

Sociology 2130

Sociology of Health & Illness Spring 2009

Mondays, 2:00pm-4:50pm, Maxcy Hall 108

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Description:

In examining health and illness, this course addresses a subject matter that is at once intensely private and broadly public, eminently practical and highly philosophical, and the topics and readings reflect these various perspectives. We will explore four main themes throughout the semester. First, we will explore **the meaning of health and illness** by studying how people in different places and at different times have understood the body, health, sickness, aging, birth, death, and medical intervention. Second, we will analyze **medicine as a system of knowledge** in which culture and key institutions (such as medical schools and the scientific enterprise) shape what qualifies as legitimate knowledge and practice. Third, we will explore **the social context of health and illness**, asking how factors such as gender, sexuality, race/ethnicity, social class, and geographic location affect health, access to health care, and the quality of health care received. Finally, we will explore **the costs of medical care** asking how economic systems, ideology, and institutional pressures affect the level and management of healthcare costs.

Objectives

- To become familiar with some of the key works in the Sociology of Health and Illness, and related fields.
- To become familiar with material that is outside the traditional boundaries of the Sociology of Health and Illness, but that is theoretically rich and relevant.
- To think creatively and broadly about health, illness, medicine, and the body, through course materials and the term paper.
- To improve writing and analytical skills through critical essays.

Requirements and Grading

- Two critical essays: 20 percent each (due 4/13 and 5/1)
- Proposal for term paper: 30 percent. (due 4/10)
- Term paper: 30 percent. (due 5/15)

Class participation and attendance is assumed. Failing to attend/participate will result in a lower final grade. Exceptional participation may result in a higher final grade. If I anticipate lowering a grade for this reason, I will give you fair warning.

Schedule of Readings

(all readings are on electronic reserve)

January 26th – Introduction

Gould, Steven Jay, "The Median Is Not the Message." *Discover*, June 1985.

Jones, Alice. *The Knot*. Cambridge, MA: Alice James Books, 1992.

February 2nd - The Body

Berquist, Jon. "Introduction (How Bodies Are Culturally Constructed)." In *Controlling Corporeality: The Body and the Household in Ancient Israel*, 2-10. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2002.

———. "The Body of the Temple (Introduction)." In *Controlling Corporeality: The Body and the Household in Ancient Israel*, 162-65. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2002.

Canguilhem, Georges. "Machine and Organism." In *Incorporations*, edited by Jonathan Crary and Sanford Kwinter. New York: Urazone, 1992.

Douglas, Mary. "The Two Bodies." In *Natural Symbols*, 69-87. New York: Routledge, 1996 [1970].

Manning, Peter. "The Experience of Self and Body: Health and Illness in the Chiapas Highlands." In *Phenomenological Sociology: Issues and Applications*, edited by George Psathas. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1973.

Martin, Emily. "Historical Overview." In *Flexible Bodies: Tracking Immunity in American Culture from the Days of Polio to the Age of AIDS*, 21-44. Boston: Beacon Press, 1994.

Richardson, Ruth. "Fearful Symmetry: Corpses for Anatomy, Organs for Transplantation?" In *Organ Transplantation: Meanings and Realities*, edited by Stuart J. Younger and Renée Fox, 66-100. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1996.

Turner, Bryan. "Sociology and the Body." In *The Body and Society: Explorations in Social Theory*, 60-82. London: Sage Publications, 1984.

———. "The Body and Medical Sociology." In *Regulating Bodies: Essays in Medical Sociology*, 151-74. New York: Routledge Press, 1992.

February 9th – A Brief Overview of the “Sociology of Medicine”

Harris, Jose. "Demography, Death, and Disease (Society, Sickness and Medicine)." In *Private Lives, Public Spirit: A Social History of Britain, 1870-1914*, 54-60. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993.

McIntire, Charles. "The Importance of the Study of Medical Sociology." *Bulletin of the American Academy of Medicine* 1 (1894): 425-34.

McKinlay, John B., and Sonja M. Mckinlay. "The Questionable Contribution of Medical Measures to the Decline of Mortality in the United States in the Twentieth Century." *Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly/Health and Sociology* (1977): 405-28.

