The aim of this seminar is to explore health and disease in socio-cultural, political-economic, and historic contexts. We will pay particular attention to the current popular discourse on "(minority) health disparities" in the U.S., exploring its conceptual meaning, and its limits for understanding the relationship between race, poverty/wealth, health and disease. Readings are interdisciplinary and will range across anthropology, epidemiology and public health, medicine, history of science, and sociology among others. Because the course is designed to be interdisciplinary, and because seminar participants come from a diverse set of disciplines (including nursing, public health, anthropology, and sociology), we will be particularly attentive to fostering constructive dialogue across disciplinary divides. Although the course focuses on the question of health disparities in the U.S., the readings are relevant to scholars pursuing the question of health and poverty in the rest of the world, and will provide some of the analytic tools necessary for global research and practice on health and power.

Requirements:

- A weekly précis of readings is due every week. The précis may be no longer than 3 pages.

- A 20 page final paper will be due on Wednesday, December 12th. Papers should be submitted electronically. The goal of the paper is to research a health issue in a specific area (i.e. HIV/AIDS in rural Mississippi or in Mumbai) and to make an argument about the structural roots of the problem. The paper should end with policy recommendations or a community action plan.

- Attendance and reading are required.
Readings: I have put in a book order at the UVa bookstore. However, used books may be available on-line. The articles are posted to tool kit under ANTH 738—PHS students please access articles there.

**August 28: Introductory Session**

**September 4: What is a ‘Health Disparity’?**


**September 11: Is there a biological basis to race?**


**September 18:**

**September 25: Is science objective?**

**October 2:**

**October 9: Social Capital and Health**

**October 16: Economics and Health**

**October 23: Space and Place**

**October 31:**


### Race and Ethics

**November 6:**


### Medicine in Cuba

**November 13:**

*Salud!*

**November 20:**

*Salud! Discussion*


**November 27: No Class**

**December 4: Wrap-Up Session**