

SOCI 5115: GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH*

WINTER 2018

Lecture: Fridays 11:30-2:30pm

Location: RB 3023

Instructor: Dr. Chris Sanders

Office: RB 2038

Office hours: T/W 2:30-3:30 and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

SOCI 5115 explores sociological research and perspectives on *public health* in a global context. A sociological perspective offers vital contributions to public health practice and research. In theory, public health articulates important social justice principles such as reducing health inequalities and improving the social and economic conditions in which people live. In practice, however, public health interventions can surveil and regulate the intimate aspects of people's lives—often those who are most marginalized—in problematic ways. We will keep both aspects of public health front and center and their implications for sociological engagement with public health throughout the course. Additionally, we will focus the following questions: What are the vital cultural, political, and economic issues affecting the health of populations and public health practice today? How do social factors influence our understanding of risk and epidemics and, in turn, affect our approaches to disease prevention and containment? How do public health objectives differ from those of hospital medicine? What is the role of the state in determining public health? Who benefits most by action and who suffers most from inaction? How are claims about disease, epidemics, pandemics, contagia, and risk put together? Who interests are represented and whose are excluded? What assumptions about health and populations underlie public health policy and programs? And how do contemporary public health issues in Canada differ from global public health issues?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To demonstrate understanding of sociological ways of thinking about and critically exploring contemporary public health issues;
- To show an appreciation of the complexity and challenges of public health work;
- To identify the central social, political, and economic determinants of population health;
- To identify social inequalities in health and explain where they stem from;
- To compare and articulate the interrelations between health and social status at the individual level, and social inequalities in health at the macro (societal and global) levels;
- To develop an informed opinion and be ready to support it in debates on topics such as: Should we invest in education, pharmaceutical technology, and/or health care to reduce social inequalities in health? What are governments' responsibilities regarding social inequalities in health?
- To articulate thoughtful discussion questions and engage in open discussion of material.

* This is a general outline and is subject to change. Contact me for current version.

COURSE FORMAT

This course is run as a three-hour seminar. We will draw on a range of approaches to learning about public health: personal experience and reflection, interdisciplinary discussion, and critical analysis of readings. The success of this course relies on your careful preparation for and active participation in class discussions. You will be expected to carefully read all assigned material before class and to share your thoughts and perspectives during class discussion.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Individual articles and book chapters are posted to the course website as PDFs, though you'll still need to purchase (or otherwise acquire) three books:

- Bramadat, Paul, Maryse Guay, Julie A. Bettinger, and Réal Roy (eds.). 2017. *Public Health in the Age of Anxiety: Religious and Cultural Roots of Vaccine Hesitancy in Canada*. Toronto: University Press.
- Pisani, Elizabeth. 2008. *The Wisdom of Whores: Bureaucrats, Brothels and the Business of AIDS*. Toronto: Penguin.
- Stuckler, David and Sanjay Basu. 2013. *The Body Economic: Why Austerity Kills*. New York: Basic Books.
- Additional readings are uploaded to the D2L course website or are available online.

EVALUATION

Students will be evaluated based on class participation (20%), two short analytic papers (20%), facilitating two seminars (20%), and one major course paper that applies course concepts to a topic of your choosing, due by Friday 13 April 2018 (40%).

Class Participation. Students are expected to attend every class. You are expected to have readings completed prior to seminar. Students should bring discussion questions to class regardless of whether they are facilitating. Evaluation is based upon attendance and participation.

Analytic Papers. Students are responsible for writing two short analytic engagement papers. For each paper, students must write about the readings assigned during a week of your choosing. I ask that you write one paper before reading week and one paper after. Papers CANNOT be on weeks that you facilitate.

Facilitating Seminars. Each student will be required to facilitate two seminars. This will require advanced preparation, including a close reading of the assigned materials and providing discussion questions for everyone.

Major Course Paper. Different options for the major writing assignment will be discussed in seminar.

UNIT I. THEORY AND PUBLIC HEALTH FOUNDATIONS

WEEK 1. Jan 12: Introduction to the Course: What is Public Health?

