

Sociology of Medicine
S&TS 3111/SOC 3131, Fall 2009
Department of Science & Technology Studies

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Class meets: MWF 11:15AM-12:05PM Malott 228 (also known as the auditorium or Malott Bache). Occasional Breakout sessions scheduled for: F 11:15AM-12:05PM Malott 228 & Malott 251; 12:20PM-1:10PM Malott 253; 1:25PM-2:15PM Malott 253

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the ways in which medical practice, the medical profession, and medical technology are embedded in society and culture. We will ask how medicine is connected to various socio-cultural factors such as gender, social class, race, and administrative cultures. We will examine the rise of medical sociology as a discipline, the professionalization of medicine, and processes of medicalization and demedicalization. We will look at alternative medical practices and how they differ from and converge with the dominant medical paradigm. We will focus on the rise of medical technology in clinical practice with a special emphasis on reproductive technologies. We will focus on the body as a site for medical knowledge, including the medicalization of sex differences, the effect of culture on nutrition and eating disorders such as obesity and anorexia nervosa. We will also read various classic and contemporary texts that speak to the illness experience and the culture of surgeons, hospitals, and patients and we will discuss various case studies in the social construction of physical and mental illness.

Course Requirements

1. Regular class attendance, participation in class (includes participating in discussions on our Blackboard web site and section participation) is required: 15% of final grade.
2. In-class quiz: 20% of final grade.
3. Midterm exam: 30% of final grade.
4. Take home final paper (7-8 pages): 35% of final grade.

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. The URL for the student code of academic integrity is: <http://www.cornell.edu/Academic/AIC.html>. The URL for how to use sources correctly is: <http://plagiarism.arts.cornell.edu/tutorial/index.cfm> and for guides to citation styles see: <http://www.library.cornell.edu/services/citing.html>.

The in-class use of any technological devices is discouraged. The use of devices such as cell phones, iphones, blackberries, and computers for any other purposes than the taking of notes is prohibited and will negatively affect the participation grade.

Required Readings

Peter Conrad, The Sociology of Health and Illness: Critical Perspectives, Seventh edition. New York: Worth Publishers. 2005. (Available at the Campus Store)

Roy Porter, Bloods and Guts: A Short History of Medicine. New York: W.W. Norton. 2004. (Available at the Campus Store)

Paula A. Treichler, Lisa Cartwright, and Constance Penley, The Visible Woman: Imaging Technologies, Gender and Science. NY: NY University Press, 1998. (Available at the Campus Store)

Joel D. Howell, Technology in the Hospital: Transforming Patient Care in the Early Twentieth Century. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press. 1996. (Available at the Campus Store)

Course Reader (Available at the Campus Store)

All other articles are available on Blackboard.

Supplementary Recommended Readings

Sherwin B. Nuland, The Doctors' Plague: Germs, Childbed Fever, and the Strange Story of Ignac Semmeslweis. New York: W. W. Norton, 2003. (Available at the Campus Store)

Sherwin B. Nuland, Doctors: The Biography of Medicine. New York: Vintage Books, 1995. (Available at the Campus Store)

Supplementary Course Material

In this course we will (time permitting) make extensive use of documentaries such as The Bridge: How Islam Saved Western Medicine; Plagued: Invisible Armies; Plagued: The Origin of Disease; Who lives, who dies: Rationing Health Care; Borderline Medicine; Pay Attention; Sound and Fury; Hot Zones; The Age of AIDS; Sick around the World; Big Bucks, Big Pharma and we will analyze extracts of feature films and the popular media including Nine Months, The Miracle of Life; Life's Greatest Miracle, Woody Allen: What you always wanted to know about sex and others.

Course Web Site

Information and additional information about all assignments will be posted on the course Web site, which should be consulted regularly to check for announcements. The URL is: <http://blackboard.cornell.edu/webapps/login> (login and enroll in STS 3111).

Outline of the Course

Lecture topics and due dates for readings are listed below. It is important to complete the readings by the assigned dates, because themes in the course develop cumulatively. Lectures will often refer to readings due that day or on a recent day. Lectures will be held Mondays and Wednesdays. Friday meetings will provide a forum for discussion where we will have a chance to discuss the readings of the week and relate them to audio-visual material (including documentaries and films) viewed that day. We will sometimes meet in separate assigned sections, but we will also often meet all together in the lecture hall instead. We will always meet in the lecture hall for listening to guest speakers (to be announced on Blackboard), doing exams or watching lengthy documentary. You should regularly check our Blackboard website for updates on whether we meet in our separate sections on Friday or in the lecture hall.

