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SCTS620/SOCT480: Medicine, Technology and Science
Wednesdays, 6-8:50 PM

This seminar focuses on the social dimensions of medicine, health and illness. In this seminar, we will explore how definitions and experiences of health and illness are shaped by technology use, cultural contexts, institutional practices, health care policies, and inequalities. We will examine social trends in medical technology and science as well as how illness categories are created, negotiated, and resisted. Participants in this course will gain the ability to assess the changing role of science and technology in medicine as well as think critically about the social dimensions of the experience of health and illness.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Lynn Payer. 1996. *Medicine and Culture, Revised Edition*. Holt Paperbacks.

Jeremy Greene. 2009. *Prescribing by Numbers: Drugs and the Definition of Disease*. Johns Hopkins University Press.

Khiara Bridges. 2011. *Reproducing Race: An Ethnography of Pregnancy as a Site of Racialization*. University of California Press.

Stefan Timmermans. 1999. *Sudden Death and the Myth of CPR*. Temple University Press.

Maren Klawiter. 2008. *The Biopolitics of Cancer: Changing Cultures of Disease and Activism*. University of Minnesota Press.

REQUIRED ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS:

Susan Bell and Anne Figert. 2012. "Medicalization and Pharmaceuticalization at the Intersections: Looking Backward, Sideways and Forward." *Social Science and Medicine* 75 (5): 775-783.

Adele Clarke, Janet Shim, Laura Mamo, Jennifer Fosket, & Jennifer Fishman. 2003. "Biomedicalization: Technoscientific Transformations of Health, Illness, and U.S. Biomedicine." *American Sociological Review* 68(2): 161-191.

Irving Zola. 1972. "Medicine as an Institution of Social Control." *The Sociological Review* 20(4): 487-504.

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Class Participation (25%)

What does it mean to participate in class? In this course, participation means more than just showing up. Participation requires engaging all of the class materials in a thoughtful and careful manner. Students should bring **hard copies** of assigned readings to class, and be prepared to discuss them in detail. Attendance is

mandatory. A large amount of information will be discussed each week in class. It is very important to arrive prepared and on time. If you miss class, your class participation grade will be lowered.

2. Three Lists of 5: Main Concepts and Questions (MC&Q) Assignment (25%)

Participants should bring a list of 2 questions about passages in the assigned text (with page numbers/direct quotes) and a list of 3 important concepts or claims raised by the reading (with page numbers/passages) to the classes identified in the course schedule below. This list should be typed and will be handed in at the end of each class. Late *Lists of 5* will not be accepted.

3. Four 1 Page Response Papers (25%)

Each paper will use the full page (no margins, no spaces between lines, no paragraph breaks, 12 font) to clearly summarize the assigned text's main arguments and critically evaluate its strengths and weaknesses. Each paper will be graded. Due dates are listed on the syllabus. Papers are due on assigned dates at the beginning of class. Late papers will not be accepted.

4. Class Presentation (25%)

Each 2–3 person team will give a 20 minute class presentation that investigates a topic related to the social dimensions of medicine, technology or health. Each presentation should build on theoretical ideas and research questions posed by class texts, have a clear argument, and describe the research methodology used. The grade will be based on the presentation's clarity and organization, how the team fields questions from class members, and the types of questions students pose to other presenters

GRADING:

Your course grade will be calculated as follows:

Participation	25%
Lists of 5	25%
Response papers	25%
Class Presentation	25%

Grading Scale:

• A+	97-100	C+	77-79
• A	93-96	C	73-76
• A-	90-92	C-	70-72
• B+	87-89	D+	67-69
• B	83-86	D	60-66
• B-	80-82	F	<60

I do not accept late assignments, except for excused, documented absences such as a student's personal medical emergency. Leaving town for work, having a busy week, etc. do not count. It will be your responsibility to ensure that I receive a hard copy of any excused absence documentation.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Develop an understanding of how cultural contexts shape medical practice and vice versa.

2. Identify the major social trends impacting medical practice in the United States.
3. Develop an understanding of how health care policy shapes medical practice.
4. Improve one's understanding of social scientific research methods.
5. Improve one's writing abilities.
6. Improve one's ability to participate in a seminar discussion, which includes raising one's own ideas as well as responding to others in a thoughtful manner.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The instructor reserves the right to make adjustments to this schedule; you will receive an email to your Drexel account or a handout in class if any changes are made. Please make sure that your Drexel email is not full.