- Familiarize yourself with these short definitions of public health:
- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care: [click here](#)
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC): [click here](#)
- American Public Health Association (APHA): [click here](#)
- Dalla Lana School of Public Health: [click here](#)
- Harvard T.H. School of Public Health: [click here](#)
- CATIE HIV Basics: [click here](#)
- Rothstein, Mark A. 2002. "Rethinking the Meaning of Public Health." *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics* 30(2): 144-149.
- WHO: What is Health Promotion? [click here](#)

WEEK 2. Jan 19: Historical Perspectives on Public Health

- Cassel, Jay. 1994. "Public Health in Canada." Pp. 276-312 in *The History of Public Health and the Modern State*, edited by D. Porter. Amsterdam; Atlanta, GA: Rodopi.
- Green, Judith and Ronald Labonté. 2008. "Preface: Public Health as Social Activism." Pp. xiii-xiv in *Critical Perspectives in Public Health*, edited by J. Green and R. Labonté. London: Routledge.
- Krieger, Nancy and Anne-Emanuelle Birn. 1998. "A Vision of Social Justice as the Foundation of Public Health: Commemorating 150 Years of the Spirit of 1848." *American Journal of Public Health* 88(11): 1603-1606.
- Adams, Mary Louise. 1993. "In Sickness and in Health: State Formation, Moral Regulation, and Early VD Initiatives in Ontario." *Journal of Canadian Studies* 28(4): 117-130.
- Stern, Alexandra Minna. 2005. "Sterilized in the Name of Public Health: Race, Immigration, and Reproductive Control in California." *American Journal of Public Health* 95(7): 1128-1138.

WEEK 3. Jan 26: Social Determinants and the Critique of Health Promotion

- Raphael, Dennis. 2016. "Social Determinants of Health: An Overview of Key Issues and Themes." Pp. 3-31 in *Social Determinants of Health*, edited by D. Raphael. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press.
- Graham, Hilary. 2004. "Social Determinants and their Unequal Distribution: Clarifying Policy Understandings." *The Milbank Quarterly* 82(1): 101-124.
- Farmer, Paul. 2006. "From Haiti to Rwanda: AIDS and Accusations." Pp. 136-147 in *Partner to the Poor: A Paul Farmer Reader*, edited by H. Saussy. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Zierler, Sally and Nancy Krieger. 2008. "HIV Infection in Women: Social Inequalities as Determinants of Risk." Pp. 47-65 in *Critical Perspectives in Public Health*, edited by J. Green and R. Labonté. London: Routledge.

- Link, Bruce and Jo C. Phelan. 2009. "The Social Shaping of Health and Smoking." *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* 104(S1): S6-S10.
- Raviglione, Mario C. and Ian M. Smith. 2007. "XDR Tuberculosis — Implications for Global Public Health." *New England Journal of Medicine* 356(7): 656-659.
- Anderson, Gerard F. and Edward Chu. 2007. "Expanding Priorities—Confronting Chronic Disease in Countries with Low Income." *New England Journal of Medicine* 356(3): 209-211.

UNIT II. SOCIAL STRUCTURES, INSTITUTIONS, AND PUBLIC HEALTH

WEEK 4. Feb 02: So-Called "Reckless Vectors"

- Chan, Kit Yee and Daniel D. Reidpath. 2003. "'Typhoid Mary' and 'HIV Jane': Responsibility, Agency and Disease Prevention." *Reproductive Health Matters* 11(22): 40-50.
- McKay, Richard A. 2014. "'Patient Zero': The Absence of a Patient's View of the Early North American Aids Epidemic." *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 88(1): 161-194.
- Emke, Ivan. 2005. "Around the Bush Yet Again: Reflection on Reckless Vectors, Past and Present." *Sexuality Research & Social Policy* 2(2): 95-98.
- In class film.

WEEK 5. Feb 09: Global HIV Pandemic

- Pisani, Elizabeth. 2008. *The Wisdom of Whores: Bureaucrats, Brothels and the Business of AIDS*. Toronto: Penguin.

