

Sociology 314

MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

Mr. Imber
Office Hours: M:9-9:45AM; 1:30-3PM
Th:9-9:45
or by appointment

Spring 2007
Phone: 283-2139
Rm PNE 335
Home: 1-508-359-2873

OBJECTIVES:

Who could have predicted at the beginning of the twentieth century that at the beginning of the twenty-first century both church and state would be rivaled by the hospital (and HMO) (or what Arnold Relman, former editor of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, has called the new medical-industrial complex)? How has this come to be? Why do both political parties struggle to resolve, once and for all, America's health care policy dilemmas? 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:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Bosk, Charles | <i>Forgive and Remember: Managing Medical Failure</i> , 2 nd ed. |
| Cassell, Joan | <i>The Woman in the Surgeon's Body</i> |
| Elliott, Carl | <i>Better Than Well: American Medicine Meets the American Dream</i> |
| Frank, Arthur W. | <i>The Wounded Storyteller: Body, Illness and Ethics</i> |
| Rothman, David J. | <i>Strangers at the Bedside: A History of How Law and Bioethics Transformed Medical Decision Making</i> |
| Schwartz, Maxime | <i>How the Cows Turned Mad</i> |
| Stolley, Paul D. and
Tamar Lasky | <i>Investigating Disease Patterns: The Science of Epidemiology</i>
(distributed in class) |
| Turner, Bryan | <i>The New Medical Sociology</i> |

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Two papers (typewritten), 8-10 pages (All written assignments must be typewritten, between 8 and 10 pages. Use **bold, dark**, clear ribbon or cartridge; no spelling errors - all late assignments will be penalized.)

FIRST PAPER DUE: March 5

SECOND PAPER DUE: April 17

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

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

PART ONE: Sociological Approaches to Health and Medicine

- February 1: Introduction to the course. What is medical sociology?
What is social epidemiology?

PART TWO: Social Epidemiology: Theory and Practice

- February 8: 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 15: Social Epidemiology and the Determinants of Health (Pt. 2)

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

Additional: Turner, *The New Medical Sociology*, chapter 7, "Health, Risk, and Globalization," pp. 230-269.

February 22: The Politics of Causation: The Case of Mad Cow Disease

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

PART THREE: The Medical Profession in Sociological Perspective

March 1: 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 8: Medical Education and Physician Socialization (Pt 2)

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

March 15: Medical Education and Physician Socialization (Pt. 3)

Required: Joan Cassell, *The Woman in the Surgeon's Body*

PART FOUR: Medical Progress: Sociological Narratives

March 29: A Patient's Narrative

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

April 5: A Public Narrative

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

April 12: An Historical Narrative

Required: Jonathan B. Imber, “Religious Sources for Debates in Bioethics.” (distributed in class)

Jonathan B. Imber, “Medical Publicity Before Bioethics.” (distributed in class)

Second Paper Due

Part Five: The Futures of Health and Medicine: One Culture after All?

April 19: Global Prospects

Required: Turner, *The New Medical Sociology*, “Disease and Culture,” chapter 3, pp. 82-130.

April 26: Beyond Medicine?

Required: Carl Elliott, *Better Than Well: American Medicine Meets the American Dream*

May 3: Last Class

Questions for Final Paper Distributed