Columbia University
Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
Professor Malo Andre Hutson

Global Healthy Cities
Spring 2018

Course: PLANA 6631 (3 points)
Time: Wednesdays 11-1 pm
Room: 200 Buell Hall
Professor Hutson’s Office: 305 Buell Hall
Professor Hutson’s Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:30-5 p.m.
Online office hours sign-up link: https://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/nzaij (Links to an external site.)
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Background

The majority of the world’s population now resides in cities and this presents a set of challenges and opportunities for urban planners and public health practitioners (and others) concerned about protecting and promoting the health and well-being of their residents. This Global Healthy Cities course explores the common origins of urban planning and public health, from why and how the fields separated and strategies to reconnect them, to addressing urban health inequities. Specifically, this course discusses the influences of urban population health, analyzes the determinants of health, and roles that city planning and public health related agencies and organizations play at both the local and global level.

The course will also introduce students to the theories and practices underlying health equity strategies. Moreover, this course will attempt to not just highlight the challenges contributing to health inequities, but will focus on solutions. This means investigating the latest attempts to transform institutions, policies, practices, and strategies at multiple jurisdictional levels and scales.

Course Objectives:
The goal of this course is to help students:

1) Understand key events in the histories of planning and public health that helped to link and later separate the two disciplines;

2) Utilize key theories of urban disease causation within epidemiology, what is called population health, and how these relate to health inequities between different population groups;

3) Distinguish between health disparities, health inequalities and health equity in US cities and cities around the world;

4) Identify key policies at the federal, state and municipal scale that helped create urban health inequities and those that can promote greater health equity;

5) Know how specific features of the built environment, social context and place get biologically 'embodied' to produce different health opportunities across space;

6) Understand the multiple quantitative, qualitative and spatial analytic methods required for analyzing the determinants of urban health;

7) Know how to engage with different urban health stakeholders, including governmental, community-based and other institutions;

8) Explain how governance is a key driver of urban health and be able to diagnose and design healthy governance strategies that can promote urban well-being.

Course Requirements:

This course will require students to attend all classes and to participate in discussion, submit ten 2-3 page weekly commentaries, take a midterm, and submit a final paper.

Grading:

Grades will be based on the following:

**Class Attendance and Participation: 25%**

Students will be expected to attend all classes and to participate in the class discussion. Student teams of 2-3 people will also be responsible for presenting and leading the class discussion one session per semester. Student presentations should be 45 minutes long and do the following:

1) help lead the class discussion;

2) provide in-depth analysis of the weeks readings;

3) pose interesting and challenging questions to the class;
4) make connections to relevant topics discussed in the course; and

5) where applicable, highlight case studies or examples of efforts aimed at promoting health equity and supporting the development of healthy cities.

Presentations can include PowerPoint, handouts, etc. Professor Hutson will send around a sign-up sheet the second week of class.

Weekly 2-3 Page Commentaries: 25%

Students will be required to submit a 2-3-page weekly commentary on each week’s set of readings. Your commentaries should not summarize the readings, but instead should provide an analysis of the readings. What are your thoughts? What theories and practices seem promising or what critiques do you have? Summaries must be submitted Tuesday by Noon via the course website each week. Students are expected to submit at least 8 commentaries during the semester. Commentaries will be graded either low pass, pass, or high pass. Commentaries should be written with 12 font, be double-spaced, and have 1 inch margins.

No Commentaries are due week of January 15; Feb 26; or April 30.

Midterm: 25%

Students will take an in-class midterm that will require short answers and essay questions. The midterm will be on Wednesday, February 28th.

Final Paper: 25%

Students are expected to write a final 10-15-page paper for the course on a topic they choose related to global healthy cities. Final papers should analyze an important planning or public health issue, policy, program, institution, or theory. Final papers will be due via the online course website on May 4, 2018 by 11:59 p.m. No late papers will be accepted!!!

All final paper topics must be approved by Professor Hutson and a short description of your paper topic will be due Wednesday, March 7. Professor Hutson will provide more details about the paper topic and expectations during class in the beginning of the semester.

Policy on Religious Holidays:

If you will be observing any religious holidays this semester that will prevent you from attending a regularly scheduled class or interfere with fulfilling any course requirement, notify Professor Hutson within the first two weeks of the semester. Otherwise, any absence due to a religious holiday will be treated as a missed class.
Important Dates

Midterm:  Wednesday February 28, 2018
Final Papers Due:  Friday, May 4, 2018

Statement of Academic Integrity:

Any test, paper or report submitted by you and that bears your name is presumed to be your own original work that has not previously been submitted for credit in another course unless you obtain prior written approval to do so from Professor Hutson.

