HEALTH & SOCIETY

11:374:141  Peter J. Guarnaccia, Ph.D., Professor  Fall 2014

Tuesday, Friday 12:35-1:55  Cook/Douglass Lecture Hall 103

Course Description
This course examines human health in its dynamic relationship to both the social and physical environment. We will explore how a range of social factors determines the health of populations. Through both historical and contemporary case studies we will develop an ecological model of health and disease, drawing on perspectives from medical anthropology, medical sociology, public health, and health psychology. During this process, we will explore a range of cross-cultural strategies for the maintenance of human health and the management of disease. We will learn that health is totally embedded in society.

Learning Goals: Students completing this course will be able to...
1. Define basic social science concepts of health, wellness, disease and medicine
2. Link social conditions, such as culture, inequality, residential patterns and organization structures, to health outcomes
3. Characterize and compare social, medical, public health and other approaches to improving health outcomes

Assessments
1. Goal will be assessed through in-class brainstorming exercise and exams
2. Goal will be assessed through book essay and exams
3. Goal will be assessed through in-class group exercise on building ecological models of disease and follow-up take-home essays on exams

Required Textbooks (available at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore) [Approx. cost new = $60]

Reserve: All articles will be available electronically on a Sakai site for the course. Books will be on reserve in the Chang Library in Foran Hall on the Cook Campus.

Course Requirements (see handouts for assignment descriptions)
   2 Hour Exams  70% (35% each)
   1 Book Essay  30%

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Office Hours: Wednesday 9:30-11:00 am and by appointment.
### Section 1. Introduction to Terms & Concepts

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 2</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Health Care Systems: Does the U.S. Have One?</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Readings: Reid: Chapters 1-3</td>
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<td>Videos: “Sick Around America” &amp; “Sick Around the World”</td>
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### Section 2. Race, Racism and Health

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 23</td>
<td>Health Effects of Racism</td>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong> White: Introduction, Chapters 8, 9</td>
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<td><strong>Sakai:</strong> White: Alfred R. Shands, Jr., Lecture</td>
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<td><strong>Video:</strong> “Unnatural Causes: When the Bough Breaks”</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health</td>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong> White: Chapters 10-12</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>The Latino Paradox</td>
<td><strong>Video:</strong> “Unnatural Causes: Becoming American”</td>
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Section 3. Case Studies: Social & Ecological Aspects of Diseases

Oct  7  Sickle Cell Anemia, Malaria, & Agriculture  

Oct 10  Individual and Cultural Adaptations to Sickle Cell Anemia  
      Sakai: McElroy & Townsend: Chap 3, Profiles (pp. 84-91 & pp.107-111)

Oct 14  Schistosomiasis I: What Would You Do?  

Oct 17  Schistosomiasis II: Don't Go Near the Water!  
      Sakai: Goodfield: Chapter 3  
      Video: “The Three Valleys of St. Lucia”

Oct 21  FIRST HOUR EXAM

Section 4. Case Studies in Global Health

Oct 29  Smallpox I: Eradicating a Disease through Vaccination  
      Video: “The Last Wild Virus”

Oct 31  Smallpox II: Mass Vaccination and Surveillance/Containment  
      Sakai: Goodfield: Chapter 5; Foege: Conclusion

Nov  4  Polio in the US  
      Video: “A Paralyzing Fear”

Nov  7  Polio: Can Another Disease Be Eradicated?  
      Sakai: Hilts: Intro, One House at a Time: India Pursues Polio  
      Video: “Rx for Survival 1: Disease Warriors”

Section 5. Cholera: Past, Present and Future

Nov 11  Cholera in History  
      Reading: Johnson: Chapters on “The investigator,” “Building the Case,”  
      “The Pump Handle,” “The Ghost Map”
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**Cholera in Haiti**

**Reading:** Johnson: “Broad Street Revisited”


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**Section 6. Global AIDS: Myths and Facts**

**Nov 18**

- HIV/AIDS Basics
  - **Video:** “The Age of AIDS: Part I”
  - **Sakai:** Pepin: Assembling The Puzzle, Epilogue: Lessons Learned

**Nov 21**

- HIV/AIDS Treatment and Prevention
  - **Video:** The Age of AIDS: Part II

**Dec 26**

**NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING WEEK**

**Dec 2**

- HIV/AIDS: Global Profile
  - **Video:** Rx for Survival: Deadly Messengers
  - **Sakai:** Hilts: Changing Minds: Botswana Beats Back AIDS

**Dec 9**

**SECOND HOUR EXAM**
Choose one (1) of the following two (2) questions and write a 5 page essay on it. The essay should be typed, double-spaced. It will be worth up to 100 points [5 points will be deducted for each page over 5 pages]. Due dates vary with the essay assignment. The essay should be able to be written using class lecture notes and the course texts. While you are welcome to do extra research, it is not required. We will address these topics in class and you are welcome to bring questions and ideas related to the essay to the class discussion. Having these questions ahead of time will help you read the books more critically.

1. Use the concept of health care systems to analyze The Healing of America. Choose one (1) of the other countries discussed in the book [France, Germany, Japan, the UK, Canada] and compare and contrast its health care system with that of the United States. What do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of each country’s health care system? How do different ways of thinking about health shape each country’s health care system? What did you learn about the U.S. health care system through this assignment? [Due October 7]

2. Using Seeing Patients, write an essay discussing the connections between the history of racial discrimination in the U.S. and health disparities. Address the following questions:
   a. What do you see as the main sources of health disparities for African Americans and other disadvantaged groups? What are the major sources cited by White? Do you agree or disagree with his argument?
   b. What do you see as the main solutions to health disparities in the U.S.?
   c. What is the role of cultural competence in addressing health disparities?
Use specific examples from the book to write your essay. You may also bring in examples from the media and/or more personal experiences that are relevant. [Due October 28]
SOCIAL & ECOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF HEALTH & DISEASE

Discussion Questions for Case Studies

Fall 2014

1. What is the **BIOLOGY OF THE DISEASE**?
   a) What is the primary etiologic agent?
   b) What is the mode of transmission?
   c) How infectious is it?
   d) How does the disease affect people?
   e) How is the disease treated?

2. What are the **DISEASE, ILLNESS, & SICKNESS** aspects of the problem?
   a) How does medical science define the DISEASE? (See above)
   b) How do sufferers view the ILLNESS?
   c) How does the SICKNESS affect the sufferer’s ability to carry out social roles and maintain social relations?

3. What are the **MEDICAL, EPIDEMIOLOGICAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC** aspects of the intervention program?

4. What does an **ECOLOGICAL MODEL** of this health problem look like?
   a) What are the macro-environmental and social factors which affect the distribution of the disease?
   b) What are the micro-biological, environmental and social factors which determine who is affected by the disease?
   c) How do interventions relate to the biological, environmental, and social aspects of the disease?