This syllabus is subject to change depending on new developments or the pace of the class. You are responsible for any and all changes announced in class. The instructor reserves the right to change any course requirements listed below provided he informs you verbally or electronically of the changes.

Course Description

Students will learn about the disparities in health and health care experienced by diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander populations. Moreover, they will examine how these disparities are connected to Asian American history and current social, economic, educational and political conditions. This includes examining the impact of culture, language, immigration, racism and assimilation on health. Students will learn about efforts to address disparities through research, community organizing and political advocacy. Students will also have an opportunity to identify how Asian Americans are affected by current public policy issues such as health reform.

Course Learning Outcomes

- An understanding of the health of Asian Americans from an ecological perspective
- An understanding epidemiological data and research on Asian American health and healthcare disparities
- Awareness of the history of the Asian American health movement and present-day community organizing and advocacy to improve health
- Increased skill in presenting data (qualitative and quantitative) and public health policy
Required Texts

Books are available immediately at the UMD Bookstore. In addition, a book’s ISBN has been specified so that you have the option of purchasing a copy of the book from another vendor.


Optional Texts – The following books are supplementary—you do not have to purchase them. Copies are available in McKeldin and AAST libraries.


Course Outline

I. Setting the context
   a. Asian American Immigration and Settlement
   b. Ecological Model/Social Determinants of Health
   c. Epidemiology 101
   d. Asian American Health Status
   e. Asian American Community Resources

II. Immigration and Health
   a. Nativity and Acculturation
   b. Citizenship
   c. Language
   d. Racism and microaggressions

III. Socioeconomic Status, the Model Minority Myth, and Health
   a. Educational Attainment
   b. Income and Poverty
   c. Occupational Diversity

IV. Asian American Health Status
   a. Access to care measures
   b. Quality of care measures
   c. Incidence/prevalence of specific conditions
d. Diverse populations (by ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, age, etc)

V. Building Communities, Building Movements
   a. Research
   b. Community organizing
   c. Political advocacy

Assignments

Weekly reading

Quizzes

**Major research project**

Students will have the opportunity to become more knowledgeable about the health status of a specific Asian American or Pacific Islander population. This disaggregation of the population can be in the form of ethnicity (e.g. Filipino, Chinese), but also sex, age, sexual orientation, immigrant generation, language proficiency, or other grouping. Students will present their findings in APHA-style poster presentations with the following elements:

- Population description (Census data, ecological factors)
- Health status (access, quality, outcome measures)
- Research opportunities
- Community responses
- Policy responses

Alternatively, students may choose to approach this from a specific health condition such as cancer, mental health, hepatitis B, health insurance, immunizations, etc. To the extent possible, students must present data disaggregated by ethnicity. These presentations will have the following elements:

- Health condition/Health status issue (disaggregated data)
- Ecological factors
- Research opportunities
- Community responses
- Policy responses

**Grading Guidelines**

Students earn grades based on their performance on the course requirements listed above. Here is a description of the grading criteria according to the UMD Faculty Handbook (http://www.faculty.umd.edu/teach/grades.html).

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<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+, A, A-</td>
<td>“Denotes excellent mastery of the subject and outstanding scholarship.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+, B, B-</td>
<td>“Denotes good mastery of the subject and good scholarship.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+, C, C-</td>
<td>“Denotes acceptable mastery of the subject and the usual achievement expected.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+, D, D-</td>
<td>“Denotes borderline understanding of the subject. These grades denote marginal performance, and they do not represent satisfactory progress toward a degree.”</td>
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**Attendance and Participation:** Students should attend all class meetings, be on time, and be prepared to participate on a substantive and analytical level in discussions of the readings and topics. If you do miss class, contact a classmate to make sure you are up to date on all changes. Bring the appropriate texts and syllabus to class *every time we meet*. Note that UMD’s official attendance policy is available at [http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/atedasse.html](http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/atedasse.html).

**Academic Integrity:** The AAST takes the issue of academic honesty very seriously. We expect our students to uphold high standard of conduct. The University of Maryland is dedicated to ensuring academic integrity, symbolized by the Honor Code upheld by the Student Honor Council. You are asked to write the following pledge on all your written work: “I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this examination (or assignment).” Even if you choose not to write the pledge on your work, you are still bound by it. The Student Honor Council defines the following as academic dishonesty:

- **Cheating:** intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise.
- **Fabrication:** intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.
- **Facilitation:** intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate any provision of the Honor Code.
- **Plagiarism:** intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own in any academic exercise without citation.

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with these policies: [http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/dishonesty.html](http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/dishonesty.html)

**Classroom Etiquette:** The AAST values the diversity of its student body and is committed to providing a classroom atmosphere that encourages the equitable participation of all students. At all times students should be respectful of others’ opinions. If you disagree with someone you should express your alternative view using the evidence that led you to your interpretation. Personalized comments, inappropriate language, insults, sleeping, and raised voices are not conducive to learning and will not be tolerated in the classroom. In addition, cell phone texting or viewing and laptop use other than taking notes are disruptive activities that inhibit students’ ability to learn and are to be refrained from in lecture and discussion section. Please place your cell phone on silent or “vibrate” mode while in lecture or discussion section.

**Online Expectations:** We will assume that the e-mail address that you provided to the university is accurate, up to date and checked at least once a day during business days. If your official e-mail address is not up to date, please update it. In addition, all students will be required to sign into Blackboard in order to obtain or view course-related files or information. On Blackboard we will have links and handouts relating to the course. Note that the instructor will generally inform you verbally and via e-mail when an item has been added to Blackboard. You can find information relating to getting started with Blackboard here: [http://elms.umd.edu](http://elms.umd.edu)
Writing Center: The UMD English Department offers a superb resource in the form of the campus writing center. It is recommended that you bring your written work to the writing center so that they can help you improve your writing.

Writing Center website: (http://www.english.umd.edu/the-writing-center-front-page)
Office Number: (301) 405-3787 (The Grammar Hotline)
Location: 1205 Tawes Hall

Religious Observances: University policy provides that students “should not be penalized because of observances of their religious beliefs; students shall be given an opportunity, whenever feasible, to make up within a reasonable time any academic assignment that is missed due to individual participation in religious observances.” Please inform the instructors at the start of the semester if you are going to miss any lecture sessions, discussion sections, exams, or other assignments due to religious observances so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Special Accommodations: If you require any special accommodations due to disability please inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester so that the instructor can make arrangements for exams and other items. In addition, please make an appointment with the Disability Support Services (DSS) so that you can learn the procedures and fill out the necessary paperwork. DSS contact information:
• DSS Website: (http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS)
• Main office phone number: 301.314.7682 (fax 301.405.0813)
• Location: 0126 Shoemaker Hall – Building #37 (just behind Memorial Chapel)

Course Evaluations: During the end of the semester, you will be asked to fill out online course evaluations via the website at (www.courseevalum.umd.edu). Please take the time to fill out these forms because the AAST takes them very seriously as tools which we can use to improve our teaching. Therefore, over the course of the semester please think about what worked well in the course, what was ineffective in the course, and what you would recommend be done to improve the course.