

Jacqueline Hart
Sociology of Medicine and Culture (230-601)

Spring 2003

Class Room: Bennett Hall 327

Monday 5:30-8:40

Office: McNeil 560

Office Hours: Monday 4:30-5:15, and by appointment

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Course Materials:

There are three required books and a bulkpack. The course materials are available for purchase as well as on reserve in Rosengarten.

Books:

House of Our Own Bookstore

3920 Spruce Street

Phone: 215-222-1576

- 1) Lupton, Deborah. 1994. *Medicine as Culture: Illness, Disease and the Body in Western Societies*. California: Sage Publications.
- 2) Fadiman, Anne. 1997. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong child, her American doctors, and the collision of two cultures*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.
- 3) Ohnuki-Tierney, Emiko. 1984. *Illness and Culture in Contemporary Japan: An anthropological view*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Bulkpack:

Campus Copy Center

3907 Walnut Street

Phone: 215-386-6410

Writing resource:

A resource that is available to all of you is WATU (writing across the university), their web-site is: www.sas.upenn.edu/writing

Grading

35%- Participation (attendance, informed participation, reading questions)

5%- Research proposal

10%- Reading response paper

10%- Interview assignment

40%- Final paper and presentation

Late assignments may be penalized by a drop in your grade.
Anyone who misses more than two classes may have their grade dropped.

On-Going Assignments:

The reading listed for a class date is the reading you are to have completed before that class. You should do each week's readings before completing the assignment for that class. Everyone must hand in at least one question/comment about the readings for every class. Please EMAIL me the question by 10 am on the day of class and bring the question with you to class.

Course Description:

This course is intended as an introduction to the Sociology of Medicine and Culture. We will take a critical and cultural perspective on the study of health, illness, and medicine. We will address questions such as: What aspects of society shape the experience of health and illness? What constitutes illness? Why do definitions of health and illness matter? Is health individually determined? Why is a sociological and cultural perspective on health, illness, and medicine important or useful?

This class will function as a workshop, not a lecture class. In order for this class to be fruitful you must all do all of the readings assigned to you, you must do all of the assignments on time, and you must actively participate in class exercises and discussions. I would like for this class to be enjoyable as well as instructive, to this end I would appreciate any feedback you have regarding the readings and exercises assigned to you.

READINGS

Jan 13:

Introductions and overview of the course.

Preliminary discussion of research projects - topic, literature review, methods.

(For those of you who have not taken any qualitative methods course please see me for the methods readings.)

Review of resources for the sociology of health, illness, medicine and culture.

Jan 20: Introduction to the Sociology of Culture, Health and Illness

Be prepared to discuss your proposed research project (including what your research question/topic/interest is, and how it relates to the sociology of medicine and culture) in class.

Read and discuss hand-out (excerpt from *The Fractured Community: Landscapes of Power and Gender in Rural Zambia*, by Kate Crehan)

*Introduction; Chapter 1: Theoretical Perspectives on Medicine and Society; Chapter 2: The Body in Medicine; Chapter 3: Representations of Medicine, Illness, and Disease in Elite and Popular Culture (pp. 1-78). In Lupton, Deborah. 1994. *Medicine as Culture: Illness, Disease and the Body in Western Societies*. California: Sage Publications.

Qualitative methods readings:

Introduction and Chapter 1: Starting Where You Are, Chapter 2: Evaluating Data Sites, Chapter 3: Getting In, Chapter 6: Thinking Topics. In Lofland and Lofland . *Analyzing Social Settings: A Guide to Qualitative Observation and Analysis*, Third Edition, by Lofland and Lofland.

If you think that you would like to conduct part of your research on the internet (i.e. a chat room) then you should read the optional internet readings (please ask me for these readings).

Jan 27: Guest Speaker

Professor Renee C. Fox

Introduction (p. 1-15); Training for Uncertainty (p. 19-50); Organ Transplantation: Sociocultural aspects (p. 115-121); The Medicalization and Demedicalization of American Society (p. 465-483). In Renee C. Fox, 1988, *Essays in Medical Sociology: Journeys into the Field*. New Brunswick: Transaction Books.

Feb 3: Guest speaker

Assignment: Research proposal due (approximately 2 paragraphs specifying your proposed research topic/question/interest, and methods)

Dr. Sarah Eichberg

Feb 10: The doctor-patient relationship, and The lay perspective on illness

Assignment: Bring a draft of an interview schedule with you to class.

Parsons, Talcott. 1975. "The Sick Role and the Role of the Physician Re-considered." *The Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly*.

*Chapter 4: The lay perspective on illness; Chapter 5: Power Relations and the Medical Encounter (p. 179-130). In Lupton, Deborah. 1994. *Medicine as Culture: Illness, Disease and the Body in Western Societies*. California: Sage Publications.