Part 1: Sociology and Medical Sociology

Fri Aug 28: Introductory Meeting

Mon Aug 31: Introduction to Sociology and Medicine

Peter Conrad, "General Introduction", in The Sociology of Health and Illness, pp. 1-6.

John B. McKinlay and Sonja M. McKinlay, "Medical Measures and the Decline of Mortality", in The Sociology of Health and Illness, pp. 7-19

Recommended:

Peter Berger et. al., "Sociology as a Way of Seeing", in Sociology Reinterpreted, 1981, pp. 9-23.

Wed Aug 2: Why a Sociology of Medicine?

Charles E. Rosenberg, "Introduction: Framing Disease: Illness, Society, and History", in Framing Disease: Studies in Cultural History edit by Charles E. Rosenberg and Janet Golden. NJ: Rutgers UP. 1992.

Robert A. Aronowitz, "From Myalgic Encephalitis to Yuppie Flu: A History of Chronic Fatigue Syndromes", in Making Sense of Illness. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1998, pp. 19-38.

Mark Jackson, "Allergy: the making of a modern plague", Clinical and Experimental Allergy, 2001. Vol 31: 1665-1671. On-line on Blackboard.

Fri Aug 4: meet in sections. Discussion.

Part 2: History of Medicine

Sep 7th: Medical Sociology

William C. Cockerham 'Chapter 1: Medical Sociology, in Medical Sociology. Prentice Hall Inc. 1978: 3-14.

K. Codell Carter 'The Development of Pasteur's concept of disease causation and the emergence of specific causes in the nineteenth-century medicine', in Bulletin of the History of Medicine 65, 1991, pp. 528-548.

Nancy Krieger, "Epidemiology and the Web of Causation: Has Anyone seen the Spider?", in Soc. Sci. Med. (39/7) pp. 887-903.

Recommended:

William C. Cockerham, "Medical Sociology and Sociological Theory", in The Blackwell Companion to Medical Sociology, Blackwell, 2001: 3-22.

Sep 9th: A Short History of Medicine

Roy Porter, "Disease" and "Doctors", in Blood and Guts: A Short History of Medicine, pp. 1-52.

Recommended:

Roy Porter, "The Body", "The Laboratory", "Therapies", in Blood and Guts: A Short History of Medicine, pp. 53-108.

Sep 11: meet in lecture hall for video: The Bridge: How Islam Saved Western Medicine

Sep 14: The Professionalization of Scientific Medicine and Psychiatry

Peter Conrad and Joseph W. Schneider, "Professionalization, Monopoly, and the Structure of Medical Practice", in The Sociology of Health and Illness, pp. 170-175.

Andrew Abbott The System of Professions. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1988. pp. 1-31.

Paul Starr, "The Growth of Medical Authority" in Phil Brown (eds.) Perspectives in Medical Sociology. Third Ed. 2005.

Recommended:

Charles E. Rosenberg, "The therapeutic revolution: medicine, meaning and social change in nineteenth-century America", in: Perspect Biol Med., Summer; 1977, 20/4: 485-506.

Part 3: Medicalization

Sep 16: Medicalization and Demedicalization

Peter Conrad, "Medicalization and Social Control" in Annual Review of Sociology, 1992, 18, pp. 209-32.

Irving Zola, "Medicine as an institution of social control" in The Sociology of Health and Illness, pp. 432-441.

Recommended:

Renee Fox, "The medicalization and demedicalization of American society" in Sociology of Health and Illness, 1981, pp. 527-534.

Sep 18: meet in lecture hall for video: Plagued: Invisible Armies

Sep 21: Medicalization, Social Movements, the Media and the Internet:

Kristin Barker, "Self-Help Literature and the Making of an Illness Identity: The Case of Fibromyalgia Syndrome (FMS)" in Sociology of Health and Illness, pp. 133-149.

Phil Brown, "Popular Epidemiology: Community Response to Toxic Waste-Induced Disease", in Sociology of Health and Illness, pp. 66-73.

Barry Glassner, "Metaphoric Illnesses", in The Culture of Fear. 1999, pp. 151-180.

Recommended:

Deborah Lupton, "Risk as Moral Danger: The Social and Political Functions of Risk Discourse in Public Health", in Sociology of Health and Illness, pp. 422-429.

