

National Taiwan University College of Public Health

845 U1190

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIETY AND HEALTH

Fall 2008

Wednesday 10:20-12:10, Room 205

Tung-liang Chiang, tlchiang@ntu.edu.tw

Yawen Cheng, ycheng@ntu.edu.tw

Course Overview

This course explores health equity and social determinants of health. The first part reviews basic concepts of health equity, vital signs of Taiwan and the world, and the contribution of medical care to the improvement of population health. The second part examines health inequalities from different social dimensions, including economic development, social class, gender, neighborhood, social exclusion, life course, and globalization. The third part presents the psychosocial and material pathways through which social factors influence health.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course students should be able to:

- describe the basic concepts of health equity;
- illustrate health inequalities from different social dimensions; and
- discuss mechanisms linking social factors and health inequalities.

Course Requirements

This course meets for two hours once a week and is conducted mainly as a participatory seminar. Students are expected to read the required readings and prepare a short critique before the class. There will be a 10 page seminar paper, due January 14, 2008, on issues related to social determinants of health. Students will be graded according to their performance in short critique (20%), class discussion (40%), and seminar paper (40%).

Recommended Textbook

Marmot M, Wilkinson RG. *Social Determinants of Health (2nd edition)*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Recommended Websites

Population Health Forum, University of Washington, Seattle--
<http://depts.washington.edu/eqhlth>

The Gapminder organization--<http://www.gapminder.org/>

WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health--
http://www.who.int/social_determinants/en/

National Taiwan University College of Public Health

845 U1190

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIETY AND HEALTH

PART ONE Overture		Principal Instructor
09/17	Welcome	Chiang & Cheng
09/24	Health equity	Chiang
10/01	The role of medical care	Chiang
PART TWO Social Determinants		
10/08	Economic development	Chiang
10/15	Social class	Chiang
10/22	Titanic	Students
10/29	Gender	Cheng
11/05	Work	Cheng
11/12	Place/ neighborhood	Chiang
11/19	Social exclusion	Chiang
11/26	Early life/ life course	Chiang
12/03	Globalization	Cheng
PART THREE Pathways		
12/10	Psychosocial perspectives	Chiang
12/17	Political economic perspectives	Chiang
12/24	Put together	Chiang & Cheng
12/31	Student presentation	Chiang & Cheng
01/07	Student presentation	Chiang & Cheng
01/14	Student presentation/Term paper due	Chiang & Cheng

TOPICS AND READINGS

Sep 17 **Welcome**

Chiang TL. New millennium, new Taiwan, and health for all, paper presented at the National Taiwan University's Expectations for the New Taiwan Government in New Millennium, National Taiwan University, Taipei, April 29-30, 2000.

Marmot MG. Health in an unequal world. *Lancet* 2006;368:2081-94.

https://admin.emea.acrobat.com/_a45839050/p40258774

The Commission on Social Determinants of Health--

http://www.who.int/social_determinants/en/

Sep 24 **Health Equity**

Whitehead M. The concepts and principles of equity and health. Copenhagen: World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, (EUR/ICP/PRD 414). Available at:

<http://www.who.dk/Document/PAE/conceptsrpd414.pdf>

Unnatural cause is inequality making us sick?--

<http://www.unnaturalcauses.org/>

World Health Chart -- <http://www.gapminder.org/>

Oct 01 **The Role of Medical Care**

McKeown T, Record RG, Turner RD. An interpretation of the decline in mortality in England and Wales during the twentieth century. *Popul Stud* 1975;29:391-422.

Bunker JP, Frazier HS, Mosteller F. Improving health: measuring effects of medical care. *Milbank Q* 1994;72:225-58.

Chiang TL. Tackling health inequalities through universal health insurance: lessons from Taiwan. Paper prepared for the 2006 *Beijing Forum - The harmony of civilizations and prosperity for all*, October 27-29, 2006, Beijing, China.

Oct 08 **Economic Development**

Preston SH. The changing relation between mortality and level of economic development. *Popul Stud* 1975;29:231-48. Reprint in *Int J Epidemiol* 2007;36:484-90.

Wilkinson RG. Income distribution and life expectancy. *BMJ* 1992;301:65-8.

Chiang TL. Economic transition and changing relation between income inequality and mortality in Taiwan: regression analysis. *BMJ* 1999;319:1162-5.

World Development Trends 2005--<http://www.gapminder.org/>

Oct 15 Social Class

Davey Smith G, Carroll D, Rankin S, Rowan D. Socioeconomic differentials in mortality: evidence from Glasgow graveyards. *BMJ* 1992;305:1554-7.

