

Soci 603, Seminar in the Sociology of Health and Illness  
Instructor: Dr. Ariel Ducey  
Winter 2009  
Office Hours: T & Th, 3:30 – 4:30, Social Sciences Bldg, Room 938  
Sociology Department Website: [www.soci.ucalgary.ca](http://www.soci.ucalgary.ca)

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## **Course Overview**

This course will focus on three broad areas within the sociology of health and illness: medical practices and challenges to those practices; the place of biomedicine and health in emergent forms of sociality and governmentality; and the politics of health care in the context of changes to political, economic, and state structures. Students should be aware that other major areas in the field will not be covered systematically, such as the social determinants of health. Nonetheless, the course will acquaint you with major concepts and questions that will prepare you to read more broadly, and critically, in the field.

Questions we will consider include:

- On what basis can we assert that the experiences of bodies (whether of health or illness) are social in addition to biological?
- How are nature and culture, politics and biology, connected?
- What are the connections between individual interactions in healthcare/medicine and global political and economic changes?
- What are the stakes of inclusion and exclusion from biomedical models and institutions?
- How do health care systems and health care services fit into the relationship between states and markets?

## **Requirements**

### Participation

Participation includes in-class discussions, critiques, and facilitation.

This course will be run as a seminar. There will be some lecture material, depending upon the topic, but much of the learning will take place in the seminar exchange. All students are expected to regularly participate in seminar discussions and to complete the readings in advance of the class for which they are assigned.

### Critiques

Students are responsible for preparing six one-page critiques on topics raised by the readings. These critiques will go beyond simply summarizing the content of the reading in order to provide starting points for class discussion. You can focus on theoretical positions, core arguments, fascinating moment(s), relationships to other literatures or readings, challenges to received theory, strengths and weaknesses, implications for future work. The critique sheets must be distributed to everyone in the class (via email) no later than NOON on Monday for the

upcoming week. Students are required to read these before the class meeting.

You will be randomly assigned three weeks for which you have to write a summary and critique. You may choose the other three weeks.

The critiques should be written well, but they do not have to be formal in style. In particular, you do not need to include formal citations or notes (but do provide page numbers for any quotes or specific ideas).

### Facilitation

Each student will be assigned one class to be the seminar facilitator. The facilitator has the responsibility for keeping the discussion moving and making sure pertinent points are covered. Facilitators need to pay especially careful attention to the summary and critique sheets and can use them as a basis for discussion.

### Final Paper

Final papers should focus on a topic within the course or a topic of interest to you that is related to the course. This can be a substantive theme or a conceptual/theoretical theme. The papers must include (a) a section in which the topic is discussed theoretically or conceptually; and (b) literature from class readings and additional relevant material which you have found. Papers should be double-spaced, with appropriate references cited using a style from either the American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review, or other sociology journal. The final paper should be at least 10 pages not including references, typed, double-spaced, in Times Roman 12 point font. **A one page prospectus or outline of your paper topic is due by April 3rd.** I will make suggestions and comments on these outlines as needed.

### Grading

40% of your grade will depend on the quality of your participation. The participation grade will factor your critique sheets, your facilitation of a seminar, and class participation, with the first and last being more important.

60% of your grade will depend upon your final paper.

Ethics Research: Students are advised that any research with human subjects--including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation--must have the approval of the Departmental Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Academic Misconduct: cheating is regarded as a serious academic offense. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar, which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct.

Since it is important that you read and discuss the work of others in academic papers and research, please take the time to review the following website: [Plagiarism: What It Is and How to Recognize and Avoid It](#).

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor's office or the Department main office. Term assignments must be returned to students individually, during class, or during the instructor's office hours; if a student is unable to pick up her/his assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Safewalk: The University of Calgary provides a "safe walk" service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the "Help" phones located around Campus.

#### **Academic Accommodation**

Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, telephone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. **It is a student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.**

#### Handing in Papers Outside of Class, Return of Final Papers, and Release of Final Grades

1. When students are unable to submit papers at class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant rather than at the Sociology Department main office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the Sociology Department main office. The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, (i.e., outside an instructor's office, the department office, etc.). Students who want their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will only be available for pick-up during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology department. They are only available online.

## COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to revision)

### Medical Practice and Its Challengers

#### Week 1 (Jan 13, 15)

- Farmer, Paul. "New Malaise" (Ch. 8) in *Pathologies of Power*. University of California Press, 2003. Pp 196-212. (CP)

#### Week 2 (Jan 20, 22)

- Parsons, Talcott. "Social Structure and Dynamic Process: the Case of Modern Medical Practice." *The Social System*. New York: The Free Press, 1951. Pp 428-479 (CP)

#### Week 3 (Jan 27, 29)

- Zola, Irving Kenneth. "Medicine as an Institution of Social Control." Sociological Review, 20: 487-504, 1972. (CP)
- Ehrenreich, Barbara and Deirdre English. *Complaints and Disorders: The Sexual Politics of Sickness*. City University of New York, Feminist Press, 1973.
- Roberts, Dorothy. *Killing the Black Body*. Pantheon Books, 1997. Chps. 2 and 3. (57-103, 104-149) (CP)

#### Week 4 (Feb 3, 5)

- Rothman, David J. Introduction, Chs. 4, 5, 9 from *Strangers at the Bedside: A History of How Law and Bioethics Transformed Medical Decision Making*. Basic Books, 1991. (CP, except ch. 9)

#### Week 5 (Feb 10, 12)

- Epstein, Steven. *Inclusion: The Politics of Difference in Medical Research*. University of Chicago Press, 2007.

