GLOBAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

Mr. Imber
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or by appointment

Spring 2011
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OBJECTIVES:


The twenty-first century is destined to be defined by the findings of modern epidemiology, even though most people are not familiar with how extensive those findings have already been in determining scientific knowledge, medical policy, as well as social and cultural norms. This course will provide both historical and contemporary understandings of the rise of a form of thinking and problem solving that is arguably the basis to modernity itself.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Brandt, Allan M.  *The Cigarette Century*

Dworkin, Mark S.  *Cases in Field Epidemiology: A Global Perspective*

Johnson, Steven  *The Ghost Map*

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

Marmot, Michael  *The Status Syndrome: How Social Standing Affects Our Health and Longevity*

Schwartz, Maxime  *How the Cows Turned Mad*
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 3
SECOND PAPER DUE: April 14

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

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

PART ONE: Origins of Epidemiological Approaches to Health and Medicine

January 27: Introduction to course. MMWR Evaluation

February 3: Required: Steven Johnson, The Ghost Map


Jan P. Vandenbroucke, “Changing Images of John Snow in the History of Epidemiology” (sakai)

PART TWO: Social Epidemiology: Theory and Practice

February 10: Social Epidemiology and the Determinants of Health (Pt. 1)

Required: Robert H. Friis and Thomas A. Sellers, “The History and Scope of Epidemiology,” ch. 1, in Epidemiology for Public Health Practice, 3rd ed. (sakai)

February 17: 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*

**VISIT TO THE FRAMINGTON HEART STUDY**

Also Review: [http://www.framinghamheartstudy.org/index.html](http://www.framinghamheartstudy.org/index.html)

**PART THREE: Epidemiological Methods and Their Applications**

February 24: Cigarette Century: The Campaign that Changed Behavior

**Required:** Allan M. Brandt, *The Cigarette Century: The Rise, Fall, and Deadly Persistence of the Product that Defined America*, Parts 1 and 2 (Chapters 1-6).

**Additional:** 1964 Surgeon General Report (sakai)

March 3: A Closer Look at the Evolution of Methodology and Politics

**Required:** Sir Richard Doll, “Cohort Studies: History of the Method I. Prospective Cohort Studies”

Sir Richard Doll, “Cohort Studies: History of the Method II. Retrospective Cohort Studies”

**Additional:** Brandt, *The Cigarette Century*, Parts 3 and 4 (Chapters 7-12)

**First Paper Due.**

**PART FOUR: In the Field (Class will make further selections)**

March 10: Required: Mark S. Dworkin, “An Overview of Outbreak Investigation,” and “How an Outbreak is Investigated,” Chapters 1 and 2 in Dworkin, in *Cases in Field Epidemiology: A Global Perspective*
Stephen B. Thacker, “Legionnaires’ Disease: Investigation of an Outbreak of a New Disease,” Chapter 5 in *Cases in Field Epidemiology: A Global Perspective*

Jeffrey P. Davis, Investigation of Toxic Shock Syndrome in Wisconsin, 1979-1980 and Beyond,” Chapter 6 in *Cases in Field Epidemiology: A Global Perspective*

March 31: **Required**: “An Outbreak of Fulminant Hepatitis B in a Medical Ward in Israel,” Chapter 10 in *Cases in Field Epidemiology: A Global Perspective*

Patricia Quinlisk, et al., “A Community Outbreak of Hepatitis A Involving Cooperation Between Public Health, the Media, and Law Enforcement, Iowa, 1997,” Chapter 15 in *Cases in Field Epidemiology: A Global Perspective*

Daniel G. Bausch, “Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever in Gabon: Chaos to Control,” Chapter 18 in *Cases in Field Epidemiology: A Global Perspective*

April 7: **Required**: Harold W. Jaffee, “Early Days of AIDS in the United States: A Personal Perspective,” Chapter 7 in *Cases in Field Epidemiology: A Global Perspective*

W. Wayne Wiebel, “Sex, Drugs, and Community-Based Ethnography: Field Investigations Involving Difficult to Reach Populations Around the World, Chapter 33 in *Cases in Field Epidemiology: A Global Perspective*

April 14: Status and Its Contents and Discontents

**Required**: Michael Marmot, *The Status Syndrome: How Social Standing Affects Our Health and Longevity*

**Second Paper Due**
April 21:  Mad Cows, Science, and Global Implications

Required: Maxime Schwartz, *How the Cows Turned Mad*

Additional: Consider further:

http://www.organicconsumers.org/madcow.cfm

http://www.cjd.ed.ac.uk/

http://www.cjdswsurveillance.com/index.html

April 28:  Visit to Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital


Michelle M. Bode, “Outcome of Extreme Prematurity: A Prospective Comparison of 2 Regional Cohorts Born 20 Years Apart.” *Pediatrics*, 2009;124;866-874. (sakai)


May 5:  Thinking About Dissent in, and Alternative Models of, Public Health


Questions for Final Paper Distributed