

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
ROBERT F. WAGNER GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE P11.1830.002
Fall 2008

Professor Denise Soffel
Mondays, 4:30-6:10 pm
Tisch Hall U.C. 57
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COURSE SYLLABUS

This introductory course in the Health Policy and Management Program of the Wagner School is designed to familiarize students with some basic concepts and ideas concerning the distribution of health and illness in society, the organization of the U.S. health care system, and the relationship of one to the other. We will discuss and debate definitions of health and illness, tools for their assessment, and the historical context for developments in public health and medicine. We will also examine the characteristics of the health care system at the local, state and federal levels in the United States as well as in other wealthy nations with systems of universal coverage. Further, students will be encouraged to become familiar with the health care needs and system in one other country of their choosing; this country will serve as a point of comparative analysis throughout the semester.

Students should come to class prepared to participate in the discussion of major themes related to urban health and society, the social geography and distribution of disease, as well as the policy environment that influences access to public health and health care services.

BOOKS AND READINGS

Students are expected to read the chapters and articles listed in the syllabus each week. Conrad's edited volume provides a sociological view and critique of health and health care delivery. The textbook, edited by Kovner and Knickman, focuses on the organization and financing of health care delivery in the United States. Additional articles on the syllabus are designed to extend the materials in these textbooks and expose students to other views. In addition we have added books by Nestle, Shilts and Nuland. Nestle highlights the political nature of a pressing public health issue, obesity and nutrition policy. Shilts provides case study material on the evolution of the AIDS epidemic and the importance of public health infrastructure. Nuland's book provides a clinical perspective on death and dying and deepens our understanding of the role of the patient and relevant ethical issues. All of these books are available at the NYU Professional Bookstore, and are on reserve at Bobst Library.

Additional reading that are required will be available from the blackboard site associated with this course. They must also be prepared to find additional background materials, on their own, about the country they choose as a standard of comparison to the US.

REQUIRED BOOKS:

Conrad, Peter (ed.), *The Sociology of Health and Illness: Critical Perspectives*, (8th Edition). New York: St. Martin's Press (2008).

Kovner, Anthony and Knickman, James (ed.), *Health Care Delivery in the United States* (9th Edition). New York: Springer Press (2008).

ADDITIONAL BOOKS AND JOURNALS

Students are encouraged to browse recent issues of well-respected journals, such as American Journal of Public Health, Journal of the American Medical Association, New England Journal of Medicine, and *Health Affairs*. The list of relevant web sites at the end of the Kovner book (Appendix C) may also be helpful.

Nestle, Marion. *Food Politics*. Berkeley: UC Press

Nuland, Sherwin B. *How We Die: Reflections on Life's Final Chapter*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf (1994).

Shilts, Randy. *And the Band Played On..* New York: St Martin's Press (1988).

CLASS TOPICS AND READINGS

A. INTRODUCTION

I. Health, Disease and Community – September 8

- Discussion of course readings and class requirements.
- Definitions of health and illness. What does it mean to speak of the “social production of disease?”
- How are health status and health care related?
- How does individual health relate to community health?

The Sociology of Health and Illness: A Critical Approach

1. John B McKinlay and Sonja M. McKinlay. “Medical Measures and the Decline of Mortality,” Ch. 1.

Additional reading on Blackboard

2. Michael Marmot, “The Influence of Income on Health: Views of an Epidemiologist.”

B. DISTRIBUTION OF HEALTH, DISEASE AND PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEMS

II. Introduction to Epidemiological Measures and Methods and the Uneven Distribution of Disease – September 15

- Descriptive vs. analytic methods.
- Social factors and disease
- How do we measure and assess health status?
- How do such factors as age, gender, race, poverty, occupation and lifestyle relate to morbidity and mortality?

