The Global AIDS Epidemic

University of Michigan
Women Studies & Anthro 212 | Nursing 225
Winter 2013
Lectures: Mon. & Wed., 2:30pm – 4pm
Location: CHEM 1210
Sections: Thurs. 4, 5pm or Fri. 9, 10, 11am
4 Credits

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Fri. 1-3pm
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Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the global HIV/AIDS epidemic. The second half of the twentieth century was marked by the emergence of a new epidemic of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). HIV has now spread to all parts of the globe. The epidemic has caused unimaginable human suffering and had a profound impact on many aspects of contemporary life. This interdisciplinary course reviews these developments, provides basic information about the history, biology, politics, and culture of AIDS, surveys the current state of the epidemic in different parts of the globe, and describes how the epidemic has been shaped by gender, sexuality, race, poverty, political economy, and other structures of social inequality. Topics to be covered include risk, prevention, treatment, activism, representation, globalization, and specific strategies of response to the epidemic.

Required Texts

On sale in local bookstores and on library reserve:

All other required readings are posted on the CTools site in the Resources section organized by lecture date.
Expectations and Examinations

Attendance. You are required to attend all lectures and discussion sections.

In-class examinations. There will be two in-class examinations. Exam 1 will cover Part 1 and Exam 2 will cover Parts 2 and 3. The exams will be closed book and will contain a variety of question types, including short-answer.
Grade: Exam 1 25 percent and Exam 2 25 percent
Exam dates: Monday, February 4 and Monday, March 18

Final examination. The final examination will cover Parts 4 through 6. The exam will be closed book and will include a variety of question types.
Grade: 30 percent
Exam date: Monday April 29, 1:30-3:30 CHEM 1210

Close reading and active participation in discussion.
All required reading assignments must be completed by the day of the lecture for which they are assigned. Thoughtful, regular participation in discussions, demonstrating evidence of reading, independence of mind, and a critical assessment of the texts, is essential and expected in order to excel in this course.

Please note: The CTools site also contains additional suggested readings, including those discussed in the lectures. These texts are not required reading but you should read them whenever possible in order to gain additional knowledge of specific topics covered in lecture. These readings are found in a folder called Suggested Reading for each lecture date in the Resources section.

Discussion Section.
Discussion sections are a crucial component of this course. A variety of graded activities will be part of weekly discussion meetings, including weekly reading summaries, leading class discussion, and discussion participation. A detailed description of these assignments and how they will be graded will be presented in your first discussion section meeting.
Grade: 20 percent
### PART ONE: OVERVIEW OF THE EPIDEMIC

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>January 9</th>
<th>What is AIDS?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objectives:</strong></td>
<td>An overview of the course and a survey of some essential information about the epidemic.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>January 14</th>
<th>The Natural History of AIDS</th>
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<td><strong>Objectives:</strong></td>
<td>Review the early history of the AIDS epidemic, including the first manifestations of the disease, early theories about its cause, the subsequent discovery of HIV, and the controversy as to whether HIV is the cause of AIDS.</td>
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Required reading:

Optional reading:

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<tr>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>January 16</th>
<th>The Biology of HIV/AIDS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Objectives:</strong></td>
<td>Explain the biology of HIV, including how the virus is transmitted and causes AIDS, the effects of having AIDS, how the disease is treated.</td>
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Required reading:
  Read the complete site, including:
  - HIV Basics
  - Transmission
  - Testing
  - Treatment
- See also the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention information: [http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/basic/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/basic/index.htm)
Monday January 21  No Class – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Wednesday January 23  A Global Map of the Epidemic

Objectives: A basic introduction to key issues in the epidemiology of AIDS and an overview of AIDS as a global pandemic. Understand the factors that shaped the epidemic in various world regions with special attention to AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa.

Required reading:
  Pages 39-54
  Pages 49-65
- Explore two timelines of the history of the AIDS epidemic:
  Kaiser Family Foundation: http://www.kff.org/hivaids/timeline/hivtimeline.cfm
  Avert: http://www.avert.org/aids-timeline.htm

Monday January 28  Who Gets Sick?

Objectives: Understand the political economy of AIDS in the context of globalization. This involves examining how enduring structures of social inequality influence vulnerability to HIV across the globe.

Required reading:
  Pages 29-50
  Pages 17-44

Optional reading:
**Wednesday January 30 How To Think About Risk and Stigma**

*Objectives:* Learn how the concept of risk, and the practice of regulating individual risk-taking, has come to dominate conventional public health approaches to HIV/AIDS prevention. Understand how best to conceptualize AIDS stigma.

Required reading:
  Pages 1-16

**Monday February 4 Exam 1**

In-class, closed-book exam covering Part One of the course.

**PART TWO: PREVENTION & TREATMENT**

**Wednesday February 6 What is Prevention? What is Treatment?**

*Objectives:* Explain the distinction between prevention and treatment, including earlier debates about focusing on one or the other, as well as the latest research which moves to combine the two.

Required reading:
  Pages 59-72

**Monday February 11 The Global Politics of Prevention, Part I: Uganda and “Zero Grazing”**

*Objectives:* Review and contextualize the purported success of HIV prevention in Uganda, considering some factors that have been put forward to explain that success (“zero grazing” and the interruption of sexual networks). Also, understand the “ABC” approach to prevention and some controversies surrounding the ABC approach.
Wednesday February 13  The Global Politics of Prevention, Part II: AIDS and Tourism in Thailand and the Caribbean

Objectives: Understand how sex work and HIV vulnerability are affected by the global tourism industry in two regions of the world (Thailand and the Caribbean). Also, discuss some innovative strategies for HIV prevention in tourism areas.

