

**HSH728 Health Equity and Human Rights, offered annually, 2006 onwards, School of Health and Social Development, Deakin University, Australia**

*Trimester 1 (March to June), 1 credit point*

*EFTSL value: 0.125*

*Unit chair: Professor Ann Taket ([ann.taket@deakin.edu.au](mailto:ann.taket@deakin.edu.au))*

*Offered as an elective on Master of Public Health, Master of Health Promotion, Master of Health and Human Services Management, and to other masters course within the university*

*Also available as stand-alone unit*

*Mode of delivery: available on campus at Burwood Campus, Melbourne, or in off-campus mode (details below)*

*Overview*

This unit aims to develop understandings about health equity and human rights as a coherent frame of action to tackle inequities and to improve health and quality of life, and to develop a working knowledge of practical approaches for public health and health system actions to address health inequities and rights violations.

Topics to be addressed in this unit include:

- health equity debates;
- conventions and legal frameworks for human rights;
- human rights analysis – tools for analysing policies and programs
- role of the health sector in addressing inequities and human rights
- strategies of public health, primary health care and health promotion to promote equity and rights,
- and specific issues such as:
  - diversity and difference,
  - mental health and human rights,
  - reproductive rights and health equity,
  - asylum and refugee health,
  - HIV/AIDS.

*Assessment*

Written assignment 1 (2000 words) 30%;

Presentation of assignment 1(10%);

Written assignment 2 (3000 words) 60%.

At the moment there are no set texts for the unit. Students are introduced to a wide range of internet resources in relation to health equity and human rights, and the assignments provide an opportunity to gain experience in accessing, searching and using these. Relevant papers are assembled in the unit reader for the year, this is supplied to off campus students and purchased by on campus students from the university bookstore. Reading lists are supplied in connection with different lectures and seminars are appropriate.

**FURTHER DETAILS**

The way the course works for the two different modes of delivery is outlined below.

## On campus delivery

The course is delivered in six whole days, designed to suit the needs of part time students, schedule is as below. The course uses a mix of lectures, seminars and tutorials, supported by resources and discussions boards in the online environment. Seminars are presented by a variety of guest speakers. For each tutorial, students prepare by reading 3-5 papers from the set of readings for the unit (the book of readings must be purchased from the university bookstore on campus).

### Session 1: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March

<b>Lecture 1:</b>	<b>Course introduction and key concepts:</b> equity, human rights, key conventions and legal frameworks for human rights
Seminar 1	Why me? 5 stories of removal from family and country – DVD and discussion, indigenous health and human rights in Australia
Tutorial 1	Equity and rights – some key concepts and understandings

### Session 2: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March

<b>Lecture 2:</b>	<b>A human rights perspective on health. What is meant by a rights-based approach to health?</b>
Seminar 2	Bridging the Gap between the Rhetoric and Reality of Inclusion
Tutorial 2	Policies and practice in harm reduction

### Session 3: Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

Student presentations	Students give a 10 minute presentation of their first assignment to classmates
Tutorial 3	Multiple disadvantage — women and reproduction

### Session 4: Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April

<b>Lecture 3:</b>	Human rights analysis, the seven step approach, 'valid' limitations on human rights and the Siracusa principles
Seminar	Wesley Mission Melbourne – making inclusion real – an organisational case study
Tutorial 4	Intersections: refugees, street children, organised violence

### Session 5: Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May

<b>Lecture 4:</b>	<b>Human rights and the development of health policy and practice</b>
Seminar	Occupation and human dignity
Tutorial 5	HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis

### Session 6: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May

Seminar	The Instrumental Value of Human Rights in Health
<b>Lecture 5:</b>	<b>Success or failure: how useful are human rights approaches in public health?</b>
Course review	Discussion re course content and format Discussion re second assignment

## **Off campus delivery**

*Note: Off campus delivery requires the student to have internet access. Please refer to the most [current computer specifications](#).*

Students are mailed a copy of study guide and readings in advance of the start of term.

Using the study guide, students work through the course material at a pace to suit themselves, and have online access to recordings of lectures and seminars given to the on campus group. The different topics in the study guide mirror the content (and order) of the five lectures for the on-campus delivery.

Online resources to support the course are made available throughout the term.

There are three real time discussion seminars during the term for the off-campus group as a whole, the timing of these is arranged wherever possible to suit all the time zones in which students reside.

Off campus students are encouraged to maintain contact with each other and the on campus group through the use of discussion boards in the online environment.

Student queries are addressed online or by email.

Students can take the course from anywhere in the world with suitable internet access.