

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 2008
Phone: 283-2139
Rm PNE 335
Home: 1-508-359-2873

OBJECTIVES:

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:

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| Bosk, Charles | <i>Forgive and Remember: Managing Medical Failure</i> , 2 nd ed. |
| Cassell, Joan | <i>The Woman in the Surgeon's Body</i> |
| Conrad, Peter | <i>The Medicalization of Society</i> |
| Fairchild, Amy et al. | <i>Searching Eyes: Privacy, the State, and Disease Surveillance in America</i> |
| Frank, Arthur W. | <i>The Wounded Storyteller: Body, Illness and Ethics</i> |
| Millenson, Michael L. | <i>Demanding Medical Excellence: Doctors and Accountability in the Information Age</i> |
| Rothman, David J. | <i>Strangers at the Bedside: A History of How Law and Bioethics Transformed Medical Decision Making</i> |
| Stolley, Paul D. and
Tamar Lasky | <i>Investigating Disease Patterns: The Science of Epidemiology</i>
(distributed in class) |

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: February 28

SECOND PAPER DUE: April 10

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

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

PART ONE: Sociological Approaches to Health and Medicine

- January 31: Introduction to the course. What is medical sociology?
What is social epidemiology?

PART TWO: Social Epidemiology: Theory and Practice

- February 7: 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 14: 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: Emilia Simeonova¹, "Doctors, Patients, and the Racial Mortality Gap: What Are the Causes?" (distributed in

class)

February 21: The Politics of Surveillance:

Required: Amy L. Fairchild et al., *Searching Eyes*

PART THREE: The Medical Profession in Sociological Perspective

February 28: 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 6: Medical Education and Physician Socialization (Pt 2)

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

March 13: Medical Education and Physician Socialization (Pt. 3)

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

PART FOUR: Medical Progress: Sociological Narratives

April 3: A Patient's Narrative

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

April 10: A Public Narrative

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

Second Paper Due

April 17: An Historical Narrative

Required: Jonathan B. Imber, *Trusting Doctors: The Decline of Moral Authority in American Medicine* (distributed in class)

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

April 24: Medicalization: Hopes and Despairs

Required: Peter Conrad, *The Medicalization of Society*

May 1: What Can Be Done?

Required: Michael L. Millenson, *Demanding Medical Excellence*

Questions for Final Paper Distributed