Required reading:

Monday February 18  The Global Politics of Treatment, Part I: Brazil and Haiti

Objectives: Describe the Brazilian response to HIV/AIDS, which dealt with treatment access as a human rights issue. Compare this success story to a different successful approach to AIDS treatment in Haiti.

Required reading:

Wednesday February 20  The Global Politics of Treatment, Part II: South Africa

Objectives: Describe the intense political struggle in South Africa over antiretroviral treatment for persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Required reading:
Monday    February 25    Advances in Treatment & Practitioners Perspectives
Guest Lecture: Andy Petroll M.D., Department of Infectious Diseases, Medical College of Wisconsin
Objectives: Describe the range of new treatments which may become available, and considerations that medical practitioners use when advising treatment.

No required reading.

PART THREE: INTERSECTING EPIDEMICS IN BLACKS, GAY MEN, & WOMEN

Wednesday    February 27    The African-American Epidemic in the United States

Required reading:

WINTER BREAK

Monday    March 11    Gay Men, Sex, and Relationships
Objectives: Describe the scope of the HIV/AIDS epidemic among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men in the United States and Mexico, and how relationships dynamics and sexual practices influence their risk for HIV infection.

Required reading:
**Wednesday  March 13  Myth of Safe Monogamy: Love, Marriage, & HIV Risk**

*Objectives:* Understand the global trend toward the transmission of HIV within marital partnerships and discuss some promising developments for HIV prevention among women.

Required reading:

Optional reading:

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**Monday  March 18  Exam 2**

In-class, closed-book exam covering Parts Two and Three of the course.

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**PART FOUR: REPRESENTING HIV/AIDS**

**Wednesday  March 20  A Plague of Discourse**

*Objectives:* To move beyond an epidemiological framework for AIDS and examine how the epidemic itself – not just the ways we understand it – results from social and cultural discourses on sickness and health, moral and immoral behavior, individual and collective responsibility, vulnerable populations and appropriate interventions.

Required reading:
### Monday March 25  Narrativizing AIDS

**Objectives:** Learn how HIV/AIDS has been given meaning through the ways in which the epidemic has been framed in narrative terms and told as a story in a variety of discourses and visual representations; understand the role these narratives have played in shaping the actual course of the epidemic as well as the public responses to it.

**Required reading:**

**Optional reading:**

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### PART FIVE: POWER AND RESISTANCE

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### Wednesday March 27  AIDS Activism and the Transformation of Medical Science

**Guest Lecture:** Chris Bartlett, AIDS Activist

**Objectives:** Learn the history of the activist group AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT-UP) and how such activist groups changed the practice of medical research.

**Required reading:**

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### Monday April 1  Criminalizing AIDS

**Objectives:** Learn about controversies surrounding attempts to regulate AIDS including recent trends to criminalize HIV transmission and HIV-positive people.

**Required reading:**
**Wednesday APRIL 3 The Global Response – PEPFAR and the Global Fund**

*Objectives:* Learn about the two primary global programs to address AIDS: the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. Understand the different ideological foundations for each program and compare the strengths of their approaches. Also, examine the limitations of both programs, especially with regard to addressing AIDS prevention among drug users globally.

Required reading:
- **PEPFAR**
  - [http://www.pepfar.gov/about/index.htm](http://www.pepfar.gov/about/index.htm)
  - PEPFAR Five Year Strategy (December 2009)
- **The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria**

**Monday April 8 Global Activism: TAC and (RED)**

*Objectives:* Compare and contrast two very different approaches to AIDS activism: the grassroots, community-based Treatment Action Campaign in South Africa and the (RED) campaign, a global consumer advertising campaign raising money for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.

Required reading:
- **The Treatment Action Campaign**
  - Review TAC magazine *Equal Treatment* August 2010 edition on HIV prevention
- **The (RED) campaign**
  - Review the (RED) website:
    - [http://www.joinred.com/aboutred](http://www.joinred.com/aboutred)
    - [http://www.joinred.com/FAQ](http://www.joinred.com/FAQ)
    - [http://www.joinred.com/red/#impact](http://www.joinred.com/red/#impact)
    - [http://www.joinred.com/red/#shopred](http://www.joinred.com/red/#shopred)
  - The BUY (LESS) campaign: [http://buylesscrap.com/](http://buylesscrap.com/)
Wednesday    April 10    Global Activism: Chinese Activism and the State

Guest lecture: Yan Long, Departments of Sociology and Women's Studies

Objectives: An examination of grassroots responses to AIDS in China and how such activities are constrained and enabled by the Chinese state.

Required reading:

PART SIX: LIVING WITH HIV

Monday    April 15    The Culture of AIDS

Objectives: Understand how the epidemic has been addressed by authors and artists and grasp the role that literature, film and other art forms has played in the history of the epidemic.

Required reading (read any two of the following):

Wednesday    April 17    Positive Cultures in Local and Global Perspective

Guest Lecture: Jimena Loveluck, MSW, President, HIV/AIDS Resource Center (HARC) and Leon Golson, HARC Director of Prevention Programs

Objectives: Learn about efforts to prevent and treat AIDS right here in Southeastern Michigan. Understand how people around the globe have created their own cultures of living with HIV and AIDS.
Required reading:

- Explore HARC website and read latest newsletter:
  - [http://hivaidsresource.org/](http://hivaidsresource.org/)
- Explore the website for POZ magazine and the December 2012 issue:

Optional reading:

  Pages 19-30 and 31-40

**CONCLUSION**

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<th>Monday</th>
<th>April 22</th>
<th>The Future of AIDS</th>
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*Objectives:* Understand the challenges currently facing HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, and think about what needs to be done to meet these challenges.

Required readings:

  Pages 213-246