This seminar introduces students to sociological research on health disparities in the United States. We’ll examine the social determinants of persistent inequalities in the mental and physical health of individuals, social groups and communities based on socioeconomic status (SES), race/ethnicity, gender and age. While our focus will be on the U.S., we’ll also discuss how the health of the U.S. population compares to the health of other economically developed societies worldwide.

Topics Include:

- The History of Race, Medicine and Ethics
- Race/Ethnic, SES, Gender and Age Inequalities in the Health Consequences of Environmental Disasters
- Gender Inequality in Reproductive Technology
- Social Inequalities in Depression – the Most Common Form of Mental Illness
- Social Inequalities in Access to Health Care
- The Extent to Which Social Inequality Makes Societies Sick

Great Prep for MCAT

The material covered in this seminar will help prepare you for:
(1) The Section on Social and Behavioral Sciences
(2) The Section on Critical Analysis and Reasoning

The overall purpose of the seminar is to increase your understanding of: (1) the social causes and consequences of health inequalities in the U.S. as well as (2) how reducing structural inequalities – which are major sources of social stress – could maximize the health and well-being of all Americans.

Please contact me at simonr@wfu.edu for details