Description:

This course was developed by a multidisciplinary group of faculty in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and School of Medicine. It explores controversies over health disparities—why various groups have less access to health care, receive inferior treatment, and have greater and intensive experiences with sickness—and relates these disparities to social inequalities structured by race, class, gender, sexuality, and nation. Discussions of health inequalities will include cases drawn from the nineteenth century to the present and from regions around the world. The course will examine tensions between different understandings of illness and different medical practices; and it will explore the processes by which diseases come to be racialized or imbued with racial meanings. The course also examines the possibilities of understanding and countering health disparities through changes in research strategies, policy decisions, and programs for prevention and treatment.
**Readings:**

The following required books are available for purchase at Groundwork Bookstore in the old student center. Copies are also on reserve at the library.


All other required readings will be available from e-reserves (http://reserves.ucsd.edu/). These items are preceded with “**” on the syllabus.

Please note that you are responsible for downloading and printing each item. You can access the files from any campus computer, and you can print them with an ACS laser printing account (see http://sdacs.ucsd.edu/~icc/laser.php). You can also download and print the files from off-campus, but in order to do so you need to specify a proxy in your web browser (an easy process; see http://www-ono.ucsd.edu/documentation/squid/). In the case of any problems accessing e-reserves, library staff are available to help you.

**PLEASE NOTE: There are some short readings assigned for the first meeting of the course!**

**Requirements:**

Students taking the course for credit are expected to submit a paper (20-25 pages in length) by Wednesday, December 8. You must get the instructors’ approval of your proposed topic by submitting a short written description by no later than the end of Week 5 (October 22). Incompletes are heartily discouraged.

In addition, each student (including auditors) will be asked to circulate discussion questions in advance of two class meetings during the quarter. These questions must be emailed to all participants in the seminar by 5:00 pm on the day before class. Students will sign up for specific weeks at the first meeting of the seminar.
Schedule:

**Week 1 (September 23): Introduction**

Farmer, *Infections and Inequalities*, chapter 2 (pp. 37-58; notes on 288-91).

**Williams, David R. “Race and Health: Basic Questions, Emerging Directions.” *Annals of Epidemiology* 7, no. 5 (July 1997): 322-333.**


**RECOMMENDED:**


**Week 2 (September 30): Theorizing Race, Inequality, and Health**


**RECOMMENDED:**


**WEEK 3 (October 7): Epidemic Imperialism: Race and Public Health in Colonial Regimes**

Arnold, *Colonizing the Body*, pp. 1-10, 116-159, 200-294


**RECOMMENDED:**


Prashad, Vijay, 1994 “Native Dirt/Imperial Ordure: The Cholera of 1832 and the Morbid Resolutions of Modernity” *Journal of Historical Sociology*, vol 7, No 3

McLeod,Roy. 1988 *Disease Medicine and Empire: Perspectives on Western Medicine and the Experience of European Expansion* Routledge

David Arnold, 1988 *Imperial Medicine and Indigenous Societies* Manchester

Megan Vaughn, 1994 *Curing their Ills: Colonial Power, African Illness*

Franz Fanon “Medicine and Colonialism” in a Dying Colonialism trans by Chevalier (NY Grove 1965, p. 121-145

**WEEK 4 (October 14): Globalization, economic restructuring, and the healthy citizen**

**Guests: Charles Briggs (Ethnic Studies and CILAS) and Clara Mantini-Briggs (CILAS)**


**RECOMMENDED:**


Randall Packard, *White Plague, Black Labor: Tuberculosis and the Political Economy of Health and Disease in South Africa*
**WEEK 5 (October 21): Immigration, governmentality, and the construction of the Other**

**Guest: Natalia Molina (Ethnic Studies)**


**Molina, Natalia. Book manuscript. “Introduction: Contested Bodies and Cultures: The Politics of Public Health and Race within the Mexican, Chinese, and Japanese Communities of Los Angeles, 1879-1939” (pp. 1-21); and “Chapter 4: ‘We Can No Longer Ignore the Problem of the Mexican’: Depression-Era Public Health Policies in Los Angeles” (pp. 182-244).**


**RECOMMENDED:**


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**WEEK 6 (October 28)**

**Part I: Culturally Effective Care and Health Disparities**

**Guests: Larry Palinkas (Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, School of Medicine) and Vivian Reznik (Department of Pediatrics, School of Medicine)**

Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* (entire)

**RECOMMENDED:**


**Part II: Reproduction, Gender, Race and Sexual Health**


**RECOMMENDED:**


**WEEK 7 (November 4): Bioethics and Inequality from Tuskegee to AIDS Trials**


**Rayna Rapp, *Testing Women, Testing the Fetus: The Social Impact of Amniocentesis in America* (New York: Routledge, 1999), chapters 3-4 (pp. 53-102; notes on 319-29).**


**RECOMMENDED:**


**WEEK 8 (November 11): Genomics, Racial Profiling, and the Biomedical Remaking of Difference in the 21st Century**

[NOTE: Veterans’ Day Holiday: We will reschedule this class meeting.]


RECOMMENDED:


WEEK 9 (November 18):

Part I: Racializing Diseases


RECOMMENDED:


Part II: Environment, Race and Social Justice Movements

Guests: David Pellow and Lisa Park (Ethnic Studies)


RECOMMENDED:


Week 10 (December 2): Social Movements and Subcultures of Resistance


