

To and through Interdisciplinary Studies Field (ISF) at Berkeley

Julia Huffaker

Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



What is ISF?

- Problem-based, **research-driven** program
- Uses interdisciplinary approach to a **global problem**
 - Lens from multiple fields
 - Generate diverse perspectives for **comprehensive analysis**
- Personal advising
- Capstone senior thesis



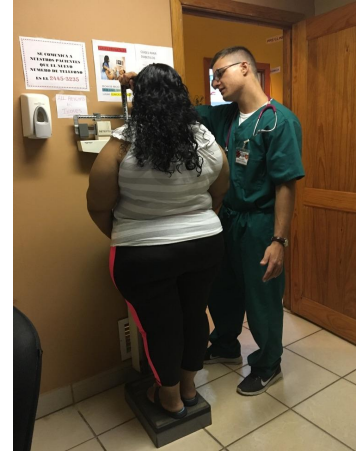
Step 1:

**Discovery of
Interdisciplinary Studies
Field (ISF) at UC Berkeley**

About Me

- Interested in Health Ethics
- Noticed differences in approaches to healthcare in developed vs developing countries
- Wanted to study this global problem

ISF was the perfect fit -- offers a **tailored course of study** based on student's interest of a **global problem**

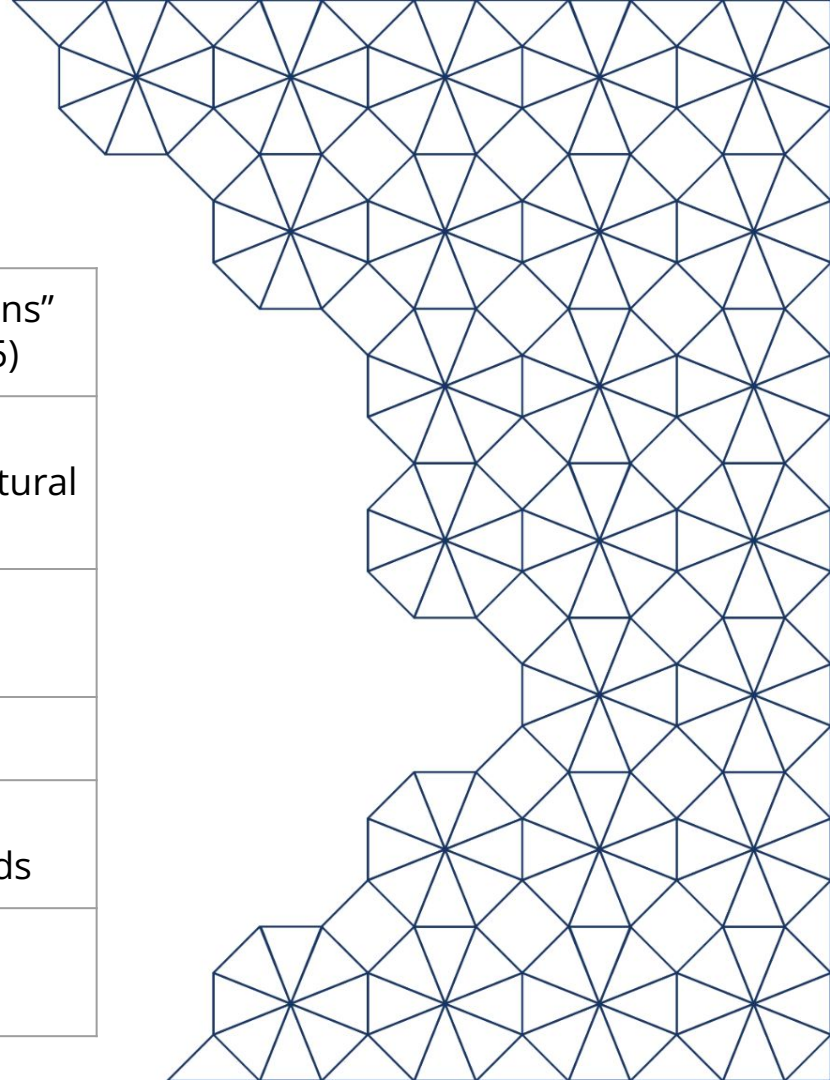


Step 2:

**Design course load and
select advisor**

Requirement Breakdown

Pre-Requisites	"Disciplines" (one of ~15)	"World Regions" (one of ~15)
Upper Division Requirements	ISF 100A: Introduction to Social Theory & Cultural Analysis	
	ISF 100B-K: (one of the 10)	
	20 units from 3 disciplines	
	ISF 189: Introduction to Research Methods	
	ISF 190: Capstone Senior Thesis	



