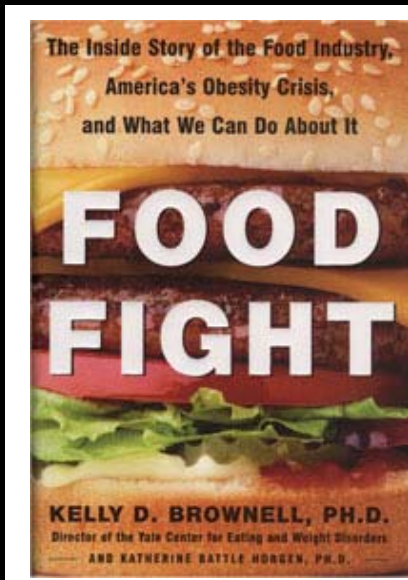
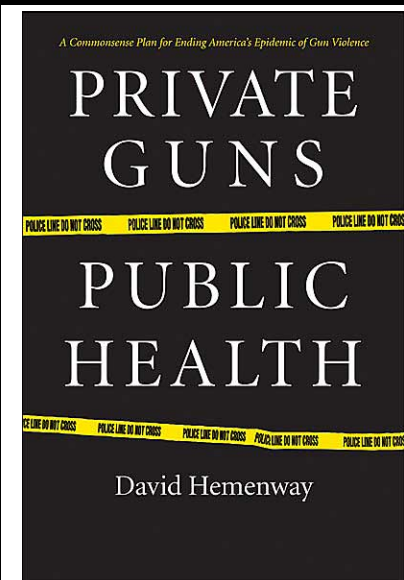
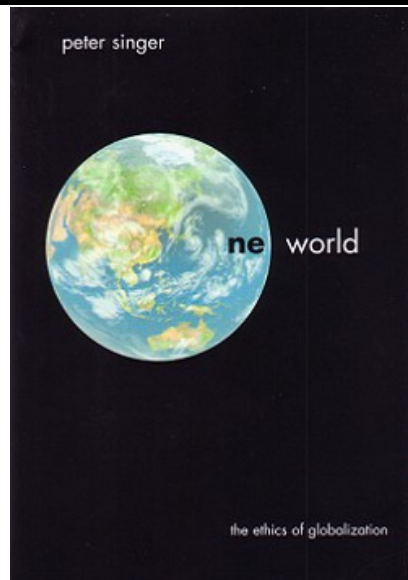
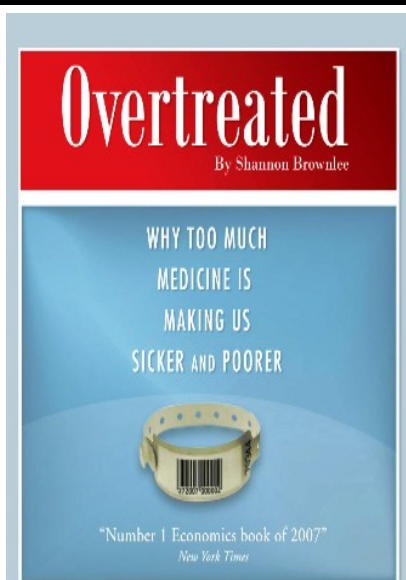
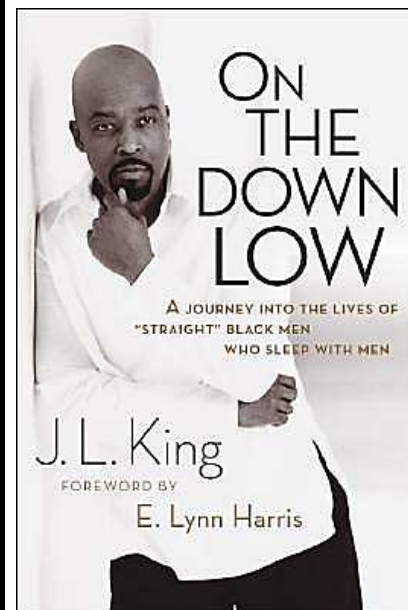
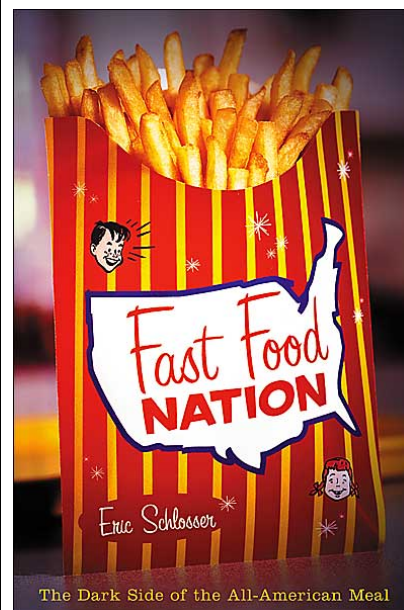
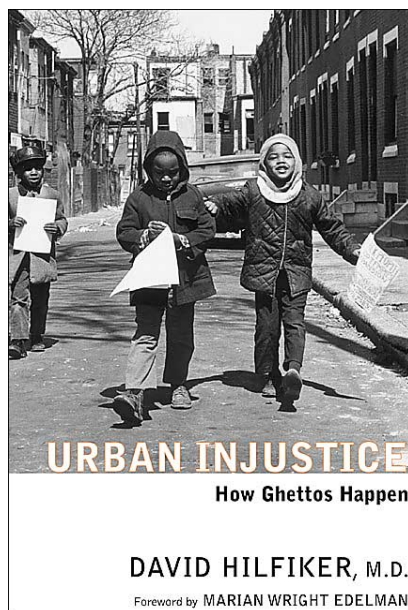
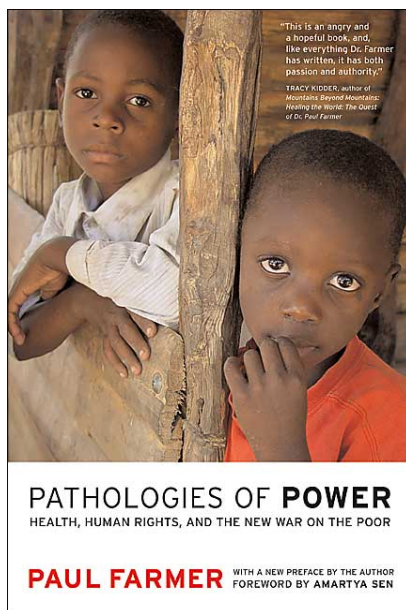