### Biopolitics

#### Week 6 (Feb 24, 26)

- Finish Epstein, transition to Foucault
- Foucault, Ch.11, "17 March 1976" in "*Society Must be Defended*": *Lectures at the College de France, 1975-76*, ed. Mauro Bertani and Alessandro Fontana, NY: Picador: 2003
- Selections from *The Birth of Biopolitics: Lectures at the College de France 1978-79*. Senellart, Michel, ed. Palgrave MacMillan, 2008.
- Selections from *History of Sexuality*, Vol. 1.

### **Week 7 (Mar 3, 5)**

- Foucault continued

### **Week 8 (Mar 10, 12)**

- Bowker & Star, “The ICD as Information Infrastructure,” Ch. 3 from *Sorting Things Out: Classification and Its Consequences*. MIT Press, 1999. (CP)
- Rose, Nikolas, and Carlos Novas. 2004. “Biological Citizenship,” pp. 436-463 in *Global Assemblages: Technology, Politics, and Ethics as Anthropological Problems*, edited by Aihwa Ong, and Stephen Collier. Blackwell Publishing. (CP)
- Rabinow, P. “Artificiality and Enlightenment: From Socio-biology to Biosociality,” pp. 234-252 in *Zone 6: Incorporations*, eds. J. Crary and S. Kwinter. MIT Press, 1992. (CP)
- Frank, Arthur. “Emily’s Scars: Surgical Shapings, Technoluxe, and Bioethics,” Hastings Center Report 34 (2): 18-29, 2004. (CP)

### **Week 9 (Mar 17, 19)**

- Farmer, Paul. “On Suffering and Structural Violence” (Ch. 1, 29-50) from *Pathologies of Power*, University of California Press, 2003. (CP)
- Petryna, Adriana. *Life Exposed: Biological Citizens After Chernobyl*. Princeton University Press, 2002.

### **Week 10 (Mar 24, 26)**

- Petryna continued, catch up

## **Health Care Politics, Political Economy, and the State**

### **Week 11 (Mar 31, Apr 2)**

- Evans, Robert G. “Canada,” Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law, 25 (5): 889-897, October 2000. (CP)
- Stone, Deborah. “United States,” Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law, 25 (5): 953-958, October 2000.
- Smee, Clive. “United Kingdom,” Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law, 25 (5): 945-951, October 2000.
- Thomas Bodenheimer and Kevin Grumbach. “Paying for Health Care,” Journal of the American Medical Association, 272, 634-39, 1994.
- Evans, R.G. “Sharing the Burden, Containing the Cost: Fundamental Conflicts in Health Care Finance,” Pp. 265-287 in Litman and Robins, *Health Politics and Policy*. 3rd edition. Albany, NY: Delmar Publishers, 1997.

- Quadagno, Jill. (1987) “Theories of the Welfare State,” Annual Review of Sociology. 13:109-28. (CP)
- Coburn, David. “Phases of Capitalism, Welfare States, Medical Dominance, and Health Care in Ontario,” International Journal of Health Services 29 (4): 833-851, 1999. (CP)

### **Week 12 (Apr 7, 9)**

- Navarro, Vicente. “Why Some Countries Have National Health Insurance, Others Have National Health Services, and the U.S. Has Neither,” Social Science and Medicine 28 (9): 887-898, 1989. (CP)
- Quadagno, Jill. “Why the United States Has No National Health Insurance: Stakeholder Mobilization against the Welfare State, 1945-1996,” Journal of Health and Social Behavior 45 (extra issue): 25-44, 2004. (CP)
- Hacker, Jacob S. “The Historical Logic of National Health Insurance: Structure and Sequence in the Development of British, Canadian, and U.S. Medical Policy,” Studies in American Political Development 12: 57-130, 1998.

### **Week 13 (Apr 14, 16)**

- Evans, Robert. “Going for Gold: the Redistributive Agenda behind Market-Based Health Care Reform,” Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law 22 (2): 427-465, 1997.
- Williams, A. Paul, Raisa Deber, Pat Baranek, and Alina Gildiner. “From Medicare to Home Care: Globalization, State Retrenchment, and the Profitization of Canada’s Health-Care System,” pp. 7 – 30 in Armstrong, Armstrong, and Coburn, eds. *Unhealthy Times*, Oxford University Press, 2001.
- Coburn, David. “Health, Health Care, and Neo-Liberalism,” pp. 45-65 in Armstrong, Armstrong, and Coburn, eds. *Unhealthy Times*, Oxford University Press, 2001.
- Ruggie, Mary. “The paradox of liberal intervention: health policy and the American Welfare State,” *American Journal of Sociology* 97 (4): 919-44, 1992.
- Light, Donald W. “Cost Containment and the Backdraft of Competition Policies,” *International Journal of Health Services* 31 (4): 681-708, 2001.
- [Selected reports from Alberta on health care policy]