

UNDERSTANDING HIV IN SOUTH AFRICA: A HEALTH & SOCIAL JUSTICE PERSPECTIVE



Presented by
HIV, Gender & Sexuality Portfolio (Equality Unit)

Course co-ordinator:
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More about the Equality Unit

The Equality Unit promotes collective action towards social justice and discourse regarding social asymmetries at Stellenbosch University, as well as implementing a comprehensive HIV response. The Unit coordinates, educates and raises awareness around sexualities, gender, HIV/Aids and anti-discrimination through various interventions and programmes in partnership with relevant campus structures. The Unit oversees the implementation of SU's policies on Unfair Discrimination and Harassment and HIV/Aids. It also serves as a centralised service for students and staff who wish to report accounts of unfair discrimination and various forms of harassment.

Aims of the module

This module will aim to develop a global understanding of HIV and AIDS through a health and social justice perspective.

The module will aim to provide students with an understanding of:

- ✂ A health and social justice framework
- ✂ The political history regarding HIV in South Africa
- ✂ The impact, statistical overview and biomedical facts of HIV
- ✂ The influence of personal worldview, values and beliefs on an educational approach to HIV
- ✂ The role, context and function of treatment for HIV with reference to the influence of stigma and discrimination in SA
- ✂ Most at risk populations (MARPs): Men who have sex with men (MSM), Commercial sex workers (CSW), Intravenous drug users (IDU)

Lecturers

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|------------------|--|----------------|
| ✂ Michelle Munro | - michellem@sun.ac.za | - 021 808 3551 |
| ✂ Gregory Smith | - gregsmith@sun.ac.za | - 021 808 3308 |

*(Offices are all at the Equality Unit, CSCD
Simon Nkoli House, 39 Victoria street)*

Classroom procedures

- ✂ Lectures & power point presentations
- ✂ Documentaries and videoclips
- ✂ Class and group discussions
- ✂ Visit to NGOs/research organisations or guest lecturers appropriate to the topic on vulnerable groups and Positive living
- ✂ SUNLearn will be used to upload power point presentations and additional reading

Content

<p>Module Introduction and Attitudes, Worldview & Value Clarification</p> <p>Any course on HIV cannot be complete without interrogating our own worldview, value systems and attitudes. This exercise (but included throughout the course) will mainly focus on interactive exercises and discussions on gender, sexual orientation, discrimination and stigma.</p>
<p>Health and social justice theoretical framework</p> <p>We will explore a health and social justice framework to better inform students about a future model for more effective and inclusive management of HIV in South Africa.</p>
<p>Political history</p> <p>An overview of Post-Apartheid political leadership in the management of HIV. This session will be informed by satirical cartoons of Zapiro.</p>
<p>Statistical overview</p> <p>The statistical overview will be based upon major findings from the following sources: <i>the Nelson Mandela HSRC Household Survey, UNAIDS Annual Report, and the Department of Health's National HIV and Syphilis Antenatal Sero-Prevalence Survey.</i></p>
<p>Bio-medical facts, treatment & TB</p> <p>Topics will include: the immune response, difference between HIV and AIDS, transmission, the natural history of HIV, introduction to treatment, disease progression, opportunistic infections, tuberculosis, and sexually transmitted infections.</p>
<p>MARPS and MSM/LGBTQI</p> <p>Students will be briefed on current definitions and debates with regards to at risk populations. Lectures will include visits to NGO's involved in interventions aimed at vulnerable groups.</p>
<p>Prevention strategies</p> <p>Various prevention methods will be discussed, including: voluntary counseling & testing, male & female condoms, abstinence, post-exposure prophylaxis, partner reduction, delayed sexual debut, microbicides, and male circumcision.</p>
<p>Living positively with HIV</p> <p>Sharing the experiences of a person living with HIV including stigma, the emotional phases of coming to terms with your HIV status, dealing with attitudes & stereotypes and a life on ARV treatment.</p>
<p>Perspectives on Gender, Power and Sexuality</p> <p>Topics will include discussions on the relation between gender, power, health and sexuality and critically explore how these issues impact on vulnerability to HIV.</p>
<p>Evaluation</p> <p>Students will write an hour long test on the basic facts surrounding HIV.</p>

Assessment

- ⌘ Students will write a formal test based on the basic facts surrounding HIV (50%).
- ⌘ Students will submit a written assignment (45%).

The final mark will be compiled as follow:

Test (50%) + Assignment (45%) + Class participation (5%) = 100%

***(Further information and guidelines regarding the assignment
will be provided in class.)***

Study material

- ⌘ Handouts and study materials will be issued at the first lecture
- ⌘ Articles on each topic including the class presentations will be placed on SUNLearn during the course

Recommended Reading

- Ruger, J.P. 2009. Health and Social Justice. Oxford University Press.
- Van Dyk, A; Tlou, E. & Van Dyk, P. 2017. HIV and Aids: Education, Care & Counselling: A multicultural approach. Pearson Education: South Africa (6th ed).