SOC224: Global Health Matters

This course introduces students to international health, healing, and medicine from individual experiences in local contexts to global practices. It locates health and health care within particular cultural, social, historical, and political circumstances. In the course we ask the following questions: How do these diverse forces (circumstances) shape the organization of health care providers and systems of health care delivery? How do these forces influence people’s symptoms, health beliefs, utilization of health care and interactions with health care providers? How are local practices of health and health care linked to large-scale social and economic structures? Topics include structural violence; global pharmaceuticals; the commodification of bodies, organ trafficking and organ transplantation; pregnancy and reproduction, hospitals and health workers.

Prerequisites: SOC101 or ANTH101 This course is designed to meet the International Perspectives distribution requirement.

Meeting times, place: Tuesday 2:30-3:55, Adams 208; Lab #1 Thursday 1-2:25, Adams 202, Lab #2 Thursday 2:30-3:55, Adams 202

Required books:
Course Requirements:

1. Preparing for class:
   Complete the reading by the date it is assigned and be prepared to talk about it. Bring copies of the readings with you to class.
   
   Use the following questions to guide your reading for each class session:
   I have organized each set of readings around a common theme.
   What is the theme? How does the reading contribute to your understanding of the theme? What is the author’s argument (one or two sentences)?
   List and briefly define (if only with a quoted sentence from the text) the key words in the reading.
   What evidence does the author use to back up this argument? What is the strength of the author’s use of evidence? What is missing from this argument?
   How does this reading fit with, contradict, or exemplify today’s theme?
   How does this reading fit with, contradict, or exemplify other course materials/themes?
   What does it contribute to your understanding of global health?

2. Rules regarding attendance:
   The class is divided into discussion groups (Lab #1 and Lab #2) that will meet on Thursdays. You may not change discussion sections at any time during the semester, for any reason.
   Attendance is required. I will take attendance for every class. If you are not here when I finish taking attendance, I will mark you “absent”. Leaving class early for a sports event (practice or game) will count as an absence. The only exceptions to the two-absence limit are religious holidays, serious family emergencies, or documented illnesses. More than two absences will have a negative impact on the final grade in this course.

3. Rules regarding cell phones and lap-tops:
   This course is cell-phone free and lap-top free. Do not bring a lap-top to class. Turn off your cell phone. You may not send or receive phone calls, text messages, tweets, or e-mails during class. If your cell phone announces itself, I will confiscate it for the rest of the class (and I reserve the right to answer it).

4. Papers, exams, and other assignments:
   For this course you will complete an in-class midterm exam, 7-page paper, take-home final exam, reading and film responses, an on-line NIH tutorial about research ethics and a brief paper reflecting on it, two brief reports and an analysis of a chapter in an early edition of Our Bodies, Ourselves. I won’t accept papers electronically; late papers will be downgraded.
   
   Midterm exam 20% of final grade
   7-page paper 20%
   Final exam 20%
   2 Reading response papers 10%
   3 Film response papers 15%
   NIH tutorial/reading paper 5%
   OBOS exercise/reading 5%
   Report on public health series 2.5%
   Report on global health in the news 2.5%
I. Getting Started

Jan. 25

Jan. 27

Film Response #1 due in class Jan. 27


Screening of Unnatural Health

Feb. 3

Feb. 3 Evening Lecture: What is Public Health? Shelley Hearne ’83 7 pm, Kresge

Feb. 4 The Worlds of Public Health: Environment, Policy and Advocacy – attend one of the sessions (Environmental Health, Public Health Policy and Advocacy, International Public Health) see Blackboard for details
Note: you are required to attend one of the events, either the evening lecture (Feb. 3) or one of the three sessions (Feb. 4).

II. Global Pharmaceuticals

Feb. 8

Report about The Worlds of Public Health due in class Feb. 8

Feb. 10

Feb. 15


Feb. 17

Film response #2 due in class Feb. 17

Feb. 22
Take the web-based NIH tutorial on human subjects. Go to
http://www.bowdoin.edu/academic-affairs/research/research-oversight-committee/roc-human-subj.shtml
Scroll down the page and click on the link to the web-based tutorial created by the Office of Extramural Research – this will take you several hours to complete.

Tutorial response due in class Feb. 22

III. Transplanting Organs

Feb. 24
Margaret Lock, Twice Dead: Organ Transplants and the Reinvention of Death (UC Press, 2002), pp. 1-56

Mar. 1 Lock, Twice Dead, pp. 57-148
March 3 Lock, Twice Dead, pp. 149-190 and 209-262

Reading response #1 due in class March 3

March 8 Lock, Twice Dead, pp. 263-379

March 10 midterm exam in class


March 29

Film response #3 due in class March 31

IV. Feminist Interventions


April 5 Davis, The Making of Our Bodies, Ourselves, pp. 85-165

April 7 OBOS group exercise and paper due in class
Apr. 12
Davis, The Making of Our Bodies, Ourselves, pp. 169-212

V. Disrupted Reproduction
Apr. 19
Apr. 21

April 22 7-page paper due by 4 pm

VI. Hospitals and Health Workers
Apr. 26
Apr. 28

Reading response #2 due either April 28 or May 5

May 3

VII. US Health Care through a Global Lens
May 5

May 10


Final Exam: due by 5 pm May 21, 2011

Grading Scale:
A = 93-100%      A- = 90-92%
B+ = 86-89%      B = 83-85%      B- = 80-82%
C+ = 76-79%      C = 73-75%      C- = 70-72%
D = 65-69%
F = below 65%