Parsons, Talcott. "Social Structure and Dynamic Process: The Case of Modern Medical Practice." In *The Social System*, 428-47. Glencoe, IL: Free Press, 1951.

Straus, Robert. "Nature and Status of Medical Sociology." *American Sociological Review* 22 (1957): 200-04.

Szreter, S. . "The Importance of Social Intervention in Britain's Mortality Decline C. 1850-1914: A Reinterpretation of the Role of Public Health." *Social History of Medicine* 1 (1988): 1-38.

February 16th – No Class

February 23rd – Medicine as a Profession/The Hospital

- Bensman, Joseph, and Robert Lilienfield. "Attitudes in Clinical and Scientific Medicine." In *Craft and Consciousness*, 215-48. New York: Aldine de Gruyter, 1991.
- Bullough, Vern. "Status and Medieval Medicine." *Journal of Health and Human Behavior* 2, no. 3 (1961): 204-10.
- Freidson, Eliot. "The Emergence of Medicine as a Consulting Profession." In *Profession of Medicine: A Study of the Sociology of Applied Knowledge*, 3-22. New York: Dodd and Mead, 1970.
- Luker, Kristen. "Medicine and Morality in the Nineteenth Century (the Background of Mobilization)." In *Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood*, 16-39. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984.
- Reverby, S. "A Caring Dilemma: Womanhood and Nursing in Historical Perspective." *Nursing Research* 36, no. 1 (1987): 5-11.
- Wertz, Richard W., and Dorothy C. Wertz. "Notes on the Decline of Midwives and the Rise of Medical Obstetrics." In *The Sociology of Health and Illness*, edited by Peter Conrad and Rochelle Kern, 148-60. New York: St. Martin's, 1990.
- Rosenberg, Charles. "The Rise of the Modern Hospital." In *The Care of Strangers: The Rise of America's Hospital System*, 337-52. New York: Basic Books, 1987.
- Zussman, R. "Life in the Hospital: A Review." *Milbank Quarterly* 71, no. 1 (1993): 167-85.

March 2nd - Social Causes & Categories

- Link, Bruce, and Jo Phelan. "Social Conditions as Fundamental Causes of Disease." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, no. extra issue (1995): 80-84.
- Syme, S. L., and L. F. Berkman. "Social Class, Susceptibility and Sickness." *American Journal of Epidemiology* 104, no. 1 (1976): 1-8.
- Verbrugge, Lois. "Gender and Health: An Update on Hypotheses and Evidence." *Journal of Health and Human Behavior* 26 (1985): 156-82.
- Tomes, Nancy. "The Two-Edged Sword." In *The Gospel of Germs: Men, Women, and the Microbe in American Life*, 205-33. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1998.
- Smith, B. E. "Black Lung: The Social Production of Disease." *International Journal of Health Services* 11, no. 3 (1981): 343-59.

March 9th - Challenging the Objective Nature of Illness and Pain

- Brown, P. "Naming and Framing: The Social Construction of Diagnosis and Illness." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, no. extra issue (1995): 34-52.
- Fleck, Ludwick. "How the Modern Concept of Syphilis Originated." In *Genesis and Development of a Scientific Fact*, 1-19. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1981 [1935].
- Canguilhem, Georges. "Introduction to the Problem." In *The Normal and the Pathological*, 39-46. New York: Zone Books, 1991.
- Rosenberg, Charles. "Cholera in Nineteenth-Century Europe: A Tool for Social and Economic Analysis." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 8, no. 4 (1966): 452-63.
- Turner, Bryan. "Disease and Disorder." In *The Body and Society: Explorations in Social Theory*, 204-21. London: Sage Publications, 1984.
- Wailoo, Keith. "'Chlorosis Remembered'." In *Drawing Blood: Technology and Disease Identity in Twentieth-Century America*, 17-45. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997.
- Williams, Simon J., and Gillian Bendelow. "Pain and the 'Dys-Appearing' Body." In *The Lived Body: Sociological Themes, Embodied Issues*, 155-70. New York: Routledge, 1998.
- Zborowski, Mark. "Cultural Components in Responses to Pain." *Journal of Social Issues* 8 (1952): 16-30.

