resource. Changes have occurred, but the most basic structure of United States health care remains relatively untouched.

Health Care Off the Books, by Danielle T. Raudenbush. University of California Press, 2020.

Both books are available on Amazon.com

Supplemental Textbooks / Optional Reading

How Neighborhoods Make Us Sick, by Veronica Squires and Breanna Lathrop IVP Books, 2019

The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down, by Anne Fadiman Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1997

Both available on Amazon.com

Upholding the Vision, Third Edition, by Multiple Contributors Christian Community Health Fellowship, 2016.

Available from Christian Community Health Fellowship, www.cchf.org, 901-271-6400, info@cchfmail.org

Weekly Assignments:

Required weekly virtual class with course faculty for up to 60 minutes to discuss assigned lessons, chapters, articles, forum discussions and questions.

Healthcare for Marginalized Americans Week 1: The Paradox, and Historical Perspectives

- The “Spend More, Get Less” paradox
- Capitalism, public health, American exceptionalism, imbalance of attention and spending on medical care vs. the broader determinants of health

- The rise of “organized” medicine and opposition to a national health care system
- Contrasts in US health care and social services systems

Assignments to be completed by 11:55 pm, on Sunday:

- Read *The American Health Care Paradox*, Chapters 1 and 2
- Complete the Book Discussion Board assignments
- Read the assigned article
- Complete the Article Discussion Board assignments

Healthcare for Marginalized Americans Week 2: Front Line Insights

- US health care system bears the brunt of an inadequate social services sector
- Front line healthcare personnel are stretched past the limits
- Need for more holistic care widely known and acknowledged

Assignments to be completed by 11:55 pm, on Sunday:

- Read *The American Health Care Paradox*, Chapter 3
- Complete the Book Discussion Board assignments
- Read the assigned article
- Complete the Article Discussion Board assignments

Healthcare for Marginalized Americans Week 3: Learning from Abroad and Home Grown Innovations

- Models for more effective health care systems, such as in the Scandinavian countries, exist.
- The definition of health differs in the US and Scandinavia
- Rationing of health care is part of both the US and Scandinavian systems
- American creativity in health care technology, organization and financing with front line models of such

Assignments to be completed by 11:55 pm, on Sunday:

- Read *The American Health Care Paradox*, Chapters 4 and 5
- Complete the Book Discussion Board assignments
- Read the assigned article
- Complete the Article Discussion Board assignments

Healthcare for Marginalized Americans Week 4: An American Way Forward and Continuing the Discourse

- Lessons from neighborhood/ community health centers and HMOs
- Collectively addressing social determinants of health requires a United States paradigm shift
- American individualism, mistrust of government, concepts of health, and massive financial investment in traditional medical care are immense obstacles to change

Assignments to be completed by 11:55 pm, on Sunday:

- Read *The American Health Care Paradox*, Chapters 6 and 7
- Complete the Book Discussion Board assignments
- Read the assigned article
- Complete the Article Discussion Board assignments
- Download, complete and submit the Mid-Term Exam

Healthcare for Marginalized Americans Week 5: Introduction: Health Care Access in America and the Formal-Informal Hybrid Health Care System and Access to Care in Jackson Homes

- Health disparities abound due to race, income, language, etc.
- Health care "safety net", emergency rooms, resources outside formal health care such as curanderisma.
- Formal-informal hybrid health care system
- Health care resources available to Jackson Homes are very heterogeneous and fraught with many obstacles

Assignments to be completed by 11:55 pm, on Sunday:

- Read *Health Care Off the Books*, Chapters 1 and 2
- Complete the Book Discussion Board assignments
- Read the assigned article
- Complete the Article Discussion Board assignments
- Begin developing a draft for the Healthcare for Marginalized Americans Essay

Healthcare for Marginalized Americans Week 6: Sick, Poor and without Care and On the Poor Side of Things

- The emergence of a hybrid system
- Family, friends and the underground economy
- Hybrid systems exist because of the formal system

Assignments to be completed by 11:55 pm, Sunday:

- Read *Health Care Off the Books*, Chapters 3 and 4
- Complete the Book Discussion Board assignments
- Read the assigned article
- Complete the Article Discussion Board assignments
- Submit your draft for Healthcare for Marginalized Americans Essay to receive instructor feedback

Healthcare for Marginalized Americans Week 7: The Doctor Is In

- Intense role conflict for caregivers due to inadequate resources
- Risks of violating usual norms, rules and practices
- Reasons for using (or not) informal assistance to needy patients

Assignments to be completed by 11:55 pm, Sunday:

- Read *Health Care Off the Books*, Chapter 5
- Complete the Book Discussion Board assignments
- Read the assigned article
- Complete the Article Discussion Board assignments
- Submit your final Health Care for Marginalized Americans Essay for grading

Healthcare for Marginalized Americans Week 8: After the Affordable Care Act and Conclusion

- ACA related improvements and deficiencies for the marginalized
- Persistence of the hybrid health care system
- Cultural humility essential to understanding the hybrid system.

