This Spring Earn Course Credit for Reading Eight Compelling Books

**PATHOLOGIES OF POWER**
Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor
*Paul Farmer*

**URBAN INJUSTICE**
How Ghettoes Happen
*David Hilfiker, M.D.*

**Fast Food Nation**
The Dark Side of the All-American Meal
*Eric Schlosser*

**On the Down Low**
A Journey into the Lives of "Straight" Black Men Who Sleep with Men
*J.L. King* 
Forwarded by E. Lynn Harris

**REEFER MADNESS**
Sex, Drugs, and Cheap Labor in the American Black Market
*Eric Schlosser*

**PRIVATE GUNS, PUBLIC HEALTH**
A Conservative Plan for Ending America’s Epidemic of Gun Violence
*David Hemenway*

**Food Fight**
The Inside Story of the Food Industry, America’s Obesity Crisis, and What We Can Do About It
*Kelly D. Brownell, Ph.D.*

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 course via Blackboard.

Objectives:
- To develop knowledge of selected controversial issues in public health, including globalization, agribusiness, obesity, illicit drug use, gun violence, the role of bisexual men in the epidemiology of the HIV epidemic, urban poverty, and the relationship between health and social justice
- 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 an evening orientation on 1.25.2008
- 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

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
- Reefer Madness: Sex, Drugs, and Cheap Labor in the American Black Market; Eric Schlosser
- 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

Questions: Email Dr. Bearman (gbearman@vcu.edu)
Syllabus: Spring 2008

Note:

All Blackboard postings are due by midnight of the specified date.
All class meetings/discussions will take place in the Grant House, room 204.

The Orientation Meeting will take place on January 25th at noon in Dr. Bearman’s office (AD Williams Building, 6th floor, suite 6-602).

January 25th: Class meeting-orientation: Epidemiology Conference Room, AD Williams 6th floor, Room 6-602, 12:00-12:30 PM

February 24th: Blackboard posting for On the Down Low and Fast Food Nation
February 26th: Class discussion- On the Down Low and Fast Food Nation

March 15th: Blackboard posting for Urban Injustice and Private Guns, Public Health
March 18th: Class discussion- Urban Injustice and Private Guns, Public Health

April 27th: Blackboard posting for Pathologies of Power and One World
April 29th: Class discussion- Pathologies of Power and One World

May 4th: Blackboard posting for Food Fight and Reefer Madness
May 6th: Class Discussion Food Fight and Reefer Madness
About the Instructor:

Gonzalo Bearman is Assistant 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.*