Sep 23: Social Construction of Mental Disorders

W. W. Eaton, "The Social Construction of Bizarre Behaviors", in The Sociology of Mental Disorders, Praeger. 2001: 1-52.

Elisabeth C. Cookey and Phil Brown, "Spinning on its axes: DSM and the social construction of psychiatric diagnosis", in International Journal of Health Services 1998. 28/3: 525-554.

P. Conrad and D. Potter, "From Hyperactive children to ADHD Adults; observations on the expansion of medical categories", in Social Problems. 2000. 47/4: 559-582. On-line on Blackboard.

Recommended:

Claudia Wallis, "Life in Overdrive: Doctors say huge numbers of kids and adults have attention deficit disorder. Is it for real?" in Time Magazine, July 18 1994.

Toby Miller and Marie Claire Leger, "A Very Childish Moral Panic: Ritalin", in Journal of Medical Humanities. 24/nr. ½. 2003: 9-33. On-line on Blackboard.

Sep 25: meet in sections for extract of video: Plagued: Origin of Disease

Part 4: Disease Patterns Around the World

Sep 28: The Social Distribution of Disease: Social Class and Lifestyle

S. Leonard Syme et. al., “Social Class, Susceptibility and Sickness”, in The Sociology of Health and Illness, pp. 24-29.

Victor R. Fuchs, “A Tale of Two States”, in The Sociology of Health and Illness, pp. 55-56.

Victor G. Rodwin et. al., “Population Health in Utah and Nevada: An Update on Victor Fuchs’ Tale of Two States”, in The Sociology of Health and Illness, pp. 57-62.

Richard Wilkinson, “Health Inequalities: Relative or Absolute Material Standards?” in The Sociology of Health and Illness, pp. 98-103.

Sep 30th: The Social Distribution of Disease: Gender

Ingrid Waldron, “Gender Differences in Mortality: Causes and Variation in different societies”, in The Sociology of Health and Illness, pp. 38-54.

Recommended:

Sara Arber and Hilary Thomas, “From Women’s Health to a Gender Analysis of Health”, in The Blackwell Companion to Medical Sociology, edited by William C. Cockerham. Oxford: Blackwell. 2001, pp. 94-113.

Oct 2nd: meet in sections: Read and discuss Unicef Report 2007: Child Poverty in Perspective: an Overview of Child Well-Being in Rich Countries. On-line on Blackboard.

Oct 5th: The Social Distribution of Disease in Developing Nations

Rose Weitz, “Illness in the Developing Nations”, in The Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care: A Critical Approach. pp. 85-114.

Michael Specter, “Deep in the Russian Soul, a Lethal Darkness”. New York Times June 8: A1+. On-line on Blackboard.

Recommended:

Morris Feshbach, “Dead Souls”. Atlantic Monthly 283/1: 26-27. On-line on Blackboard.

Charles Hunt, “Social vs. biological: Theories on the transmission of AIDS in Africa”, Social Science and Medicine 42: 1283-1296. On-line on Blackboard.

Mark Nichter and Elizabeth Cartwright. “Saving the Children for the tobacco industry”. Medical Anthropology Quarterly 5: 236-256. On-line on Blackboard.

John Peabody, "Economic reform and health sector policy: Lessons from structural adjustment programs." Social Science and Medicine 43: 823-835. On-line on Blackboard.

Oct 7: Health and Social Integration:

James S. House, Karl R. Landis and Debra Umberson, "Social Relationships and Health", in The Sociology of Health and Illness, pp. 74-82.

Eric Klinenberg, "Dying Alone: The Social Production of Urban Isolation" in The Sociology of Health and Illness, pp. 83-97.

Emile Durkheim, "Anomic Suicide", in Social Theory, edited by Peter Kivisto. LA: Roxbury, 2000, pp. 47-53.

Oct 9: meet in lecture hall for documentary Hot Zones

FALL BREAK

Part 5: Studies of Medical Practice

Oct 14: Talcott Parsons' "sick role"

William Cockerham, "The Sick Role" in Medical Sociology, 1978: 87-103.

Talcott Parsons "Social structure and dynamic process: the case of modern medical practice" in The Social System, part 1, pp. 428-47.

Recommended:

Frank A. Petroni, "The Influence of Age, Sex, and Chronicity in perceived legitimacy to the sick role", in Readings in Medical Sociology edited by Duane A. Matcha Allyn and Bacon. 2001: 161-169

Oct 16 meet in lecture hall for QUIZ

Oct 19: Medicine in Practice:

Elliot G. Mishler, "The Struggle between the Voice of Medicine and the Voice of the Lifeworld", in Sociology of Health and Illness, pp. 319-330.