Medicine and Health as Social Practices

September 27 Introduction to Class/Readings
WHO, "The Social Determinants of Health"
Victor Fuchs, "A Tale of Two States"

Cultural Contexts, Medicine and Illness

October 4 Payer, *Medicine & Culture*, pp.xi-156.
1 page paper due in class.

From Medicalization to Biomedicalization

October 11 Zola, "Medicine as an Institution of social control"
Clarke et al, "Biomedicalization"
Bell & Figert, "Medicalization and Pharmaceuticalization"
<http://www.iringzola.com/jwplayer/Zolastories.html>
<http://quantifiedself.com/self-tracking-links-to-get-you-started/>
<http://www.fixedthemovie.com>
Guest Lecture: Susan Bell, Sociology Department
List of 5 due in class.

The Rise of Big Pharma

October 18 Greene, *Prescribing by Numbers*, pp.vii-148, pp.221-240.
1 page paper due in class.

Race and Reproduction

October 25 Bridges, *Reproducing Race*, pp.ix-143.
List of 5 due in class.

Medicalizing Sexuality

November 1 Bridges, *Reproducing Race*, pp.144-258.
1 page paper due in class.

Medical Technology and the End of Life

November 8 Timmermans, *Sudden Death*, pp.xi-114.
1 page paper due in class.

Studying Medical Technologies in Practice

November 15 Timmermans, *Sudden Death*, pp.115-212.
List of 5 due in class.

November 22 Thanksgiving Holiday

Transforming Illness Experiences into Collective Action

November 29 Klawiter, *Biopolitics of Cancer*, pp.xvii-130.
1 page paper due in class (make up paper).
A Healthy Baby Girl (documentary)
<http://www.streetfilms.org/the-philadelphia-bike-story/>

Health Social Movements

December 6 Klawiter, *Biopolitics of Cancer*, pp.229-310.
List of 5 due in class (make up assignment).

December 13 Presentations

SOCT480/SCTS 620 Policies

1. Attendance is Mandatory

This class will include a variety of activities, including class discussions. As we meet twice a week, it is crucial that you attend class and hand in work when required. If there is an exigent circumstance that necessitates your absence, please talk with me as soon as possible. Absence will result in your grade being lowered.

2. Academic Honesty

It is expected that you follow Drexel's Policy on Academic Honesty, which can be found online at http://www.drexel.edu/provost/policies/academic_dishonesty.asp

Consequences of violations of the academic honesty policy can be found at http://drexel.edu/studentlife/community_standards/overview/

I will assume that you have read this policy. If you have any questions, I am more than happy to advise you. As you work on the assignments for this class, do not hesitate to speak to me if you have any concerns about appropriate use of outside sources.

3. Add, Drop & Withdraw Policies

- You can **add** this course until the end of week 2: see http://www.drexel.edu/provost/policies/course_add.asp
If you add this course after the start of the term, you are responsible for completing ALL work that you may have missed.
- You can **drop** this course until the end of week 2; the course will then be removed from your transcript: see http://www.drexel.edu/provost/policies/course_drop.asp
- The course **withdrawal** deadline is Friday, Nov 10. You will have received some graded work prior to this deadline. If you have any questions about your progress at any time of the term, please contact me. If you choose to Withdraw, a "W" will be recorded in your transcript
See http://www.drexel.edu/provost/policies/pdf/course_withdrawal.pdf.

4. Disability Accommodations

It is the University's policy to provide a learning environment that provides all students with the opportunity to realize their full potential. To this end, the goal of the Office of Disability Resources ("ODR") is to assist students with disabilities in becoming self-sufficient, independent, and successful members of the University's community and to provide students with disabilities with equal opportunity of access to University courses, programs, facilities, services, and activities. Students seeking reasonable accommodations for their disabilities must first register with ODR. The staff of ODR will work closely with students to review medical documentation, assess their individual needs, and link them with the services necessary to ensure them the opportunity to participate fully in college life. The Office of Disability Resources website can be found at <http://www.drexel.edu/oed/disabilityResources/Overview/>

5. Assignments

All assignments must be submitted in class on the assigned dates. Late submissions will be penalized by a lowered grade.