Personalized Courseload

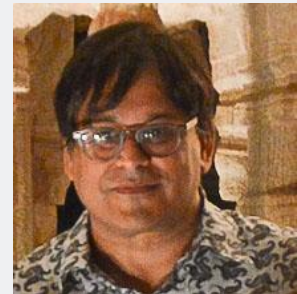
	Lower Division	Upper Division
ISF	<p>Social/Cultural Anthropology*</p> <p>Modern History of Latin America*</p> <p>Membership and Migration*</p> <p>General Psychology</p>	<p>Research in Sociology: Global Health Ethics*</p> <p>Health and Development*</p> <p>Social, Political and Ethical Issues in Health and Medicine*</p> <p>Social Theory and Cultural Analysis*</p> <p>Introduction to Interdisciplinary Research Methods*</p> <p>Poverty and Population*</p> <p>History and Practice of Human Rights*</p>
Research	<p>Introduction to Statistics</p> <p>Analytic Geometry and Calculus</p>	<p>Independent Study and Research</p> <p>Linking Research and Practice*</p>

KEY:

- Anthropology
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Legal Studies
- Public Health
- History
- ISF
- Mathematics
- * for ISF credit

Advisor Assignment

- Amm Quamruzzaman
 - Faculty Advisor and Lecturer, ISF
 - Teaches courses on research methods and other specialties
 - Personally advises students throughout their capstone theses
- Patrick Civello
 - Student Academic Advisor, ISF
 - Recruits, organizes and supports prospective and current students, assigns to advisor most relevant to interest
- Rakesh Bhandari
 - Director and Faculty Advisor, ISF
 - Teaches entry ISF courses for new students
 - Manages ISF department needs



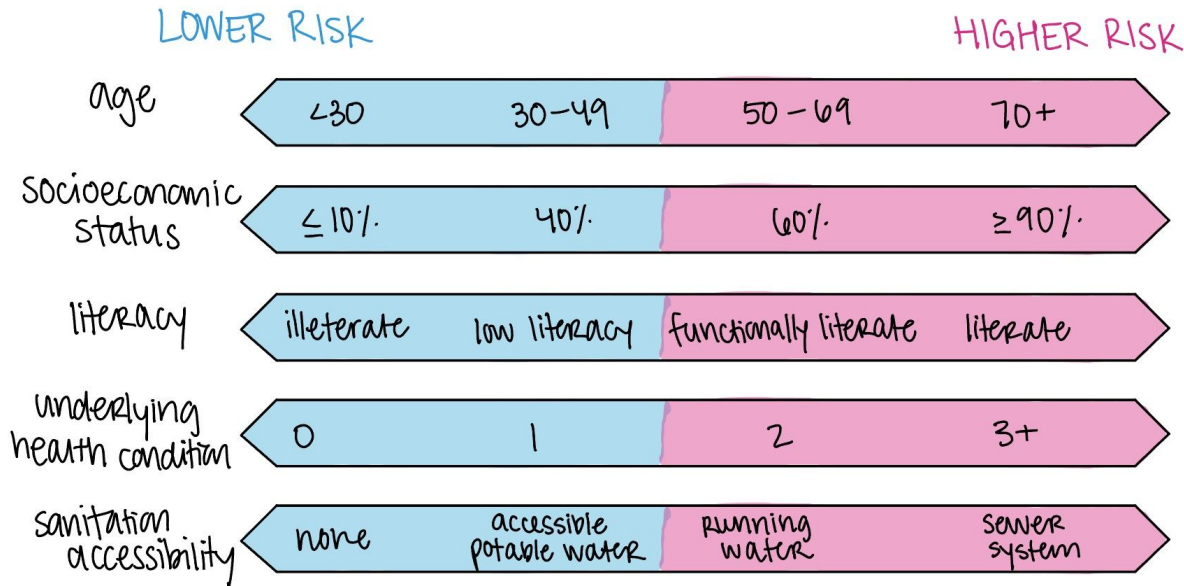
Outbreak of virus from China declared global emergency

After rejecting the label twice, the World Health Organization now calls spread of new coronavirus a Public Health Emergency of International Concern