Renee R. Anspach, "The Language of Case Presentation", in Sociology of Health and Illness, pp. 347-365.

Recommended:

Stefan Timmermanns, "Social Death as Self-Fulfilling Prophecy", in Sociology of Health and Illness, pp. 331-346.

Oct 21: Hospitals as Institutions and Becoming Institutionalized

Roy Porter, "The Hospital", in Blood and Guts, pp. 135-152.

Erving Goffman, "Characteristics of total institutions" in Asylums. Chicago: Aldine Publishing. 1961, pp. 3-35.

D. L. Rosenhan, "On Being Sane in Insane Places", in Science, New Series, 179/4070. 1973: 250-258. On-line on Blackboard.

Recommended:

Paul Starr, "The reconstitution of the hospital", in The Social Transformation of American Medicine, New York: Basic Books, pp. 145-79.

Oct 23: meet in sections for discussion

Oct 26: Surgery:

Roy Porter, "Surgery" in Blood and Guts, pp. 109-134.

Pearl Katz, "Operating Room Rituals", in Scalpel's Edge: The Culture of Surgeons. Allyn and Bacon. 1999: 179-202.

Stefan Hirschauer, "The Manufacture of Bodies in Surgery" in Social Studies of Science. Vol 21, No. 2 (May 1991) 279-319. On-line on Blackboard.

Erving Goffman, "The Operating Room: A Study of Role Distance", in D. H. Wreng et. al. Readings in Introductory Sociology, 1967.

Recommended:

H.M. Collins "Dissecting Surgery: Forms of Life Depersonalized" in Social Studies of Science, Vol. 24, No. 2 (May 1994) 311-333. On-line on Blackboard.

Part 6: Technology and Medicine

Oct 28: Technology and Medical Care

Donald MacKenzie and Judy Wajcman, "Introductory essay: the social shaping of technology", in The Social Shaping of Technology, edited by Donald MacKenzie and Judy Wajcman. Open University Press. 1999, pp. 3-27.

Joel D. Howell, "Physicians, Patients, and Medical Technology", in Technology in the Hospital: Transforming Patient Care in the Early Twentieth Century, pp. 1-29.

Recommended:

Joel D. Howell, "Science, Scientific Systems, and Surgery: Technology and the U.S. Hospital", in Technology in the Hospital. 1996.

Joel D. Howell, "Machines and Medicine: Lessons from the Early Twentieth Century", in Technology in the Hospital. 1996.

Oct 30: meet in lecture hall for documentary Big Bucks, Big Pharma

Nov 2: Technology, Gender and the Politics of Reproduction

Carol Stabile, "Shooting the Mother: Fetal Photography and the Politics of Disappearance" in The Visible Woman: Imaging Technologies, Gender and Science, edited by Paula A. Treichler et. al. NY: NY University Press, 1998, pp. 171-197.

Rayna Rapp, "Real-time Fetus: The Role of the Sonogram in the Age of Monitored Reproduction", in Cyborgs and Citadels, edited by Gary L. Downey et. al. School of American Research Press. 1997.

Video clip: Nine Months.

Part 7: Gender, Medicine, and Culture

Nov 4: Women and Medicine

M. F. Fox, "Women and Scientific Careers", in Handbook for Science and Technology Studies, 1995: 205-224.

Nelly Oudshoorn "The decline of the one-size-fits-all paradigm, or, how reproductive scientists try to cope with postmodernity", in The Social Shaping of Technology, edited by Donald MacKenzie and Judy Wajcman. Open University Press. 1999: 325-342.

Emily Martin, "Body Narratives, Body Boundaries", in Cultural Studies, edited by L. Grossberg. Routledge. 1992, pp. 409-423.

Carol Gilligan, In a Different Voice: Psychological Theory and Women's Development. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press. 1993, pp 5-23. (Olin reserve)

Nov 6: sections meet in lecture hall: Clips from The Miracle of Life, Life's Greatest Miracle, Woody Allen: What you always wanted to know about sex.

Nov 9th: Sexing the Body

Anne K. Eckman, "Beyond "The Yentl Syndrome: Making Women Visible in Post-1990 Women's Health Discourse", in The Visible Woman, edited by Paula A. Treichler et. al. NY: NY University Press. 1998, pp. 130-168.

Stefan Hirschauer, "The Medicalization of Gender Migration", in The International Journal of Transgenderism, 1/1, 1997. On-line on Blackboard.