This Spring Earn Course Credit for Reading Eight Compelling Books



EPID 691

Reading Seminar: Contemporary Issues & Controversies in Public Health
Instructor: Gonzalo Bearman MD, MPH

EPID 693: Contemporary Issues & Controversies in Public Health

Credits: 3

Instructors: Gonzalo Bearman MD, MPH

Prerequisites: 12 credit hours towards the MPH degree; or third or fourth year medical student; or MD degree; or permission of instructor

Course format: A reading and writing intensive, online (Blackboard)/classroom course

Objectives:

- To develop knowledge of selected controversial issues in public health, including globalization, agribusiness, obesity, gun violence, the role of bisexual men in the epidemiology of the HIV epidemic, urban poverty, and the relationship between health, social justice, equity, quality and access to healthcare.
- To stimulate students to participate in online discussion of public health issues that may not be taught in traditional public health courses
- To sharpen the student's ability to think critically and articulate their arguments effectively with peers

Course requirements:

- Attend orientation on 1.12.2008
- Read the assigned books and post a 1500-word review of each book to the course web site based on personal and professional experience, and knowledge of epidemiology, public health and prevention.
- Participate actively in an online forum for peer review, critique and spirited online discussion
- Participate actively in class discussions
- Midterm and Final exams based on themes covered in the course reading

Criteria for Student Evaluation:

- Participation in online discussion
- Participation in class discussions
- Quality of book reviews
- Attendance at class

Reading list:

- *One World: The Ethics of Globalization*; Peter Singer
- *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal*; Eric Schlosser
- *Overtreated: Why too much Medicine is Making us Sicker and Poorer*; Shannon Brownlee
- *Food Fight: The Inside Story of the Food Industry, America's Obesity Crisis, and What We Can Do about It*; Kelly Brownell
- *Private Guns, Public Health*; David Hemenway
- *On the Down Low: A Journey into the Lives of "Straight" Men Who Sleep with Men*; J.L. King
- *Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor*; Paul Farmer
- *Urban Injustice: How Ghettos Happen*; David Hilfiker
- Supplemental Reading Packet- see syllabus below for details

Supplemental Reading Packet *

The supplemental reading material is meant to provide a framework for discussion around controversial issues in Public Health. The class is meant to stimulate discussion on issues relevant in the current era of Public Health.

Topic: **Autonomy vs. Government Intrusion**: * for the first class discussion, and as relevant to the remainder of the class material

Select chapters from: ***For You Own Good*** pgs 1-13, 256-26, ***The Perversion of Autonomy*** pgs-1-25,177-201,72-88, the article *The Tyranny of Health Promotion* by Marshall Becker, and *Personal Responsibility for Health?* By Meredith Minkler

Topic: **The HIV Epidemic**: *for the class discussion of ***On the Down Low***

Article: *HIV/AIDS Among Women and Focusing "Down Low" Bisexual Black Men, HIV Risk and Heterosexual Transmission* by Gregorio Millett et al

Topic: **The Obesity Crisis in the United States**: * for the class discussion of ***Fast Food Nation and Food Fight***

Article: *Minisymposium on Obesity: Overview and Some Strategic Considerations* by Shiriki Kumanyika

Topic: **Healthcare Delivery**: for the class discussions of ***Pathologies of Power, Overtreated, Urban Injustice and One World***

Textbook chapter: *A Distinctive System of Health Care Delivery* from ***Delivering Healthcare in America*** by Shi and Singh

Questions: Email Dr. Bearman (gbearman@mcvh-vcu.edu)

Syllabus: Spring 2010

Note:

All Blackboard postings are due by midnight of the specified date.

All class meetings/discussions are in the **Grant House Rm TBA, 3PM-4:30PM**

Note: Required course reading include the books and the Supplemental Reading Packet for EPID 693 available at Uptown Color

January 25th: **Class meeting**-orientation: **Review of course objectives and expectations**

February 12th: Blackboard posting for ***On the Down Low and Private Guns, Public Health***

February 15th: **Class discussion-** ***On the Down Low and Private Guns, Public Health***

March 5th: Blackboard posting for ***Fast Food Nation and Food Fight***

March 8th: **Class discussion-** ***Fast Food Nation and Food Fight***

April 16th: Blackboard posting for ***Pathologies of Power and Overtreated***

April 19th: **Class discussion-** ***Pathologies of Power and Overtreated***

May 7th: Blackboard posting for ***Urban Injustice and One World***

May 10th: **Class Discussion** ***Urban Injustice and One World***

About the Instructor:



Gonzalo Bearman is Associate Professor of Internal Medicine and the Associate Hospital Epidemiologist. He is a graduate of Colgate University (BA), SUNY at Buffalo (MD) and Columbia University (MPH). He was resident and Chief Resident at SUNY at Buffalo. He then completed a fellowship in Infectious Diseases and a residency Preventive Medicine/Public Health, both at Cornell University. Dr. Bearman is Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Infectious Diseases, and General Preventive Medicine and Public Health. His areas of research focus on the epidemiology of hospital-acquired infections. He is an attending physician on the Internal Medicine and Infectious Disease Services at VCU Medical Center. Dr. Bearman is also the Program Director for the General Preventive Medicine Residency Program and the Clerkship Director for the VCU M3 Internal Medicine Rotation. Dr. Bearman has publications in *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *Archives of Internal Medicine*, *Archives of Medical Research*, *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*, *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, *American Journal of Infection Control*, *BioMedCentral Infectious Diseases*, *Infections in Medicine*, *Journal of Hospital Infection* and *Journal of Infection*.

Website: <http://www.people.vcu.edu/~gbearman/>