30 JAN 2020 • BY [KAI KUPFERSCHMIDT](#)

What the pandemic told us about the lack of health equity

COVID-19 RISK CONTINUUM



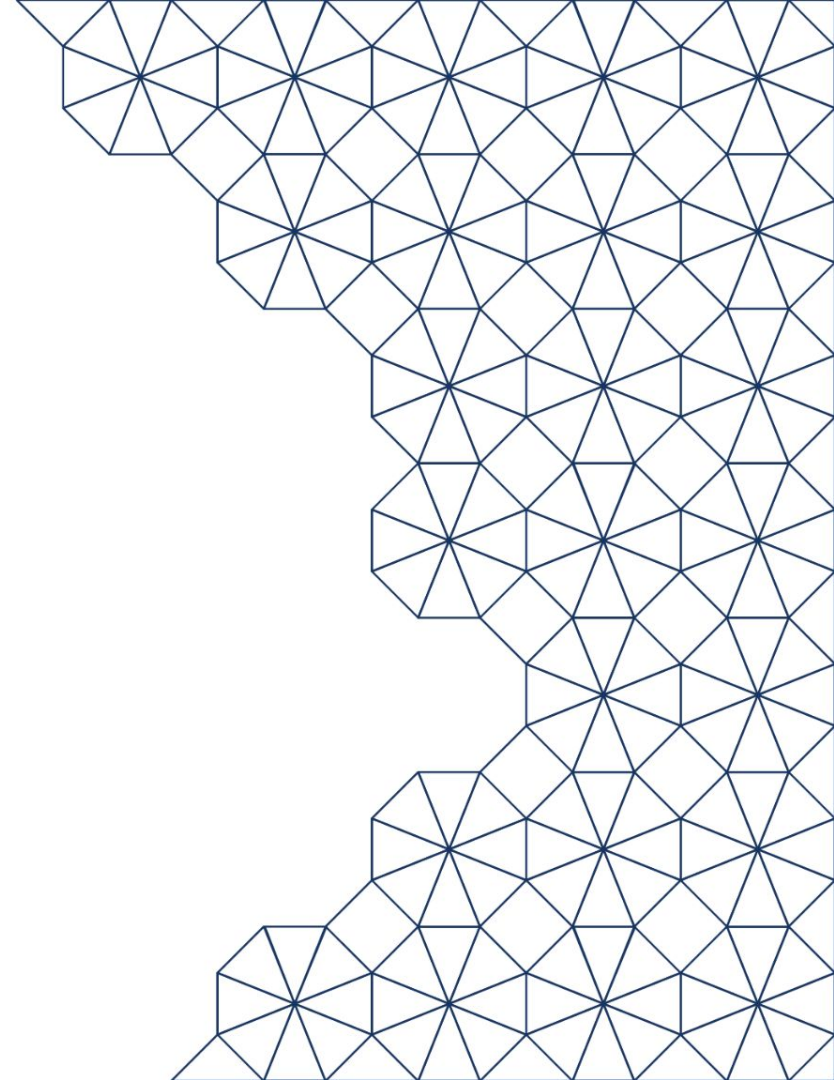
Infectious Diseases Society of America 2022
CDC & IDSA

Step 3:

**Design a capstone
senior thesis**

Thesis Breakdown

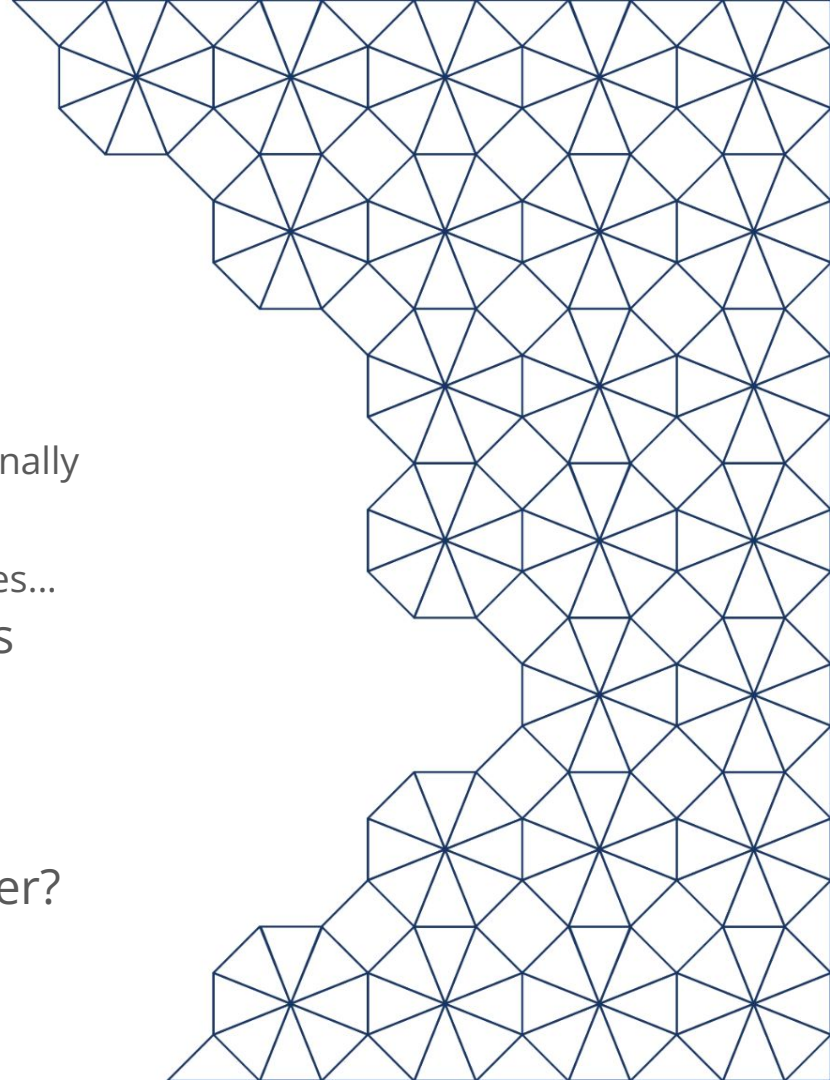
- 30-40 pages; 7,500 - 10,000 words
 - Abstract
 - Table of contents
 - Introduction
 - Literature review
 - **Interdisciplinary theoretical framework**
 - **Data and methods**
 - Results / conclusion
 - Biography
 - Appendix



