

## **Course Syllabus Fall 2004**

### **The History of Medicine and Public Health: Changing Concepts of Health and Disease**

Instructor: Professor Sheila M. Rothman  
Office: 101 Black Building 650 West 168<sup>th</sup> Street  
Office Hours: By appointment  
Phone: 305-5497  
e mail [smr4@columbia.edu](mailto:smr4@columbia.edu)

This course will be devoted to examining the conceptual categories in the history of public health and medicine. It will focus on how changing definitions of health and disease, gender and the body, and race and ethnicity have shaped our understanding of the health of individuals, specific populations and the public.

Evaluation:  
Participation: 40 % of grade

The class will be conducted in a seminar format. Students will be expected to participate fully in the discussions. Each week, individual students will prepare 5 minute responses to one of the readings. The summaries are oral presentations to be delivered at the beginning of the class.

Research Papers: 60 % of the grade

Students will also be expected to write a 20-25 page paper that uses primary sources and is relevant to one of the topics discussed in class. Students are expected to discuss the topic with the instructor prior to beginning research. By October 21, it is anticipated that all students will have a defined research topic. Students are expected to begin research by the end of October. All papers are due December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Readings marked with an asterisk will be available at the Health Sciences Campus Bookstore

## **I. Changing Definitions of Health and Disease**

September 13

### The Social Determinants of Health and Disease

Thomas McKeown, The Role of Medicine: Dream, Mirage, or Nemesis? (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1979) x-xvi, 29-65.

The Declaration of Alma-Ata International Conference on Primary Health Care, Alma-Ata USSR 6-12 September 1978.

UN General Assembly, The Right of Everyone to Enjoy the Highest Attainable Standard of Health (New York: United Nations 2003) 1-12.

September 20

### Framing Disease

\*Charles Rosenberg, and Janet Golden, eds. Framing Disease: Studies in Cultural History (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1992) xii-xxvi, 3-19, 155-181.

Roy Porter, "A Patient's View: Doing Medical History from Below," Theory and Society 1985: 175-198.

September 27

### The Reality and Meaning of Plagues

Samuel K Cohn Jr. "The Black Death: End of a Paradigm," American Historical Review June 2002: 703-738.

\* Albert Camus, The Plague (NY: Knopf 1977)

Susan Craddock, City of Plagues: Disease, Poverty and Deviance in San Francisco (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2000) 124-160.

October 4

The Case of Tuberculosis

\*Sheila Rothman, Living in the Shadow of Death: Tuberculosis and the Social Experience of Illness in American History (NY: Basic Books, 1994) 13-25, 105-127, 226-246.

October 11

The Case of Mental Illness

\*David J. Rothman, The Discovery of the Asylum (Hawthorne, NY, Aldine De Gruyter, 2002) 109-154, 206-236, 265-298.

Nancy Tomes, A Generous Confidence: Thomas Story Kirkbride and the Art of Asylum-Keeping, 1840-1993 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984) 90-128.

**II. Changing Definitions of Gender and the Body**

October 18

Disease and Gender: The Construction of Hysteria

Elaine Showalter, Hystories: Hysterical Epidemics and Modern Culture (NY: Columbia University Press, 1997) Chapters 3-4 & 6.

Sigmund Freud, Dora: An Analysis of a Case of Hysteria (NY: Simon and Schuster, 1997) 1-55.

Steven Marcus, "Freud and Dora: Story, History, Case History," Charles Bernheimer and Claire Kahane, eds, In Dora's Case: Freud-Hysteria-Feminism (NY: Columbia University Press, 1985) 56-91.

October 25

### Reconstructing the Body

Nelly Oudshoorn, Beyond the Natural Body: An Archeology of Sex Hormones (NY: Routledge, 1994) 15-64.

Jonathan Ned Katz, "The Invention of Heterosexuality," Socialist Review (1990) 7-34.

David Healy, The Anti-Depressant Era (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1997) 22-77.

Katherine Phillips, The Broken Mirror: Understanding and Treating Body Dysmorphic Disorder (NY: Oxford University Press, 1996) 193-208.

November 1

### Enhancing the Body

Sheila Rothman and David Rothman, The Pursuit of Perfection: The Perils and Promise of Medical Enhancement (NY: Pantheon Books, 2003) 103-130, 168-207.

November 8

### The Construction of Breast Cancer: Women's Perspectives

Ellen Leopold, A Darker Ribbon: Breast Cancer, Women and Their Doctors in the Twentieth Century (Boston: Beacon Press, 1999) 45-110.

\*Audre Lorde, The Cancer Journals (San Francisco: Aunt Lute Books, 1980).

Maren Klawiter, "Racing for the Cure, Walking Women and Toxic Curing," Laura Potts, Ideologies of Breast Cancer: Feminist Perspectives (NY: St. Martins Press, 2000) 63-73.

Barbara Ehrenreich, "Welcome to Cancerland," Harper's Magazine, Nov. 2001 43-53.

### **III Constructing and Deconstructing Race and Ethnicity:**

November 15

Scientific Racism: Its Origins and Challenges

Stephen J. Gould, "American Polygeny and Craniometry Before Darwin: Blacks and Indians as Separate and Inferior Species," in Sandra Harding, "The 'Racial' Economy of Science.(Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1993) 84-115

Robert Procter, Racial Hygiene: Medicine Under the Nazis (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1988) Chapter 3

Nancy Leys Stepan and Sander Gilman, "Appropriating the Idioms of Science," The Rejection of Scientific Racism," in Harding, The 'Racial' Economy of Science 170-193.

Alan H. Goodman, "Why Genes Don't Count (for Racial Differences in Health)," American Journal of Public Health 2000: 1699-1702.

November 22

Race and Ethnicity in America

\*Matthew Jacobson, Whiteness of a Different Color: European Immigrants and the Alchemy of Race (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1998) 2-38, 137-170, 246-280.

Karen Sachs, "How did Jews become White Folks," in Steen Gregory and Roger Sanjek, Race (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1994) 78-102.

Joseph Graves, The Emperor's New Clothes: Biological Theories of Race at the Millennium (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2000) 140-154.

November 29

Race, Human Rights and AIDS

Jonathan Mann et al., "Human Rights and AIDS: The Future of the Pandemic," in J. Mann et. al., Health and Human Rights: A Reader (NY: Routledge 1999) 216-226

Jacob Levenson, The Secret Epidemic: The Story of AIDS in Black America (NY: Pantheon Books, 2004) 2-39, 269-276.

Greg Behrman, The Invisible People (NY: Free Press, 2004)1-57, 181-233.

December 6

Race, Ethnicity, and Genetic Testing

Melbourne Tapper, In the Blood: Sickle Cell Anemia and the Politics of Race (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1999) Chapter 1

Keith Wailoo, Dying in the City of the Blues: Sickle Cell Anemia and the Politics of Race and Health (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2001) 137-196.

Howard Markel, "Scientific Advances and Social Risks: Historical Perspectives on Genetic Screening Programs for Sickle Cell Disease, Tay-Sachs Disease, Neural Tube Defects, and Down Syndrome, 1970-1997" in Neil Holtzman and Michael Watson, eds., Promoting Safe and Effective Genetic Testing in the United States: Final Report of the Task Force on Genetic Testing (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins Press, 1998) 161-176.

December 13

Summary

Papers Due