

Course Summary

Cultural differences have always been integral to American society and represent a dynamic mixture of races, ethnicities and beliefs. Indeed these differences are one of the characteristics most associated with Americans overseas. Only recently has there been recognition of the importance of these cultural differences in medical education. Therefore, there is still some confusion in medical academia regarding what the focus should be and why cultural competence (*definition*) is now of interest to the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the accrediting body for allopathic medical schools, universities, managed care organizations, and various governmental bodies. This course is designed to explore the impact of diversity on the training of physicians and other health care providers.

Teaching objectives

1. To understand the definitions of culture and related concepts,
2. To recognize the role of historical context in current events,
3. To reflect on how one's individual world view affects personal relationships,
4. To describe the current demographic changes in the United States,
5. To recognize the behavioral and social factors related to culture and health,
6. To become familiar with the differing health status for culturally diverse groups,
7. To explore the role of diversity in medical education, and
8. To learn strategies for ensuring equity and health for the population.

Class Outline:

Topic	Students will be able to
1.Culture and History	Define cultural determinants; Recount historical events that shape how diverse populations interact with the health care

	system.
2. Individual World View	Recognize how personal world view shapes relationships and encounters; Describe and use Bennett's Model of Intercultural Sensitivity.
3. Demographic Changes in the United States	Recount changes in family structure, racial/ethnic distribution, socioeconomic status, immigrant/refugee movements in the last 20 years.
4. Factors related to Culture and Health; Health Status Indicators	List the behavioral and social factors that influence population health; List differing health status for diverse groups.
5. Immigrant and Refugee Health	Describe the predominant immigrant groups, the impact of their journey on how they interface with the health care system, and common health issues they face.
6. Socioeconomics of Health Care Delivery	Recognize how SES and insurance influences access to care.
7. Discrimination	Understand the many faces of discrimination and how they influence health – e.g. racial/ethnic, age, gender, religious, national origin, sexual orientation, disability.
8. Diversity in Medical Education	Outline the representation of diverse groups at the faculty and students levels and describe the influence of public and legislative initiatives.

- Requirements:**
- Schedule 2 sessions/week clinical time in a non-UPMC clinic
 - Meet twice a week with course director for 1 hour
 - Attend a non-traditional social event
 - Attend a cultural event
 - Write a 5-8 page editorial relating to a course topic covered

Course mechanics: 1 Credit; The course meets twice weekly for 1 hour seminars and in selected clinical and community environments throughout the week. Some activities may occur during evenings and weekends. Available in multiple rotations throughout the year.

Course type: Seminar Format

Grading: H/S/U - Honors/Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory

Locations:

Department of Family Medicine
3518 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15261
412-383-2378

Matilda Theiss Health Center
373 Burrows Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-383-1550

Birmingham Free Clinic
44 S. 9th Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
412-431-4280

9th Street Clinic (Thursday evening from 5:30-8PM)
The Common Ground Building
(Formerly the YWCA)
410 Ninth Street
McKeesport, PA 15132
412-664-4304

Prerequisites: No prerequisites

Cross-listing information: Not cross-listed