

## **Using Book Clubs to Understand Global Social Determinants of Health in an Undergraduate Community Health Nursing Course**

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### Description of Book Club Program

To expose undergraduate students to literature that explains global social determinants of health, we developed a book club in an undergraduate community health nursing class at a major Midwestern university. The book club process involves small groups of students reading non-fiction and fiction books. During book club meetings students, and in some cases their clinical faculty, describe their experience with the text, and begin to make connections with their clinical experiences.

### The Books

Eggers, D. (2006). What is the What. San Francisco: McSweeney's.

Fadiman, A. (1997). The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down. New York: Noonday Press.

Freire, P. (1970). Pedagogy of the Oppressed. New York: Continuum.

Kozol, J. (1988). Rachel and Her Children: Homeless Families in America. New York: Fawcett Columbine.

Kozol, J. (1995). Amazing Grace: The Lives of Children and the Conscience of a Nation. New York: Crown.

Pollan, M. (2006). The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals. New York: Penguin Books.

### Participant Response

Some students were initially resistant to participation in book clubs, especially if they doubted their reading skills or perceived the reading load as burdensome. However, student and faculty response to the book clubs has been overwhelmingly positive. Some books have been added or removed to the list each semester based on student feedback.

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