WE GON’ BE ALRIGHT: ADDRESSING ANTI-BLACK VIOLENCE AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

A student-led course grounded in an intersectional approach to inform public health praxis

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Dept. Community Health Sciences
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An experimental “pilot” class

Two related classes

Student-led class

Class for student teachers
June: Ezell Ford murdered

August: Mike Brown, John Crawford murdered

January: Natasha McKenna is murdered

April: Freddy Gray & Walter Scott are murdered

June: Charleston Massacre, 9 murdered; Kalief Browder commits suicide

January: Natasha McKenna is murdered

February: Brother Africa is murdered

April-May: Baltimore civil unrest happens

June: McKinney, TX pool party police attack

SUMMER 2014

July: Eric Garner murdered

November: Tamir Rice, Tanisha Anderson are murdered

SUMMER 2015

CHS Grads for Racial Justice is born

June: Sandra Bland dies in police custody; Samuel Dubose is murdered
We Gon’ Be Alright: Addressing Racism and Anti-black Violence as a Public Health Crisis

This course will disentangle the historical legacies of racism and anti-black violence in this country to inform students’ public health practice. This course will equip students with the tools to identify, challenge, and address racism within their public health practice, and its impact on the health status of communities of color. Students will engage in readings, class activities, and assignments that will deepen their understandings of the fundamental causes of health disparities in the United States. *

- Food Justice
- Police Brutality
- Mass Incarceration
- Reproductive Justice
- Historical Legacies
- The Built Environment

**DEVELOPED & LED BY CHS GRADS FOR RACIAL JUSTICE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CHS PROFESSOR GIL GEE**

* To receive a PTE for enrollment, please e-mail gilgee@uci.edu with: (1) name of your department or school; (2) one sentence saying why you would like to take the course.

**WHEN:** Thursdays, 4-5:50pm

**WHERE:** CHS 41-268

**COURSE UNITS**
CHSGRJ Course Format

- Spring 2016
- 8 Community Health Science Grad Student Facilitators
- 14 Community Health Sciences Grad Students
- Class Topics
  - Historical Legacies
  - Intersectionality/Critical Race Theory
  - Police Brutality & Public Health
  - Violence & Incarceration
  - Reproductive Justice
  - Built Environment/Housing/Employment
  - Food Justice/Nutrition/Chronic Disease
  - Tools for Practice & Praxis
  - Strategies for Change
Course Outcomes

“I really wanted to learn about how, as a future public health professional, I can think about these issues in practice.”

“I want to be able to articulate racial issues in an academic and non-academic setting”

“I hope to...be able to better understand the issues surrounding race, racism, and violence. I would like to better articulate and engage with others to have meaningful and insightful conversations”
Course Impact

- Created a safe space for students to discuss issues of race/racism and explore real-world implications.
- Manifestation of student activism.
- Model for collaborative student learning, opposing the traditional hierarchy of knowledge often found in academia.
- Inspired the creation of more student led courses.
- Allocation of funds
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