SOCI 545
Graduate Seminar in Population Health, Health Equity & Health Care
Fall, 2019 (CRN 12950)

Note: This course is also cross-listed with SOCI 432 – Issues in Health and Aging: Inequalities in Health Care

Mondays and Thursdays: 1:00 -3:50 p.m.
Classroom: Cornett A221
Instructor: Dr. Margaret Penning
Email: mpenning@uvic.ca
Phone: (250) 721-6573

Course Description and Objectives
Health equity encompasses concepts of social justice such as fairness, equality and human rights. Health inequities are considered unjust because they reflect an unfair distribution of the social determinants of health across social groups. In this seminar, we will learn to think critically about the fundamental causes of health inequities in Canada and internationally, assess research frameworks and methodologies for studying major health issues through an equity lens, and evaluate various policies and practices for reducing health inequities.

Skills Development
This course aims to increase students’ understanding of the root causes of health inequities and their ability to critically assess the effectiveness of various policies and interventions aimed at reducing inequalities in health and health care.

Course Organization & Requirements
This is a seminar course which involves careful reading of the required articles/chapters (posted on CourseSpaces) and class discussion of the issues/concerns raised by these materials. Each student is expected to complete all of the required readings before the weekly seminar and come to class prepared to discuss them. In addition, each student will be required to prepare brief weekly critical assessments of the required readings, leading class discussions of selected readings, and prepare and present a term paper to the class.

* A more detailed course outline will be distributed to students during the first week of classes.