

Sociology 314

MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

Mr. Imber
Office Hours: Th: 9-12
or by appointment

Spring 2010
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OBJECTIVES:

This course will introduce students to the medical sociological and social-epidemiological understanding of health and disease. The course is intended as a broad overview of a variety of substantive concerns in medical sociology, including medical education, the responsibilities of the physician, public health, and the intense public debates over human experimentation, stem-cell research, abortion, and euthanasia. The sociological approach that links these disparate matters uses quantitative perspectives (e.g., epidemiology) and qualitative methods (e.g., ethnography) as well as historical analysis to enable us to understand better what health and illness mean in the new century.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

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| Bosk, Charles | <i>Forgive and Remember: Managing Medical Failure</i> , 2 nd ed. |
| Chambliss, Daniel F. | <i>Beyond Caring: Hospitals, Nurses, and the Social Organization of Ethics</i> |
| Christakis, Nicholas | <i>Death Foretold: Prophecy and Prognosis in Medical Care</i> |
| Frank, Arthur W. | <i>The Wounded Storyteller: Body, Illness and Ethics</i> |
| Levy, Daniel and
Susan Brink | <i>A Change of Heart: Unraveling the Mysteries of Cardiovascular Disease</i> |
| Rothman, David J. | <i>Strangers at the Bedside: A History of How Law and Bioethics Transformed Medical Decision Making</i> |
| Salamon, Julie | <i>Hospital: Man, Woman, Birth, Death, Infinity, Plus Red Tape, Bad Behavior, Money, God, and Diversity on Steroids</i> |
| Stolley, Paul D. and
Tamar Lasky | <i>Investigating Disease Patterns: The Science of Epidemiology</i>
(distributed in class) |

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

All papers must be submitted by email by the time specified to jimber@wellesley.edu

- A. Two papers, 8-10 pages. All assignments submitted late without permission will be penalized.

FIRST PAPER DUE: March 4

SECOND PAPER DUE: April 8

- B. Take-Home Exam Final Paper: Distributed at Last Class

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

PART ONE: Sociological Approaches to Health and Medicine

January 28: Introduction to course. MMWR Evaluation

February 4: NO CLASS: Make-up class to be scheduled.

PART TWO: Social Epidemiology: Theory and Practice

February 11: Social Epidemiology and the Determinants of Health (Pt. 1)

Required: Stolley and Lasky, *Investigating Disease Patterns*, chapters 1 and 2, pp. 1-49.

Additional: Robert H. Friis and Thomas A. Sellers, "The History and Scope of Epidemiology," ch. 1, in *Epidemiology for Public Health Practice*, 3rd ed. (distributed in class)

February 18: Social Epidemiology and the Determinants of Health (Pt. 2)

Required: Daniel Levy and Susan Brink, *A Change of Heart: Unraveling the Mysteries of Cardiovascular Disease*

Additional: Stolley and Lasky, *Investigating Disease Patterns*, chapters 3, 4, and 5, pp. 51-137.

Emilia Simeonova, "Doctors, Patients, and the Racial Mortality Gap: What Are the Causes?" (distributed in class)

PART THREE: The Medical Profession in Sociological Perspective

February 25: An Overview of the Medical Profession: Popular Perceptions

Julie Salamon, *Hospital: Man, Woman, Birth, Death, Infinity, Plus Red Tape, Bad Behavior, Money, God, and Diversity on Steroids*

March 4: Medical Education and Physician Socialization (Pt 1)

Required: Charles L. Bosk, *Forgive and Remember: Managing Medical Failure*, chapters 1 and 2.

First Paper Due.

March 11: Medical Education and Physician Socialization (Pt 2)

Required: Charles L. Bosk, *Forgive and Remember: Managing Medical Failure*, chapters 3, 4, 5, and 6.

March 18: Learning the System

Required: Daniel F. Chambliss, *Beyond Caring*

Executive Summary: *Resident Duty Hours: Enhancing Sleep, Supervision, and Safety*, by Cheryl Ulmer, Dianne Miller Wolman, Michael M.E. Johns, Editors, Committee on Optimizing Graduate Medical Trainee (Resident) Hours and Work Schedule to Improve Patient Safety, National Research Council (distributed in class)

April 1: From the Patient's Perspective

Required: Arthur W. Frank, *The Wounded Storyteller: Body, Illness, Ethics*

PART FOUR: Medical Progress: Sociological Narratives

April 8: A Public Narrative

Required: David J. Rothman, *Strangers at the Bedside: A History of How Law and Bioethics Transformed Medical Decision Making.*

Second Paper Due

April 15: Visit to Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Brigham and Women's Hospital

April 29: A Professional Narrative

Required: Nicholas Christakis, *Death Foretold: Prophecy and Prognosis in Medical Care*

May 6: Doubts about Progress

Required: Brian S. Finkelman, "In Sickness and in Health Care: A Student's Thoughts before Beginning His Medical Training" *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine*, volume 52, number 3 (summer 2009):424-34

Daniel Callahan, "Death, Mourning, and Medical Progress," in *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine*, v. 52, no. 1 (winter 2009) 103-15

Questions for Final Paper Distributed