This Summer Earn Course Credit for Reading Eight Compelling Books

EPID 693

Reading Seminar: Contemporary Issues & Controversies in Public Health
Instructors: Gonzalo Bearman, MD, MPH
EPID 693: Contemporary Issues & Controversies in Public Health Summer 2006

Credits: 2
Instructor: 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 session the week of May 22nd and classes on June 26th and August 7th
- 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. Reviews must be posted by dates specified in syllabus.
- Participate actively in an online forum for peer review, critique and spirited online discussion
- Attend an evening debriefing session at the end of the course (mid-August)

Criteria for Student Evaluation:
- Participation in online and class discussions
- Quality of book reviews
- Attendance at the three class meetings

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

May 22\textsuperscript{nd} - Orientation 5-7pm in Department of Epidemiology & Infection Control
    Location: Epidemiology Conference Room AD Williams 6\textsuperscript{th} floor, Room 6-702

June 12\textsuperscript{th} - Blackboard postings due by midnight for \textit{Fast Food Nation} and \textit{On the Down Low}

June 26\textsuperscript{th} - Blackboard postings due by midnight for \textit{Urban Injustice} and \textit{Reefer Madness}
    Class Meeting 5-7pm Department of Epidemiology & Infection Control
    Location: Epidemiology Conference Room AD Williams 6\textsuperscript{th} floor, Room 6-702

July 17\textsuperscript{th} - Blackboard postings due by midnight for \textit{One World} and \textit{Private Guns Public Health}

August 7\textsuperscript{th} - Blackboard postings due by midnight for \textit{Pathologies of Power} and \textit{Food Fight}
    Class meeting from 5-7 pm Department of Epidemiology & Infection Control
    Location: Epidemiology Conference Room AD Williams 6\textsuperscript{th} floor, Room 6-702
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*, and *BioMedCentral*. 

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