Health Care Delivery in the United States

1. Mary Ann Chiasson and Steven Jonas. “Measuring Health Status,” Ch. 2

The Sociology of Health and Illness: A Critical Approach

2. S. Leonard Syme and Lisa F. Berkman. “Social Class, Susceptibility and Sickness.” Ch. 2
3. Colin McCord and Harold P. Freeman. “Excess Mortality in Harlem,” Ch. 3
4. Ingrid Waldron. “Gender Differences in Mortality - Causes and Variations in Different Societies.” Ch. 4
5. James S. House et al. “Social Relationships and Health.” Ch. 7
6. Richard Wilkinson, “Health Inequalities: Relative or Absolute Material Standards.” Ch.9

Additional Readings on Blackboard

7. Victor Fuchs. “A Tale of Two States.”

<http://books.google.com/books?id=VeWyqbi96L8C&pg=PA52&lpg=PA52&dq=vict>

- or+fuchs+tale+two+states&source=web&ots=n1QJR5OEMM&sig=Apyi8otHR3f2teOg38Khw13e60U&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=3&ct=result#PPA52,M1
8. Victor Rodwin & Melanie Croce-Galis. "Population Health in Utah and Nevada: An Update on Victor Fuchs' Tale of Two States."

III. Public Health, Medicine and Resource Allocation – September 22

- Achievements in public health
- Public health versus medicine
- Ethics of resource allocation
- Public health infrastructure

(Reminder: First blackboard assignment due)

Health Care Delivery in the United States

1. Laura C. Leviton and Scott D. Rhodes, "Public Health: Policy, Practice, and Perceptions," Ch. 4

The Sociology of Health and Illness: Critical Perspectives

2. Daniel Callahan. "Rationing Medical Progress: The Way to Affordable Health Care." Ch. 40
3. Arnold S. Relman. "The Trouble with Rationing." Ch. 41
4. McKinley, John. "A Case for Refocusing Upstream: The Political Economy of Illness." Ch. 48

IV. Public Health Case Studies – Sept. 29

- Public health and nutrition.
- The evolution of the AIDS epidemic.
- Terrorism as a public health issue

Read either book:

1. Shilts, Randy. *And the Band Played On*; or
2. Nestle, Marion. *Food Politics*.

The Sociology of Health and Illness: Critical Perspectives

3. Herek, Gregory M., "AIDS and Stigma." Ch. 11

Additional Reading on Blackboard

4. Readings on Hurricane Katrina

C. HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATION, FINANCING AND WORKFORCE ISSUES

V. A Comparative and Historical Overview of the U.S. Health Care System – October 6

- History, trends, and characteristics
- What are the social, medical, and technological factors that have led to the health care system as we know it today?
- How does the US system compare to that of other developed nations?
- What is the role of government in the U.S. healthcare system? How does this differ from other countries?

(Reminder: 2nd blackboard assignment due)

Health Care Delivery in the United States

1. Kovner, Anthony and Knickman, James. “Introduction: The State of Health Care Delivery in the United States,” Ch. 1
2. Sparer, Michael S. “The Role of Government In U.S Health Care, Ch. 5
3. Rodwin, Victor G. “A Comparative Analysis of Health Systems Among Wealthy Nations,” Ch. 6

The Sociology of Health and Illness: Critical Perspectives

4. Light, Donald W., “Comparative Models of ‘Health Care’ Systems,” Ch. 45

Additonal readings on Blackboard

5. Rothman, David J, “A Century of Failure: Health Care Reform in America.”

OCTOBER 13th – COLUMBUS DAY – NO CLASSES

VI. The Organization of the Health Care Delivery System – Resource Allocation and the Role of the Hospital - October 20

- Rationing in health care
- How are hospitals organized and governed?
- How has role of the hospitals changed over time?

(Reminder: First Paper Assignment Due)

Health Care Delivery in the United States

1. Gourevitch, Marc N., et al, “Acute Care,” Ch.7
2. Anderson, Gerard and James R. Knickman. “Chronic Care,” Ch. 8

The Sociology of Health and Illness: Critical Perspectives

3. Arnold S. Relman. “The Health Care Industry: Where Is It Taking Us?” Ch. 22

VII. The Organization of the Health Care Delivery System – The Growing Importance of Ambulatory Care - October 27

- How are ambulatory services organized and provided?