Crafting my capstone thesis

What is the **goal** of my thesis?

- What is the problem to address?
 - Differences in disease outcome inter/intra nationally
- What factors cause this problem?
 - Availability, quality of care, access to technologies...
- How do different disciplines approach this same issue?
 - Healthcare funding, innovations, accessibility...
- What variables can I examine from each discipline, and how can I put them together?



Theoretical Framework

Economics

Public Health

Technology

**Only a multi-faceted approach is able to
find solutions to the problem!**

Concept Map

PUBLIC HEALTH

- How do SDoH & syndemic factors influence outcome?

ECONOMIC

- How does the commodification of healthcare influence its accessibility to different groups?

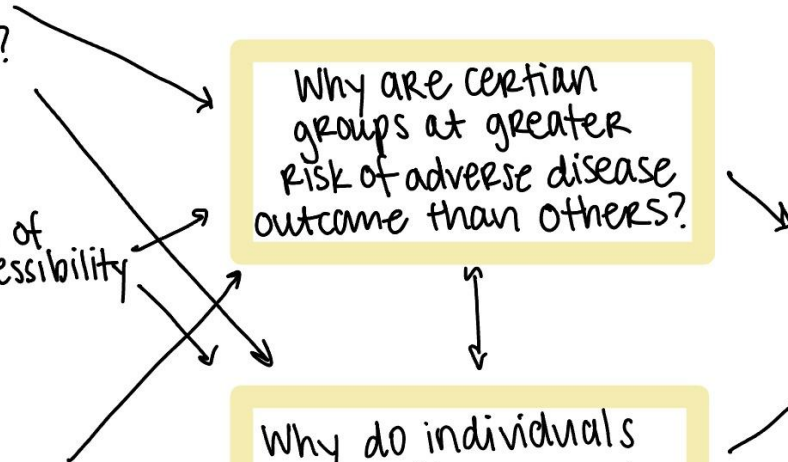
TECHNOLOGY

- Are resources & technologies being manufactured & distributed to best reflect health needs?

Why are certain groups at greater risk of adverse disease outcome than others?

Why do individuals have different levels of access to healthcare services?

OUTCOME:
Reduced health inequity



Analysis Modeling

Data from The World Bank “Our World in Data: COVID-19”

- Model 1: PH = DO

KEY:

PH: public
health

E: economics

T: technology

DO: disease
outcome

Interdisciplinary model provides most comprehensive model for disease predictions



Step 4:

**Reflection of UC
Berkeley's
Interdisciplinary Studies
Field**

Pros:

- Encourages student creativity
- Exposure to diverse disciplines
- Undergraduate research experience
- Intense faculty advising available
- Flexible declaration
- Focuses on a global problem

Cons:

- Lack of direction
- Lack of peer advising
- Specificity of course content

Recommendations

- Option for late declaration
- Fewer pre-recs, more upper division requirements
- Ample faculty advising
 - Divided by specialty
- Department social events/clubs for interdisciplinary students
- Build off of a problem
 - Demonstrate the overlap



Thank you!

Questions?

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Acknowledgements:

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