Fall 2018 - EDP 194: Understanding Homelessness

Meets with MED 195MD

Instructor: Lloyd Berg, PhD & Cathy Stacy, PhD

This graduate level seminar will provide an interdisciplinary, experiential learning opportunity around the experience of homelessness as a social determinant of health, particularly for individuals with mental health conditions. The seminar offers students the ability to challenge themselves to step outside of their day-to-day experience and expose themselves to a subject and a population that may initially elicit discomfort. Students will learn directly from those with lived experiences through a combination of shadowing, didactics and dialogue with local community organizations.

The goal of the seminar is that each student begin to “re-think” homelessness, consider the role of empathy, and explore how they as individuals, and collectively through their work and professions, can find new ways to assist individuals that find themselves with these challenges. Emphasis will be placed on creating a dialogue around social equity, health and education.

Based on the experiential learning in the course, students will work in small groups to synthesize and translate what they have learned into a meaningful simulation that helps others understand the experience of homelessness and break down societal barriers, stereotypes, and misconceptions. This will act as the final project for the course.

The course is targeted to those in health professions, however, it will be relevant to any individual with an interest in the subject matter.

Performance Expectations

Students will be expected to contribute to class discussions, actively participate in group work, and fulfill experiential opportunities outside of class to inform their final project. Course information will be shared through Canvas. The class will be graded on a CR/NC basis.

Class Schedule: Select Thursdays, 9 – 11am (9/6, 9/20, 10/4, 10/18, 11/1, 11/15, 11/29, 12/6)

Class Limit: 24

Open To: Graduate students (all disciplines); Dell Medical School students; Upper-division undergraduate students with approval