- What is primary care?
- How and why has the delivery of ambulatory care changed in recent years?
- Managed care

The Sociology of Health and Illness: Critical Perspectives

1. T. Bodenheimer & K. Grumbach. "Paying for Health Care."
2. Deborah A. Stone. "Doctoring as a Business: Money, Markets, and Managed Care."

Additional Readings on Blackboard

3. Oberlander, Jonathan. "The U.S. Health Care System: On a Road to Nowhere?"

VIII. Policy Formation and the Policy Process: Focus on Pharmaceuticals – November 3

- What are the political processes by which health policy is formed and changed?
- What are the roles of evidence, interest groups, and ethics in the policy process?
- What are the factors that have spurred the growth in the pharmaceutical industry?
- How has public policy responded to the growth in pharmaceuticals and new technologies?

Health Care Delivery in the United States

1. Wicks, Victoria, Robin J.Strongin and Ron Geigle, "Pharmaceuticals," Ch. 11

The Sociology of Health and Illness: Critical Perspectives

2. John McKnight. "Politicizing Health Care," Ch. 22

Additional Readings on Blackboard

3. Mark Peterson, "From Trust to Political Power: Interest Groups, Public Choice and Health Care."
4. Donald A. Barr, Phillip Lee and A. E. Benjamin, "Health Care and Health Policy in a Changing World."

IX. Financing and Cost Containment – November 10

- Methods and mechanisms for financing health care
- Role of government financing and public programs
- Efforts at cost containment

Health Care Delivery in the United States

1. Hunt, Kelly A. and James R. Knickman, "Financing Health Care," Ch. 3
2. Finkler, Steven A. and Thomas Getzen "Costs and Value," Ch. 17

The Sociology of Health and Illness: Critical Perspectives

4. Quadragno, Jill. "Why the United States Has No National Health Insurance: Stakeholder Mobilization Against the Welfare State," Ch. 24

Additional Readings on Blackboard

5. Henry J. Kaiser Foundation, "Medicare: A Primer," March 2007
6. Henry J. Kaiser Foundation, "Medicaid: A Primer," March 2007

X. Health Care Personnel: Physicians, Nurses, and Allied Professionals –November 17

- Demographic and socio-economic characteristics of health care workforce
- Physicians as a dominant profession
- Licensure and medical monopoly
- Role of medical education
- Historical and emerging roles for doctors, nurses, and other providers

(Reminder: Third Blackboard assignment due)

Health Care Delivery in the United States

1. Brewer, Carol S and Thomas C. Rosenthal. "The Health Care Workforce," Ch. 12

The Sociology of Health and Illness: Critical Perspectives

2. Peter Conrad and Joseph W. Schneider. "Professionalization, Monopoly and the Structure of Medical Practice," Ch. 16
3. Richard W. Wertz and Dorothy C. Wertz. "Notes on the Decline of Midwives and the Rise of Medical Obstetricians," Ch. 17
4. John B. McKinlay and Lisa D. Marceau. "The End of the Golden Age of Doctoring," Ch. 18
5. Donald W. Light. "Countervailing Power: The Changing Character of the Medical Profession in the United States," Ch. 19
6. Susan Reverby. "A Caring Dilemma: Womanhood and Nursing in Historical Perspective," Ch. 20

D. HEALTH CARE DEMANDS, NEEDS AND SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

XI. The Role of the Patient – November 24

- Issues of patient compliance.
- The relationship of patients, physicians, and the health care system.
- Information and consumer issues.