Assignments to be completed by 11:55 pm, Sunday:

- Read *Health Care Off the Books*, Chapters 6 and 7
- Complete the Book Discussion Board assignments
- Read the assigned article
- Complete the Article Discussion Board assignments

Essay Composition:

Learners will compose an essay on the subject *Transforming American health care to improve end results for marginalized people*. Due dates for the

draft submission (followed by feedback from the instructor) and final submission are posted above. The outline for that essay shall be:

Introduction

- Define healthcare needs of one marginalized American people group
- Describe existing resources for alleviating these needs

Main body

- Recommend new or improved interventions to increase health outcomes for these people
- Discuss the resources required, potential obstacles, and potential benefits of these interventions.

Conclusion(s)

- Present a plan necessary to implement your recommended interventions.
- Include a strategy for building support for this plan among relevant stakeholders.

The completed the essay must conform to the following specifications.

- Approximately 2500 words
- At least 10 references
- References may be in any recognized style (AMA, APA, etc.), and the same style should be used throughout
- Footnotes are preferred over endnotes

Final Exam

The Healthcare for Marginalized Americans Final Exam Simulation will take place in an online meeting. All course learners will login at the specified hour. Over a period of 120 minutes, learners will take part in the [SPENT Simulation](#) and in case studies on healthcare issues of marginalized persons that require analysis and solutions. Score on the final exam simulation will be tabulated based upon participation, leadership, and judgment – each weighed equally. A minimum score of $\geq 80\%$ is required.

Explanation of Assignments:

Due Dates: All assignments are due on Sunday at 11:55 pm of the week they are assigned.

Participation: Learners are required to fully participate in the course content, including readings, discussions, and essay.

Punctuality: This is a professional level course. All assignments are expected to be submitted on time. Any learner who becomes more than two weeks behind in submitting any assignment is subject to dismissal from the course.

Professionalism Requirement: This is a learning experience for professionals. Assignments are expected to be completed with excellence.

Assigned Articles: Each week, a journal article is assigned for learners to critically review, including questions posed on the subjects of each article.

Discussion Board Participation: Learners are required to post at least one response to each of the questions posed, and respond to at least one fellow classmate's responses, stating with what they agree or disagree about the response and why. A post that simply agrees with something someone else said without further explanation is not satisfactory and will be counted as if there were no post.

Requirements for Successful Completion & Course Grade Determination:

<i>Element</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Weekly classroom participation	20%
8 satisfactory book discussion board posts	10%
8 satisfactory article discussion board posts	10%
HC for Marginalized Americans Mid-Term Exam	20%
HC for Marginalized Americans Essay $\geq 80\%$	20%
HC for Marginalized Americans Final Exam $\geq 80\%$	20%

In addition, course completion also requires:

- Participation in *all* weekly virtual classes
- Achievement of $\geq 80\%$ on the Healthcare for Marginalized Americans Essay and Healthcare for Marginalized Americans Final Exam
- Cumulative course score $\geq 80\%$
- Complete course evaluation and credit claims forms at the course conclusion.

Course grades will be assigned according to the INMED Course Grading System:

A	90-100 %	4.00
B	80-89 %	3.00
C	70-79 %	2.00
D	60-69 %	1.00
F	0-59 %	0.00

Learners whose evaluation is acceptable will receive academic credit for the *INMED Healthcare for Marginalized Americans Course*. Those learners whose evaluation is not acceptable will receive a certificate of participation and the opportunity to remediate.

Remediation:

If a learner does not complete this course and achieve the required competencies, the faculty may require the learner to 1) remediate the component(s) that the learner did not satisfactorily complete, or 2) repeat the entire course within one year of the start date of the original course. The learner will be offered only one opportunity to repeat the course without requiring repeat payment of tuition.

Academic Integrity:

This is a professional-level learning experience. All learners are expected to be self-motivated, to perform with excellence, and to be thoroughly honest throughout their process of learning. If any INMED faculty determines that a learner has committed academic dishonesty by plagiarism, cheating or in any other manner, the faculty member has the right to 1) fail the learner for the particular assignment, project and/or exam, 2) fail the learner for the entire course, 3) discharge the learner from any future INMED learning experience, including degree, diploma, or certificate completion.

Withdrawal and Refund Policy:

Seventy-five percent refunds for course registration are available before the first day of the course. Fifty percent refunds are available through the first week of the course. No refunds are available after the first week. If a course participant desires to cancel his/her enrollment, he/she has the choice to request a refund or to apply his/her payment to a future INMED Professional Certificate Course. All payments made to INMED must be in US dollars.

INMED reserves the right to cancel individual sessions or the entire course. In the event of a course cancellation, a full tuition refund will be made.

Course Faculty:

Fred Loper, MD

Dr. Loper is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine. As a third-year medical student, he was part of the founding of Good Shepherd Ministries Medical Clinic-- a faith-based, not-for-profit clinic that serves the

uninsured people of Oklahoma City to this day. After completing his residency at the University of Oklahoma, Dr. Loper served as a primary care physician at Central Oklahoma Medical Group (COMG). In 1986, he was appointed as the National Missionary for Medical Missions for a North American mission board, and in 2005, he became Executive Director of Baptist Medical Dental Fellowship, leading physicians, dentists and other health professionals in volunteer healthcare service in the US and abroad. In 2012, Dr. Loper returned to Good Shepherd Ministries Medical Clinic to serve as their full-time medical director and completed his active practice career as an Associate Physician at Community Health Centers of Oklahoma, a Federally Qualified Health Center.