

Course Syllabus: SOSC P8716, Fall 2006

The History of Medicine and Public Health Changing Concepts of Health and Disease

Instructor: Professor Sheila M. Rothman
Office: Suite 1525, Presbyterian Hospital
Office Hours: By appointment
Phone: 305-5497
E mail: smr4@columbia.edu

This course will be developed to examining key 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

Oral Presentations and Class Participation: 50% of the 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 brief oral presentations on one of the readings, to be delivered at the beginning of the class.

The final two sessions of the class will be devoted to a discussion of an important evolving issue in public health policy. The group will be divided into two sections, each presenting a distinct perspective on the issue and addressing a specific set of questions.

Written Assignments: 50% of the grade

The course is divided into three sections. Students will be expected to write one five page paper for each of the three sections. Each paper is to be based on the student's analysis of the readings of that section. It should discuss the implications of the readings for current public health policy. The first paper will be due October 16, 2006. The second paper will be due November 13, 2006. The third paper will be due December 11, 2006.

SYLLABUS

THE HISTORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICINE CHANGING CONCEPTS OF HEALTH AND DISEASE

Course packs are available at The Village Copier (112th Street and Broadway).

Course materials are on reserve at the Health Sciences Library.

Readings with an * are available at the Health Sciences Campus Bookstore.

I. CHANGING DEFINITIONS OF HEALTH AND DISEASE

September 11 The Social, Genetic, and Behavioral Determinants of Health and Disease

Thomas Mckeown, *The Role of Medicine: Dream, Mirage or Nemesis?*
Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1979. pp. x-xvi, 29-65.

* Sheila Rothman and David Rothman, *The Pursuit of Perfection: The Promises and Perils of Medical Enhancement*. NY: Pantheon Books, 2003. Chapter 8, pp. 209-234.

Caroline Macera et al., "Sociocultural Influences on Health," in Andrew Baum et al., *Handbook of Health Psychology*. Mahwah, NJ: LEA, 2001. pp. 427-440.

September 18 Framing Disease

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

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

September 25 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. pp. 13-25, 105-127, 226-246.

October 9 The Reality and Meaning of Plagues

Samuel K. Cohn, Jr., "The Black Death: End of a Paradigm." American Historical Review, June 2002: 702-738.

* 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. pp. 124-160.

II. CHANGING DEFINITIONS OF BODY

October 16 Monitoring the Body

* Elizabeth Armstrong, *Bearing Responsibility: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and the Diagnosis of Moral Disorder*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 2003. chs. 1, 4, 6.

October 23 Reconstructing the Body

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

Jennifer Terry, *An American Obsession: Science, Medicine and Homosexuality in Modern Society*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999. pp. 40-73; 297-314.

Robert Sparrow, "Defending Deaf Culture: The Case of Cochlear Implants." The Journal of Political Philosophy, 2005(13): 135-152.

October 30 Enhancing the Body

Sheila M. Rothman and David J. Rothman, *The Pursuit of Perfection: The Promises and Perils of Medical Enhancement*. NY: Pantheon Books, 2003. pp. 101-130, 168-207.

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

November 6 Diabetes and Obesity

Ian Hacking, "Where Does the Body-Mass Index Come From?" Discussion notes for September 30th, 2004 speech at Mount Holyoke College.

Other readings TBA

III. CONSTRUCTING AND DECONSTRUCTING RACE AND ETHNICITY

November 13 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. pp. 84-155.

Jenny Reardon, *Race to the Finish: Identity and Governance in an Age of Genomics*. Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2005. pp. 17-73.

November 20 Changing Definitions of Race

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

Peggy Pascoe, "Miscegenation Law, Court Cases and Ideologies of Race in Twentieth Century America." The Journal of American History, June 1996: 44-69.

Supplemental Reading:

Martha Hodes, "The Mercurial Nature and Abiding Power of Race: A Transnational Family History." The American Historical Review, 2003(108): 84-118.

November 29 Health Disparities: Nature or Nurture?

David Barton Smith, *Health Care Divided: Race and Healing a Nation*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1999. pp. 3-31.

Nancy Krieger and Elizabeth Fee, "Measuring Social Inequalities in Health in the United States: A Historical Review, 1900-1950." International Journal of Health Services, 1996(26): 391-418.

Lundy Braun, "Race, Ethnicity and Health: Can Genetics Explain Disparities?" Perspectives in Biology and Medicine, 2002(45): 159-174.

Pamela Sankar et al., "Genetic Research and Health Disparities," Journal of the American Medical Association. 2004(291): 2985-2989.

IV. LINKING THE PAST TO THE PRESENT: TWO HEALTH POLICY CHALLENGES

December 4 The Case of BiDiL: The First Race-based Drug

Jonathan Kahn, "How a Drug becomes 'Ethnic': Law, Commerce and the Production of Racial Categories in Medicine." Yale Journal of Health Policy, Law and Ethics, 2004(1): 1-46.

RJ Carlson, "The Case of BiDiL: A Policy Commentary on Race and Genetics." Health Affairs, 2005(W5): 464-468.

Gary Puckrein, "BiDiL: From Another Vantage Point." Health Affairs, 2006: w368-w374.

December 11 The Challenge of Live Organ Donation

Sheila Rothman and David Rothman, "The Hidden Cost of Organ Sale." American Journal of Transplantation, 2006(6): 1524-1528.

Arthur Matas, "The Case of Living Kidney Sales: Rationale, Objections and Concerns." American Journal of Transplantation, 2004(4): 2007-2017.

David Rothman and Sheila Rothman, "The International Traffic in Organs," in *Trust is Not Enough: Bringing Human Rights to Medicine*. NY: New York Review of Books Press, 2006. pp. 3-29.