WEEK 6. Feb 16: The Public Health Effect of Criminalizing HIV

- Mykhalovskiy, Eric. 2015. "The Public Health Implications of HIV Criminalization: Past, Current, and Future Research Directions." *Critical Public Health* 25(4): 373-385. (Read pp. 373-378)
- Colin, Hastings, Cécile Kazatchkine, and Eric Mykhalovskiy. 2017. *HIV Criminalization in Canada: Key Trends and Patterns*. Toronto: Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network.
- Mykhalovskiy, Eric. 2016. "Making Science Count: Significant Risk, HIV Non-Disclosure and Science-Based Criminal Law Reform: A Reflexive Analysis." Pp. 150-174 in *Criminalising Contagion: Legal and Ethical Challenges of Disease Transmission and the Criminal Law*, edited by C. Stanton and H. Quirk: Cambridge University Press.
- Grace, Daniel. 2015. "Criminalizing HIV Transmission Using Model Law: Troubling Best Practice Standardizations in the Global HIV/AIDS Response." *Critical Public Health* 25(4): 441-454.
- In class film.

WEEK 7. Feb 26: Reading Week (no classes)

- Enjoy the break. Get ahead on reading David Stuckler's book!

WEEK 8. Mar 02: The Public Health Consequences of Austerity

- Stuckler, David and Sanjay Basu. 2013. *The Body Economic: Why Austerity Kills*. New York: Basic Books.
- Podcasts: "Harry's Last Stand" (Episodes 5 & 10)

WEEK 9. Mar 09: Holiday

- Enjoy the break. Get ahead on reading Paul Bramadat's book!

UNIT III. PHARMACEUTICAL APPROACHES TO PUBLIC HEALTH

WEEK 10. Mar 16: The Public Health Effect of Vaccine Hesitancy

- Bramadat, Paul, Maryse Guay, Julie A. Bettinger, and Réal Roy, eds. 2017. *Public Health in the Age of Anxiety: Religious and Cultural Roots of Vaccine Hesitancy in Canada*. Toronto: University Press. (Read pp. 5-161)
- Molteni, Megan. 2017. "Measles in Minnesota." *Wired Magazine*, 05 May.
- **FACILITATOR:**

WEEK 11. Mar 23: The Public Health Effect of Vaccine Hesitancy (con't)

- Bramadat, Paul, Maryse Guay, Julie A. Bettinger, and Réal Roy, eds. 2017. *Public Health in the Age of Anxiety: Religious and Cultural Roots of Vaccine Hesitancy in Canada*. Toronto: University Press. (Read pp. 165-363)

WEEK 12. Mar 30: Pharmaceuticalization of Public Health

- Williams, Simon J., Paul Martin, and Jonathan Gabe. 2011. "The Pharmaceuticalisation of Society? A Framework for Analysis." *Sociology of Health & Illness* 33(5): 710-725.
- Petroll, Andrew and Jill T. Owczarzak. (In Press). " 'Think of it Like Putting a Condom over Your Blood Cells:' A Case Study in the Pharmaceuticalization of HIV Public Health Prevention." Pp. XX-XX in *Social Science and HIV/AIDS: Critique, Research and Engagement*, edited by E. Mykhalovskiy and V. Namaste. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press.
- Whitmarsh, Ian. 2008. "Biomedical Ambivalence: Asthma Diagnosis, the Pharmaceutical, and Other Contradictions in Barbados." *American Ethnologist* 35(1): 49-63.
- Whyte, Susan Reynolds, Michael A. Whyte, Lotte Meinert, and Betty Kyaddondo. 2006. "Treating Aids: Dilemmas of Unequal Access in Uganda." Pp. 240-262 in *Global Pharmaceuticals: Ethics, Markets, Practices*, edited by A. Petryna, A. Lakoff and A. Kleinman. Durham: Duke University Press.

WEEK 13. Apr 06: Global Clinical Trials

- Petryna, Adriana. 2005. "Ethical Variability: Drug Development and Globalizing Clinical Trials." *American Ethnologist* 32(2): 183-197.
- Petryna, Adriana. 2007. "Clinical Trials Offshored: On Private Sector Science and Public Health." *BioSocieties* 2(1): 21-40.