



Social Justice and Equality – in Search of John Cassel’s Epidemiology

EPID 799C Section 01, <http://go.unc.edu/sjae>

Department of Epidemiology

UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health

Spring 2017 (3 credit hours)

Class times: Mondays, 12:20-3:15pm, room 2304

This seminar considers the reasons for the persistence of gross disparities by reviewing the movement for health equity in the U.S., beginning with W.E.B. Dubois’ analysis of health in *The Philadelphia Negro* and the community health center movement inspired by the Karks’ work in Pholela, South Africa.

These efforts transformed epidemiology into a fundamental force for pursuing social justice. As such, epidemiology has identified the fundamental role of contextual and structural factors in fostering health inequities. But to address these factors, epidemiologists need to understand their underlying determinants, including human cognitive, behavioral, and biological tendencies, and how these may be influenced by modifiable aspects of the social and physical environment.

By developing a deeper understanding of human social behavior – perhaps the most important modifiable risk factor for health inequity – epidemiology can expand its contributions to the quest for social justice and equality.

“Epidemiology is fundamentally engaged in the broader quest for social justice and equality.”

- John Cassel, MD, MPH

“This course provided a safe and nurturing environment for sharing ideas, experiences and thoughts. It was a great opportunity to network and learn from students in different departments with varying backgrounds and career goals. Taking EPID 799C was one my best experiences at Gillings School of Public Health!”

- Past Student

“Overall, the course was amazing and it was one of, if not the best course I took during my graduate studies at UNC!”

- Past Student

“This course provided me with insight about this country’s history that I had never received elsewhere. This is by far one of the best classes I’ve taken and I would recommend it to anyone with even an inkling of interest in health disparities.”

- Past Student



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