The Sociology of Health and Illness: Critical Perspectives

1. Elliot G. Mishler. “The Struggle between the Voice of Medicine and the Voice of the Lifeworld,” Ch. 29
2. Renee R. Anspach. “The Language of Case Presentation,” Ch. 31
3. Irving Kenneth Zola. “Medicine as an Institution of Social Control,” Ch. 38
4. Peter Conrad. “Shifting Engines of Medicalization,” Ch. 39
5. Victoria Pitts. “Illness and the Internet: Writing and Reading Breast Cancer in Cyberspace,” Ch. 44

How We Die: Reflections on Life’s Final Chapter

6. Chapter 1, plus at least one other chapter.

XII. Issues of access and inequity - December 1

- Barriers to care.
- The crisis in health insurance and the problem of the uninsured.
- Comparisons with other nations in regard to access and insurance coverage

Health Care Delivery in the United States

1. John Billings and Joel C. Cantor. “Access to Care,” Ch. 16

The Sociology of Health and Illness: A Critical Approach

2. James Banks et al. “Disease and Disadvantage in the United States and in England,” Ch. 5
3. Gregory Weiss, “Uninsured in America.” Ch. 27
4. Susan Starr Sered and Rushika Fernandopulle, “Young, Sick, and Part-Time: The Vulnerability of Youth and the New American Job Market.” Ch. 28
5. Raisa Berlin Deber. “Health Care Reform: Lessons from Canada,” Ch. 46

XIII. Impact of Changing Health Care Needs on the Health Care System. Dec 8

- The need for long-term care and alternative modes of delivery
- Chronic illness, aging and HIV and AIDS

Health Care Delivery in the United States

1. Penny Hollander Feldman, et al. "Long-Term Care," Ch. 9

The Sociology of Health and Illness: Critical Perspectives

2. Eric Klinenberg. "Dying Alone," Ch. 8

Additional Readings on Blackboard

3. Steven P. Wallace, et. al, "Long-Term Care and the Elderly Population."

XIV. Quality Assessment and Quality Assurance – Dec. 15 (finals week)

- How do we measure and monitor the quality of health care services?
- How do we assess the effectiveness and appropriateness of care?
- What are the ethical issues in the quality of health care delivery?

(Reminder: Final blackboard assignment due)

Health Care Delivery in the United States

1. Kropf, Roger, "Information Management," Ch. 13
2. Wakefield, Douglas S. and Bonnie J. Wakefield, "The Complexity of Health Care Quality," Ch. 15

Additional Readings on Blackboard

3. Huw T. O. Davies, et. al., "Health Care Report Cards."

Thursday, Dec 18th: PAPER 2 Due

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to attending and participating in classes, students must submit two papers and three exercises/essays in response to specific questions. These requirements are described below and the actual assignments are attached; the assignments require the student select and become familiar with one other country's health care system. This country may be one discussed in the course readings (such as Canada or the U.K) or any other country of interest (including the student's country of origin).

Course grades will be calculated as follows.

	<u>% Final Grade</u>	<u>Date Due</u>
Paper I	20%	October 20
Paper II	40%	December 18
Exercises/Essays	30%	9/19, 10/6, 11/17, 12/15
Class Participation	10%	

Paper I – Students must prepare a memo of no more than 3 pages concerning trends contraceptive use provided by the National Center for Health Statistics The assignment will allow students to demonstrate their ability to understand, interpret, and discuss quantitative data. Class readings will also be useful in preparing this memo.

Paper II - This paper will require a thoughtful, critical, and well-organized discussion of a provocative concept in Community Health and Medical Care. Rather than a research paper, this paper will provide students the opportunity to reflect upon the course materials. The paper should be 5-7 pages in length and students should present a carefully organized discussion, with well-backed opinions and ideas. Material should be footnoted to reflect synthesis of key course readings. References to course materials are required.

Exercises/Essays – Each student must answer three of the four questions (posted under “assignments” on Blackboard); the response should be in the form of a brief, one-page essay. These essays should be based on class readings, relevant data and ideas from popular media, journals or websites, and/or your own experiences. You should take the time to create a thoughtful and well-written response. You are also asked to respond to at least one other student's essay on three of the four questions.

Class Participation - Classroom discussion and debate are essential to this course. Students are expected to come to class ready to discuss the assigned readings. Students are encouraged to approach the material in a thoughtful and critical manner.

Administrative Procedure –

If you have trouble posting the required essays and responses on Blackboard, please contact Blackboard Helpline.