

Health Care in the U.S.

First Year Seminar – SOCY 7-1

Fall Quarter 2003 10: MWF 10 – 11:05

Instructor: Denise Anthony

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Office hours: Mondays, Wednesdays 2 – 3 PM, or by appointment

Course Description: Concerns about health and access to health care continue to be important problems in our society. This seminar explores the social and policy context of health and health care in the United States. What is the historical relationship between social conditions and illness, and between social processes and the development of medical science? How does social stratification (e.g., along race, class or gender lines) effect health and access to health care? What is the structure of the current health care system in the U.S.? The focus of this course is on the contemporary U.S., but we also spend some time on health care systems in other countries to gain a better understanding of the U.S. system.

Since class time is devoted to discussion as well as lectures, it is essential that seminar participants not only read, but also reflect upon the assigned readings before coming to class. Class attendance, contributions to in-class discussion, and participation in in-class group activities all contribute to your class participation grade. You may also be called upon randomly to comment in class. Because it is necessary to be in class to participate, **missing more than five class periods without a valid excuse, approved by me, will result in failure of the course.**

Grades are determined by the student's contribution to in-class discussions (10%), four paper assignments completed outside of class (2@10%, 2@15%), and two exams (20%, 20%). Descriptions of each paper assignment will be handed out in class. You will have the opportunity to rewrite and resubmit any paper if you are dissatisfied with your work. Resubmissions are due within two weeks of the original due date for the paper. I encourage you to talk to me about your paper before you rewrite it. Grades for rewritten papers will be the average of the two grades.

***** Students with learning, physical or psychiatric disabilities who will be taking this course and may need disability-related classroom accommodations are encouraged to make an appointment to talk with me as soon as possible, and by the end of the second week of classes (October 3, 2003). All discussions will remain confidential, although the Student Disabilities Coordinator may be consulted to verify the documentation of the disability. Also, stop by the Academic Skills Center in 301 Collis Center to register for support services. *****

Course Requirements

You should purchase the following materials from Wheelock Books:

Abraham, Laurie Kay. 1993. Mama might be better off dead. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Anspach, Renee. 1996. Deciding Who Lives. California: University of California Press.

Fadiman, Anne. 1997. The spirit catches you and you fall down : a Hmong child, her American doctors, and the collision of two cultures. 1st ed. New York : Farrar, Straus, and Giroux. [ISBN:0-374-26781-2]

Jones, James H. 1993 [1981]. Bad Blood. The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment. New York: The Free Press.

Payer, Lynn. 1996. Medicine and Culture. New York: Henry Holt and Company, Inc.

There are additional required readings available in the SOCY main office, 12 Silsby Hall, and on reserve at Baker Library and (*BL/SOCY in syllabus). You can find many of these readings online as well.

***** For help with all your writing tasks, visit the Composition Center. Call 6-3525 or visit 108 Sanborn to make a free appointment on Sundays, 4-10 pm, and Mondays - Thursdays, 2-10 pm.**

For additional information about the Center and college writing, visit our webpage: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~compose> ***

**Sept 24: Introduction: The Sociology of Health and Illness/
Making Sense of Health Care**

September 26: The Social Construction of Illness and Health

Read: Medicine and Culture, Chapters 1-3 (pp. 15 – 73)

Discussion: Illness behavior; sick role; communication with health providers

Description of Paper assignment #1

Week 2: What is Health? Illness? Disease?

Sept 29: What is Medicine? Health, Medicine and Culture

Read: Medicine and Culture, Chapters 4-7 (pp.74-155)

Oct 1: Lecture and Discussion: Historical trends in human health and the development of medicine; social history of the development of scientific medicine

******Oct 2: X-hour 12-1 pm Library Databases and Searching**

Meet in regular classroom ****

Oct 3: The Social Construction of Disease

Read: Armstrong, Elizabeth. 1998. "Diagnosing Moral Disorder: The Discovery and Evolution of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome." Social Science and Medicine 47(12): 2025-2042. *BL/SOCY
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/02779536>

Aronowitz, Robert A. 1998. Making Sense of Illness. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Chapter 3:Lyme Disease: The social construction of a new disease and its social consequences.
Pp. 57-83. *BL/SOCY

Week 3: Inequality and Health

Oct 6: Social Context of Health/Illness and Health Care

Paper 1 due

Read: Mama might be better off dead, Chapters Intro – 1 (pp. 1– 24)

Discussion: social sources of illness; social distribution of illness

Description of Paper assignment #2

Oct 8: Access to health care

Read: Mama might be better off dead, Chapters 2-5 (pp. 25–92)

Discussion: Health insurance coverage; Access to care; medical versus health care

Oct 10: Health Care Delivery I

Read: Mama Might be better off dead, Chapters 6-7 (pp. 93-133)

Discussion: health care settings; medical care, health behavior and health; multiple outcomes of health care

Week 4: Health and Politics

Oct 13: Health Care Delivery II

Read: Mama Might be better off dead, Chapters 8 – Epilogue (pp. 134 – 259)
Discussion: medical care, health behavior and health; inequality and health care

Oct 15: Health Policy and Politics

Read: Skocpol, Theda. 1997. Boomerang. Introduction, pp.1-19. ***BL/SOCY**
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/medicare/>
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/01/20020128-14.html>
Discussion: health policy basics; health care present and past, future??

