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 & Michael Edmond, MD, MPH, MPA
EPID 693: Contemporary Issues & Controversies in Public Health

Credits: 2

Instructors: Gonzalo Bearman, MD, MPH
Michael Edmond, MD, MPH, MPA

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 23rd (exact date to be determined)
- 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
- Attend an evening debriefing session at the end of the course (mid-August)

Criteria for Student Evaluation:
- Participation in online discussion
- Quality of book reviews
- Attendance at the two 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) or Dr. Edmond (medmond@hsc.vcu.edu)