Black D, Morris JN, Smith C, Townsend P, Whitehead M. *Inequalities in Health: the Black Report and the Health Divide*. London: Penguin, 1988; 43-67. Available at: <http://www.sochealth.co.uk/history/black.htm>

Marmot MG. Status syndrome: a challenge to medicine. *JAMA* 2006; 295:1304-07.

Isaacs SL, Schroeder SA. Class—the ignored determinant of nation's health. *N Eng J Med* 2004;351:1137-42.

Oct 22 Titanic

Hanley JA, Turner E, Bellera C, Teltsch D. How long did their hearts go on? A Titanic study. *BMJ* 2003;327:1457-8.

The Titanic: what can numbers tell us about her fatal voyage?
<http://asterix.ednet.lsu.edu/~edtech/webquest/titanic.html>

Encyclopedia Titanica--<http://www.encyclopedia-titanica.org>

Oct 29 Gender

Sen A. Missing women. *BMJ* 1992;304:587-8.

Nov 05 Work

Bartley M, Ferrie J, Montgomery. Health and labor market disadvantage: unemployment, non-employment, and job insecurity. In: *Social Determinants of Health*, 78-96.

Marmot M, Siegrist J, Theorell T. Health and the psychosocial environment at work. In: *Social Determinants of Health*, 87-130.

Cheng Y, Chen CW, Chen CJ, Chiang TL. Job insecurity and its association with health among employees in the Taiwanese general population. *Soc Sci Med* 2005;61:41-52.

Nov 12 Place/ Neighborhood

Krieger N. Historical roots of social epidemiology: socioeconomic gradients in health and contextual analysis. *Int J Epidemiol* 2001;30:899-900.

Horowitz CR, Colson KA, Hebert PL, Lancaster K. Barriers to buying healthy foods for people with diabetes: evidence of environmental disparities. *Am J Public Health* 2004;94:1549-54.

Stafford m, McCarthy M. Neighbourhoods, housing, and health. In: *Social Determinants of Health*, 297-318.

Nov 19 Social Exclusion

Shaw M, Doring D, Davey Smith G. Poverty, social exclusion, and minorities. In: *Social Determinants of Health*, 196-223.

Nazroo JY, Williams DR. The social determination of ethnic/racial inequalities in health. In: *Social Determinants of Health*, 238-66.

Wen CP, Tsai Sp, Shih YT, Chung WS. Bridging the gap in life expectancy of the aborigines in Taiwan. *Int J Epidemiol* 2004;33:320-27.

Nov 26 Early Life/ Life Course

Wadsworth M. Early life. In: *Social Determinants of Health*, 44-63.

Blane D. The life course, the social gradient, and health. In: *Social Determinants of Health*, 64-80.

Wu CLJ, Chiang TL. Comparing child health in Taiwan and selected industrialized countries. *J Formosan Med Assoc* 2007;106:177-80.

Barker DJP. The midwife, the coincidence, and the hypothesis. *BMJ* 2003;327:1428-30.

WHO Knowledge Hub for Early Child Development--
<http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/WHO/>

Dec 03 Globalization

Chen TT, Winder AE. The opium war revisited as US forces tobacco experts in Asia. *Am J Public Health* 1990;80:659-62.

Dec 10 Pathways: Psychosocial Perspective

Bruner E, Marmot MG. Social organization, stress, and health. In: *Social Determinants of Health*, 6-30.

Stansfeld SA. Social support and social cohesion. In: *Social Determinants of Health*, 148-171.

Dec 17 Pathways: Perspective of political economy

Marmot M, Wilkinson RG. Psychosocial and material pathways in the relation between income and health: a response to Lynch et al. *BMJ* 2001; 322:1233-6.

Lynch JW, Davey Smith G, Kaplan GA, House JS. Income inequality and mortality: importance to health of individual income, psychological environment, or material conditions. *BMJ* 2000;320:1200-4.

Sen A. Health in development. *Bull WHO* 1999;77:619-23.

Dec 24 Put Together

Wilkinson RG. Ourselves and others--for better or worse: social vulnerability and inequality. In: *Social Determinants of Health*, 341-58.

CSDH. Closing the gap in a generation: health equity through action on the social determinants of health. Final Report of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2008.

Dec 31 Student Presentation

Jan 07 Student Presentation

Jan 14 Student Presentation/Term Paper Due