Anne Fausto-Sterling, "Of Gender and Genitals: The use and abuse of the modern intersexual", Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality, Basic Books: New York, pp. 45-77.

Nov 11th: Eating Disorders: Anorexia Nervosa and Obesity

Joan Jacobs Brumberg: "From Psychiatric Syndrome to "communicable" Disease: The

Case of Anorexia Nervosa” in Framing Disease edited by Charles Rosenberg and Janet Golden. Rutgers University Press. 1992.

S. Bordo, “Hunger as Ideology”, in The Consumer Society Reader edited by J. B. Schor and D.B. Holt. 2000, pp. 99-114.

Virginia W. Chang and Nicholas A. Christakis, “Medical modeling of obesity: a transition from action to experience in a 20th century American medical textbook”, in Sociology of Health and Illness, Vol 24, No. 2: 151-177.

Recommended:

Shapin Steven, The Great Neurotic Act, in London Review of Books, 26/15, 5 August 2004. On-line on Blackboard.

Our National Eating Disorder, The New York Times, by Michael Pollan, Oct 17, 2004. On-line on Blackboard.

Nov 13: Sections Discussion

Nov 16: Nutrition, culture, technology and health

Richard A. Cone and Emily Martin, ”Corporal Flows: The Immune System, Global Economies of Food, and New Implications for Health”, in The Visible Woman edited by Paula A. Treichler, Lisa Cartwright and Constance Penley. NY: NY University Press. 1998, pp. 321-359.

Colin T. Campbell and Chen Junshi “Diet and chronic degenerative diseases: perspectives from China”, in The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition. 1994: 59/5. On-Line on Blackboard.

George Ritzer, “The McDonalization of Society” “McDonalization and its Precursors”, in The McDonalization of Society. Thousand Oaks, Calif: Pine Forge Press. 1993, pp. 1-34. On-line on Blackboard.

Recommended:

Eric Schlosser, Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal. New York: HarperCollins. 2002, pp. 1-12, 111-132. On-line on Blackboard.

Part 8: Issues in Contemporary Medicine

Nov 18: Public Discourse and the Rise of Genetic Explanations

Peter Conrad, “A Mirage of Genes”, in Sociology of Health and Illness, pp. 401-410.

Dorothy Nelkin and Susan Lindee, “The DNA Mystique: The Gene as a Cultural Icon”, in Perspectives in Medical Sociology: Third Edition (edited by Phil Brown). Illinois: Waveland. 2000.

Nov 20: Sections meet in lecture hall for Mid-term exam

Nov 23: Marketing Pharmacology:

David Cohen et. al., “Medications and the Pharmaceutical Industry” in Sociology of Health and Illness, pp. 275-287.

David Healy, “Shaping the Intimate: Influences on the Experiences of Everyday Nerves”, in Social Studies of Science, 34/2. 2004: 219-245. On-line on Blackboard.

Recommended:

Jeffrey Kluger with Sora Song, “Young and Bipolar: Once called manic depression, the disorder afflicted adults. Now it’s striking kids. Why?” in Time Magazine, Aug 19, 2002. On-line on Blackboard.

Thanksgiving Break

Final Exam Questions will be posted on Blackboard.

Nov 30: Corporate Medicine

Roy Porter, “Medicine in Modern Society”, in Blood and Guts, pp. 153-170.

John B. McKinlay and Lisa D. Wertz, “The End of the Golden Age of Doctoring” in Sociology of Health and Illness, pp. 189-214.

Arnold S. Relman, “The Health Care Industry: Where is it taking us?”, in Sociology of Health and Illness, pp. 268-274

Dec 2: Alternative medicine

Matthew Schneirov et. al. “Alternative Health and the Challenges of Institutionalization”, in Sociology of Health and Illness, pp. 366-376.

Kevin Grumbach and Janet Coffman, ”Physicians and Nonphysician Clinicians: Complements or Competitors?”, in JAMA, 280/9. 1998, pp. 825-826. On-line on Blackboard.

Terri Winnick, “From Quackery to Complementary Medicine: The American Medical Profession Confronts Alternative Therapies”, in Social Problems. 5/1. 2005. On-line on Blackboard.

Recommended:

Rose Weitz, “Other Mainstream and Alternative Health Care Providers’, in The Sociology of Health, Illness, and Health Care. Thomson Wadsworth: Belmont, CA. 2007: 361-395.

Harry Collins and Trevor Pinch: “Alternative Medicine: The Case of Vitamin C and Cancer, in Dr. Golem: How to Think About Medicine.

Final Exam due Dec 9th ..