Oct 17: Health Policy and Politics continued

Read: Democratic presidential candidates health proposals
http://www.deanforamerica.com/site/PageServer?pagename=policy_policy_health_healthcareforamerica
<http://www.johnedwards2004.com/healthcare-fact-sheet.asp>
http://www.dickgephardt2004.com/plugin/template/gephardt/33/*
<http://www.johnkerry.com/issues/healthcare.html>

<http://nationaljournal.com/members/news/2003/07/0718nj1.htm>
<http://nationaljournal.com/members/news/2003/07/0718nj2.htm>
<http://nationaljournal.com/members/news/2003/07/0718nj3.htm>
<http://nationaljournal.com/members/news/2003/07/0718nj4.htm>
<http://nationaljournal.com/members/news/2003/07/0718nj5.htm>
<http://nationaljournal.com/members/news/2003/07/0718nj6.htm>

Week 5: Mid-term

Oct 22: Health Policy and Politics continued

Paper 2 due

Oct 24: Review for Exam

Rewrite of paper 1 due

Description of Paper #3

Oct 26: In-Class Mid-term Exam

Week 6: Medicine and Ethics

Oct 27: Medical Decision-making

Read: Deciding Who Lives, Chapters 1 – 2
Discussion: medical decision-making, collective decision-making

Oct 29: Social Organization of Hospital Care

Read: Deciding Who Lives, Chapters 3 – 4
Discussion: Medicine and social control; ethics

*****Oct 30: X-hour 12-1 pm Ethical Dilemmas**

Meet in regular classroom ****

Oct 31: Ethical Dilemmas

Read: Deciding Who Lives, Chapters 5 – 6
Discussion: Medicine and social control; Ethics

Week 7: Ethnicity versus the Culture of Medicine

Nov 3: Patients, Providers and Culture

Paper 3 due

Read: The spirit catches you and you fall down Chapters 1-7
Discussion: Patient-provider communication; "alternative" health care

Nov 5:

Rewrite of Paper 2 due

Read: The spirit catches you and you fall down Chapters 8-13
Discussion: Social control, inequality and medicine

Nov 7:

Read: The spirit catches you and you fall down Chapters 14-19
Discussion: Providing health care in a multi-cultural world; Is medicine a culture?

Week 8: Medical Research

Nov 10: Medical Research in Unequal World

Read: Bad Blood, chapters 1-5
Discussion: medical research, ethics, IRBs

Nov 12:

Read: Bad Blood, chapters 6-10

Nov 14:

Read: Bad Blood, chapters 11-14
Discussion: medicine, race and ethics; AIDS research in developing world???

Week 9: Health Policy Hearings

Nov 17: Health Policy Controversies I

Paper 4 due

Mandatory Testing of HIV for newborns:
Berger, Jeffrey, Fred Rosner and Peter Farnsworth. 1996. "The Ethics of mandatory HIV testing in newborns." Journal of Clinical Ethics 7(2):77-84. ***BL/SOCY**

Bayer, Ronald. 1996. "Rethinking the Testing of Babies and Pregnant Women for HIV Infection." Journal of Clinical Ethics 7(2):85-86. ***BL/SOCY**

Davis, Dena. 1996. "Mandatory HIV Testing in Newborns: Not yet, maybe never." Journal of Clinical Ethics 7(2):191-192. ***BL/SOCY**

Gorsky, Robin, et al. 1996. "Preventing Perinatal Transmission of HIV – Costs and Effectiveness of a recommended Intervention." Public Health Reports 111:335-341. ***BL/SOCY**

Nov 19: Health Policy Controversies II**Rewrite of #3 due**

Mandatory yearly PSA screening for men age 50 and over

Groopman, Jerome. 2000. "The Prostate Paradox." The New Yorker, May 29, 2000. ***BL/SOCY**Krahn, MD, BA Coombs, IG Levy. 1999. "Current and projected annual direct costs of screening asymptomatic men for prostate cancer using prostate-specific antigen." Canadian Medical Association Journal 160(1):49-57. ***BL/SOCY**Woolf, Steven H. 1995. "Current concepts: screening for prostate cancer with prostate-specific antigen – an examination of the evidence." New England Journal of Medicine 333(21):1401-1405. ***BL/SOCY**American Cancer Society. "Prostate Cancer: Detection and Symptoms." Pp. 1-3. ***BL/SOCY**
also see: http://www.cancer.org/eprise/main/docroot/CRI/CRI_2_1x**Nov 21: Health Policy Controversies III**

NIH Update on Existing Human Embryonic Stem Cells - August 27, 2001

<http://www.nih.gov/news/stemcell/082701list.htm> ***BL/SOCY**White house statement ***BL/SOCY**<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/08/print/20010809-1.html>Stem Cells: A Primer. May 2000. National Institutes of Health. ***BL/SOCY**<http://stemcells.nih.gov/infoCenter/stemCellBasics.asp>McGee, Glenn, and Arthur Caplan. 2003. "The Ethics and Politics of Small sacrifices in stem cell research." Pp. 646-8 in Contemporary Issues in Bioethics. 6th edition. Beauchamp, Tom and LeRoy Walters,eds. ***BL/SOCY**Meilaender, Gilbert. 2003. "The Point of a Ban: Or how to think about stem cell research." Pp. 649-56 in Contemporary Issues in Bioethics. 6th edition. Beauchamp, Tom and LeRoy Walters,eds. ***BL/SOCY**National Research Council and Institute of Medicine. 2003. "Stem cell research and the future of regenerative medicine." Pp. 656-9 in Contemporary Issues in Bioethics. 6th edition. Beauchamp, Tom and LeRoy Walters,eds. ***BL/SOCY****Exchange Policy Papers – Peer Review**

Week 10

Nov 24: Policy discussion

Nov 26 & 28: Thanksgiving Break

Dec 1: Peer Review of Policy Papers due

Dec 3: LAST CLASS

Review for Final

Rewrite of Paper 4 due