March 13th: Critical Essay 1 due (by noon).

March 16th - Epidemics

- Calvi. "A Metaphor for Social Exchange: The Florentine Plague of 1630." *Representations* 13 (1986): 139-63.
- Cohen, S., W. J. Doyle, D. P. Skoner, B. S. Rabin, and J. M. Gwaltney, Jr. "Social Ties and Susceptibility to the Common Cold." *Journal of the American Medical Association* 277, no. 24 (1997): 1940-4.
- Worsley, Peter. "Sickness as a Way of Life." In *Knowledges: Culture, Counterculture, Subculture*, (short excerpt). New York: New Press, 1997.
- Prins, Gwyn. "But What Was the Disease? The Present State of Health and Healing in African Studies " *Past and Present* 124 (1989): 159-79.
- Dobson, Mary J. "Mortality Gradients and Disease Exchanges: Comparisons from Old England and Colonial America." *Social History of Medicine* 2, no. 3 (1989): 259-97.
- Rosenberg, Charles. "Cholera in Nineteenth-Century Europe: A Tool for Social and Economic Analysis." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 8, no. 4 (1966): 452-63.

March 23rd – Spring Break

March 30th - Disease and Social Control

- Chandavarkar, Rajnarayan. "Plague, Panic, and Epidemic Politics in India, 1896-1914." In *Epidemics and Ideas: Essays on the Historical Perception of Pestilence*, edited by Terrence Ranger and Paul Slack, 203-40. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992.
- Conrad, Peter. "Medicalization and Social Control." *Perspectives in Medical Sociology* 18 (1992): 209-32.
- Lane, Karen. "The Medical Model of the Body as a Site of Risk: A Case Study of Childbirth." In *Medicine, Health and Risk: Sociological Approaches*, edited by Jonathan Gabe, 53-72. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, 1995.
- Zola, Irving. "Medicine as an Institution of Social Control." *The Sociological Review* 20 (1972): 487-504.

April 6th – Rationalism, Science, and Medicine

- Hillier, Sheila. "Rationalism, Bureaucracy, and the Organization of the Health Services: Max Weber's Contribution to Understanding Modern Health Care Systems." In *Sociological Theory and Medical Sociology*, edited by Graham Scambler, 194-220. New York: Tavistock Publications, 1987.
- Turner, Bryan. "The Government of the Body: Medical Regimens and the Rationalization of Diet." In *Regulating Bodies: Essays in Medical Sociology*, 177-95. New York: Routledge Press, 1992.
- Bensman, Joseph, and Robert Lilienfeld. "Attitudes in Clinical and Scientific Medicine." In *Craft and Consciousness*, 215-48. New York: Aldine de Gruyter, 1991.
- Canguilhem, Georges. "Norm and Average." In *The Normal and the Pathological*, 151-79. New York: Zone Books, 1991.
- Fox, Renee. "Training for Uncertainty." In *Essays in Medical Sociology*, 19-50. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1979.

April 10th: Proposal due (by noon).

April 13th - Alienation

- Kuriyama, Shigehisa. "Preface." In *The expressiveness of the body and the divergence of Greek and Chinese medicine*, 7-14. New York: Zone Books, 1999.
- . "Grasping the Language of Life." In *The Expressiveness of the Body and the Divergence of Greek and Chinese Medicine*, 17-60. New York: Zone Books, 1999.
- Martin, Emily. "Fragmentation and Gender." In *The Woman in the Body: A Cultural Analysis of Reproduction*, 19-21. Boston: Beacon Press, 1987.
- . "Self and Body Image." In *The Woman in the Body: A Cultural Analysis of Reproduction*, 71-86. Boston: Beacon Press, 1987.
- Classen, Constance. "The Odour of the Rose: Floral Symbolism and the Olfactory Decline of the West." In *Worlds of Sense: Exploring the Senses in History and Across Cultures*, 14-36. New York: Routledge, 1993.
- Fox, Renee. "The Autopsy: Its Place in the Attitude-Learning of Second-Year Medical Students." In *Essays in Medical Sociology*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1979.
- Hafferty, Frederic W. "Meeting Ambiguous Man." In *Into the valley: death and the socialization of medical students*, 98-112. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1991.