In all of your assignments, including your homework or drafts of papers, you may use words or ideas written by other individuals in publications, web sites, or other sources, but only with proper attribution. "Proper attribution" means that you have fully identified the original source and extent of your use of the words or ideas of others that you reproduce in your work for this course, usually in the form of a footnote or parenthesis.

As a general rule, if you are citing from a published source or from a web site and the quotation is short (up to a sentence or two) place it in quotation marks; if you employ a longer passage from a publication or web site, please indent it and use single spacing. In both cases, be sure to cite the original source in a footnote or in parentheses.

If you are not clear about the expectations for completing an assignment or taking an examination, be sure to seek clarification from Professor’s Hutson or Tajbakhsh or the TA beforehand.

Finally, you should keep in mind that as a member of the campus community, you are expected to demonstrate integrity in all of your academic endeavors and will be evaluated on your own merits. So be proud of your academic accomplishments and help to protect and promote academic integrity at Columbia University. The consequences of cheating and academic dishonesty - including a formal discipline file, possible loss of future internship, scholarship, or employment opportunities, and denial of admission to another graduate program - are simply not worth it.

Students with Disabilities:
If you need accommodations for any physical, psychological, or learning disability or if you want me to have emergency medical information, please speak to me after class or during office hours.

**Required Reading for Course:**

There will not be a course reader and where possible electronic resources will be available via the online course website.

**Course Content and Reading Schedule**

**Week #1: January 17: Introduction to the Course, Expectations and Overview Discussion of Global Healthy Cities**

**Required Readings:**

None.

**Week #2: January 24: History of City Planning and Public Health**

**Required Readings:**


Urban Affairs Review

Volume 42 Number 5

May 2007  688-713

Week #3: January 31: Institutions, Macro-Level Policies and Strategies to Promote Healthy Cities

Required readings:


Week #4: February 7: Built Environment, Food Systems and Health

Required readings:


Week #5: February 14: Neighborhoods and Health

Required readings:


Braveman, Paula et. al. 2011. “Neighborhoods and Health: Issue Brief.” [https://www.rwjf.org/content/dam/farm/reports/issue_briefs/2011/rwjf70450](https://www.rwjf.org/content/dam/farm/reports/issue_briefs/2011/rwjf70450) (Links to an external site.)

**Week #6: February 21: Race/Class, Residential Segregation, and Health**

**Required readings:**


**Week #7: February 28: Midterm!!!**

**Week #8: March 7:**

Community Development and Health
Required readings:


Week #9: March 21: Infrastructure, Environment, Climate Change, and Health: Africa and A Case Study of Nairobi, Kenya

Required readings:


Video: Upgrading Slums for Better Cities [Upgrading Slums for Better Cities (Links to an external site.)](https://www.arch.columbia.edu/events/807-health-equity-shaping-just-societies) (Attending this event is NOT required as part of this course).


**NOTE:** Friday, March 23 from 1-3 pm will be the “Health Equity: Shaping Just Societies” Discussion. [https://www.arch.columbia.edu/events/807-health-equity-shaping-just-societies](https://www.arch.columbia.edu/events/807-health-equity-shaping-just-societies) (Attending this event is NOT required as part of this course).
Week #11: April 4: Environmental Justice, Climate Change, and Health

Required readings:


Week #12: April 11: Infrastructure, Environment, Climate Change, and Health: Latin America

Required readings:


Also, see Maule Video in the assigned reading file folder.

Week #13: April 18: Infrastructure, Environment, Climate Change, and Health: Europe

Required readings:

Governance for Health Equity. 2014. World Health Organization: European Regional Office.
http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/235712/e96954.pdf (Links to an external site.)

Week #14: April 25: Infrastructure, Environment, Climate Change, and Health: Asia

Required readings:
Sustainable Urban Infrastructure Transitions in the ASEAN Region Link (Links to an external site.)
United Nations Economic and Social Council Session for Asia and the Pacific. First Session December 6, 2017. Bangkok, Thailand. Link (Links to an external site.)

Dr. Tan Weiping, Deputy Director General of the International Poverty Reduction Centre in China. October 9, 2017. "China's Proposal for Poverty Reduction and Development. (See Files folder for article)

Week #15: Final Paper is Due: Friday, May 4, 2018. An electronic must be submitted via the Courseworks website by 11:59 p.m. NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED!!!