A Web-Based Course for the Public Health Workforce

“The Roots of Health Inequity” learning collaborative offers a starting place for those who want to address systemic differences in health and wellness that are unfair and unjust. As a participant in this course, you will explore concepts and strategies by working through five units that describe different aspects of social justice as it relates to public health.

Each unit provides an in-depth look at a specific topic using various types of learning modalities — interactive maps and timelines, slideshows, geographic story-telling, resource libraries, video presentations, and interviews with practitioners. Below is an index of content in each unit.

Index of Course Content by Unit

UNIT 1: WHERE DO WE START?
This unit provides Continuing Education by completing certain activities, signified by (CE).

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SLIDESHOW: Doak Bloss
DISCUSSION: Confront Unearned Privileges (CE)
DISCUSSION: Envision New Possibilities

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INTERACTIVE: A Neighborhood Fights Back
DISCUSSION: Thoughts about the Presentation
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Chapter: Leadership
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DISCUSSION: Scrutinizing Decisions (CE)
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COMPARISONS and DISCUSSION: Statements, Assumptions and Actions

Voices from the Field
Dr. Renee Canady
Vernice Miller-Travis (CE)
Dr. Umair A. Shah
Doak Bloss

Resources
A Starting Place
Recognizing Community Strengths
Community Relationships: A Self-Assessment
Rajiv Bhatia: Using Our Voice Excerpt

UNIT 2: PERSPECTIVES ON FRAMING

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Why Is it Important to Explore Frames?
What Is Framing?
SLIDESHOW: Frames and Farming
The Story of Oren Long
DISCUSSION: Thoughts about the Story of Oren Long

Chapter: Decoding Language
The Role of Language in Framing Issues
ACTIVITY: Recognizing Frames through Language
COMPARISONS: Recognizing Frames through Language

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ACTIVITY: How Language Choices Affect Meaning
Statements, Assumptions, and Actions
COMPARISONS: Statements, Assumptions, and Actions

Chapter: Public Health Frames
Defining Public Health Issues
INTERACTIVE: Top Priorities Poll
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Voices from the Field
Dr. Linda Murray

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Researching Critical Questions on Social Justice and Public Health: An Ecosocial Perspective
Framing as Strategic Action in Public Deliberation
Social Conditions as Fundamental Causes of Disease

UNIT 3: PUBLIC HEALTH HISTORY

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COMPARISONS and DISCUSSION: Statements, Assumptions, and Actions Comparisons

Legacies of Social Injustice
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EXAMPLE 2: 1900s: Exposing Structural Racism at the Turn of the Century
EXAMPLE 3: 1870s to 1950s: Discovery of the Causes and Cures of Infectious Diseases
EXAMPLE 4: 1940s and 1950s: Growth of Social Determinants of Health Inequities
VIDEO: Race: The Power of an Illusion. Episode 3
DISCUSSION: Thoughts About the Examples

Voices from the Field
Josy Hahn

Resources
The exodus of public health: What history can tell us about the future.
Introduction. In G. Rosen, A history of public health
Public health and the state: The United States.
A vision of social justice as the foundation of public health: Commemorating 150 years of the spirit of 1848
Health, civilization, and the state: A history of public health from ancient to modern times.

UNIT 4: ROOT CAUSES

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Richard Wolff Examines Class
ANIMATION & DISCUSSION: Richard Wolff
Class Power in Action: Home Foreclosure
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VIDEO & DISCUSSION: Women Tell Their Stories
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**Voices from the Field**
Megan Gaydos
Pat Baillie
Portia Wu

**Resources**
A Case Study of Foreclosure in a Neighborhood in Oakland, CA
The Wage Effects of Sexual Orientation Discrimination
Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?

UNIT 5: SOCIAL JUSTICE

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Social Justice and Public Health
INTERACTIVE: Principles of Social Justice
DISCUSSION: Describe Your Experience and Expectations
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Voices from the Field
Ngozi Oleru

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