April 20th – Lay and Nonscientific Perspectives

- Berg, Marc. "Order(S) and Disorder(S): Of Protocols and Medical Practices." In *Differences in Medicine: Unraveling Practices, Techniques and Bodies*, edited by Marc Berg and Annemarie Mol, 226-46. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1998.
- Busby, Helen. "Bodies of Knowledge: Lay and Biomedical Understandings of Musculoskeletal Disorders." In *The Sociology of Medical Science and Technology*, edited by Mary Ann Elston, 1997.
- Martin, Emily. "Immunology on the Street: How Nonscientists See the Immune System." In *Flexible Bodies: Tracking Immunity in American Culture from the Days of Polio to the Age of AIDS*, 64-81. Boston: Beacon Press, 1994.
- Kleinman, A., and L. H. Sung. "Why Do Indigenous Practitioners Successfully Heal?" *Social Science and Medicine* 13 B, no. 1 (1979): 7-26.
- Turnbull, David. "Making Malaria Curable: Extending a Knowledge Space to Create a Vaccine." In *Masons, Tricksters, and Cartographers: Comparative Studies in the Sociology of Scientific and Indigenous Knowledge*, 161-81. 2000: Harwood Academia Publishers, 2000.
- Eisenberg, D. M., R. B. Davis, S. L. Ettner, S. Appel, S. Wilkey, M. Van Rompay, and R. C. Kessler. "Trends in Alternative Medicine Use in the United States, 1990-1997: Results of a Follow-up National Survey." *Journal of the American Medical Association* 280, no. 18 (1998): 1569-75.
- Flaherty, J. H., R. Takahashi, J. Teoh, J. I. Kim, S. Habib, M. Ito, and S. Matsushita. "Use of Alternative Therapies in Older Outpatients in the United States and Japan: Prevalence, Reporting Patterns, and Perceived Effectiveness." *Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences* 56A, no. 10 (2001): M650-55.
- Worsley, Peter. "Sickness as a Way of Life." In *Knowledges: Culture, Counterculture, Subculture*, 169-234. New York: New Press, 1997.

April 27th – Physician/Patient Relations

- Dodier, Nicolas. "Clinical Practice and Procedures in Occupational Medicine: A Study of the Framing of Individuals." In *Differences in Medicine: Unraveling Practices, Techniques and Bodies*, edited by Marc Berg and Annemarie Mol, 53-85. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1998.
- Freidson, Eliot. "Client Control and Medical Practice." *American Journal of Sociology* 65 (1960): 347-82.
- Gwyn, R., and G. Elwyn. "When Is a Shared Decision Not (Quite) a Shared Decision? Negotiating Preferences in a General Practice Encounter." *Social Science and Medicine* 49, no. 4 (1999): 437-47.
- Martin, Emily. "Medical Metaphors: Birth." In *The Woman in the Body: A Cultural Analysis of Reproduction*, 58-65. Boston: Beacon Press, 1987.
- . "Birth, Resistance, Race, and Class." In *The Woman in the Body: A Cultural Analysis of Reproduction*, 139-55. Boston: Beacon Press, 1987.
- Suchman, Edward. "Stages of Illness and Medical Care." *Journal of Health and Human Behavior* 6 (1965): 2-16.
- Emerson, Joan P. "Behavior in Private Places: Sustaining Definitions of Reality in Gynecological Examinations." In *Recent Sociology No. 2*, edited by Hans-Peter Dreitzel, 74-97. London: Macmillan, 1970.

May 1st: Critical Essay 2 due (by noon).

May 4th – Covering the Cost

- Light, Donald. "Ironies of Success: A New History of the American Health Care "System"." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 45, no. Extra Issue (2004): 1-24.
- Marmor, Theodore R., and Jerry L. Mashaw. "Canada's Health Insurance and Ours: The Real Lessons, the Big Choices." *American Prospect* 1 (1990): 18-29.
- Skocpol, T. "The Rise and Resounding Demise of the Clinton Plan." *Health Affairs* 14, no. 1 (1995): 66-85.
- More readings, TBA.

May 15th: Final Paper due (by noon).