Course Number: BIOM

Course Title: Cultural Competence in Biomedical Research I

Course Credit: 3 credits

Prerequisite:

Placement in Curriculum:

Cultural Competence in Biomedical Research I is the introductory course in the application of cultural awareness to biomedical research in the Clinical Research curriculum.

Catalogue Description:

Introductory lecture-seminar course on the conduct of multidisciplinary research from a culturally competent perspective.

Course Description:

Cultural competence is a developmental process that evolves over an extended period and individuals and systems are at varying levels of awareness, knowledge and skills along this continuum of cultural competence. The emphasis in this first course will be on understanding the effect of culture on the research process and knowledge development and developing effective skills to assess and interpret cultural competence. There is an important emphasis on linguistic competence in a multicultural health care environment within the context of developing clinical research. This course will assist students to communicate in a culturally competent manner with persons from diverse cultural, socioeconomic, educational, and professional backgrounds and with persons of all ages and lifestyle preferences.

Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of the course student will be able to:

- Critique reported research for the inclusion of culturally sensitive and appropriate methods
- Analyze selected acculturation scales for their usefulness in clinical research
• Analyze literature related to linguistic competence within the context of one aspect of clinical research (i.e., informed consent, instrument development, treatment regimens, etc.)
• Analyze literature related to culturally appropriate communication and collaboration within the research agenda
• Synthesize the literature on the issues relevant to obtaining informed consent in clinical research in a culturally competent manner
• Synthesize the literature on selected issues relevant to designing or selecting culturally appropriate instruments in clinical research

Topical Outline:

Culture and health disparities
Culture and acculturation
Measuring acculturation
Linguistic competence
Measuring linguistic competence
Communication in clinical research settings
Collaboration in multicultural environments
Social construction of knowledge
Informed consent
Measurement issues in multicultural research
Cultural competence to cultural proficiency

Required Texts:

There is no required text. In order to cover the variety of topics in this course, a reading list of current literature for required and elective reading will be provided. Students are also expected to share current literature relevant to their own areas of expertise. A few examples are attached under Resources.

Learning Experiences:

Lecture, discussion, presentations

Evaluation

Written paper 50%
Oral Presentation 50%

Students will be evaluated on written and oral work. Topics for the written paper will apply concepts of informed consent, linguistic competence, measurement issues, or self-assessment of cultural competence to the student’s own research or area of interest. Each student will be responsible for an oral presentation on a related topic. Oral and written presentations will be evidence-based and
appropriate for publication as either part of a larger research endeavor or as a single paper.

**Resources (*=required reading)*


Graves, A., R. Lakshminarayan, et al. (1999). "Cognitive decline and Japanese culture in a cohort of older Japanese Americans in King County, WA: The Kame