Gordon, Deborah R. 1990. Embodying Illness, Embodying Cancer. *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry*, 14: 275-297.

Feb 17: Illness and Culture in Japan

"Questions about Fieldstudy Reports" (pp. 233-236), In Lofland and Lofland . *Analyzing Social Settings: A Guide to Qualitative Observation and Analysis*, Third Edition, by Lofland and Lofland.

*Introduction and Part I: Basic concepts and attitudes toward health and illness (p. 1-88). Ohnuki-Tierney, Emiko. 1984. *Illness and Culture in Contemporary Japan: An anthropological view*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Feb 24: Illness and culture in Japan (continued)

“Questions about Fieldstudy Reports” (pp. 233-236), In Lofland and Lofland . *Analyzing Social Settings: A Guide to Qualitative Observation and Analysis*, Third Edition, by Lofland and Lofland.

*Part II: Medical Pluralism (p. 89-225). Ohnuki-Tierney, Emiko. 1984. *Illness and Culture in Contemporary Japan: An anthropological view*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

March 3: Medicalization, The Social Construction of Illness, and Illness as Metaphor

Interview assignment due: Hand in an interview and field notes, with a preliminary analysis (it is preferable but not required that you transcribe the interview.)
Approximately 5 pages.

Conrad, Peter. 1975. “The Discovery of Hyperkinesis: Notes on the Medicalization of Deviant Behavior” *Social Problems*, 23: 12-21.

Smith, Barbara Ellen. 1986. “Black Lung: The Social Production of Disease.” (pp. 50-63) In Peter Conrad and Rochelle Kern eds., *The Sociology of Health and Illness: Critical Perspectives*. New York: St. Martin’s Press.

Illness as Metaphor (pp. 3-87). In Sontag, Susan. 1989. *Illness as Metaphor and AIDS and It’s Metaphors*. New York: Anchor Books (Doubleday).

March 10: Culture, Health, Illness, and Medicine

Assignment: Reading response paper due (approximately 2 pages).

“Questions about Fieldstudy Reports” (pp. 233-236), In Lofland and Lofland . *Analyzing Social Settings: A Guide to Qualitative Observation and Analysis*, Third Edition, by Lofland and Lofland.

*Fadiman, Anne. 1997. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong child, her American doctors, and the collision of two cultures*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.

Spring Break March 8-16

March 17: Documentary

Documentary: Sound and Fury (documentary about the debate over the cochlear implant, and the speaking and deaf worlds)

March 24: Culture, Gender, and Health

*Chapter 6: Feminisms and Medicine; Conclusion (p. 131-162). In Lupton, Deborah. 1994. *Medicine as Culture: Illness, Disease and the Body in Western Societies*. California: Sage Publications.

Kaufert, Patricia A. and Penny Gilbert. 1986. Women, Menopause, and Medicalization. *Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry*, vol. 10/1: 7-22.

Chapter 7: Reflections on the Transfer of “Progress”: The Case of Reproduction (pp.150-177). In Susan Sherwin, ed. *The Politics of Women’s Health: Exploring Agency and Autonomy*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

March 31: “Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood”, and Literature review discussion

Assignment: Be prepared to discuss your literature review (you do not need to hand it in now, it will be part of your final paper).

Chapter 5: Women and the Right to Abortion; Chapter 6: The Emergence of the Right to Life Movement; Chapter 7: Worldviews of the Activists; Chapter 8: Motherhood and Morality in America; Chapter 9: The Future of the Debate. In Kristin Luker, 1984, *Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood*. California: University of California Press.

April 7: Morality, Health, and Prevention

Conrad, Peter. 1994. “Wellness as Virtue: Morality and the Pursuit of Health.” *Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry*, 18: 385-401.

Lippman, Abby. 1998. The Politics of Health: Geneticization Versus Health Promotion. In Susan Sherwin, ed. *The Politics of Women’s Health: Exploring Agency and Autonomy*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press: 64-82.

Sachs, Lisbeth. 1995. “Is There a Pathology of Prevention? The Implications of Visualizing the Invisible in Screening Programs.” *Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry*, 19: 503-525.

Taylor, Rosemary C.R. 1989. The Politics of Prevention. In Phil Brown, ed. *Perspectives in Medical Sociology*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company: 368-388.

Adelsward, Viveka, and Lisbeth Sachs. 1996. “The Meaning of 6.8: Numeracy and Normality in Health Information Talks.” *Social Science and Medicine*, Vol. 43(8): 1179-1187.

Fitzgerald, Faith T. 1994. "The Tyranny of Health." *New England Journal of Medicine*, July 21: 196-198.

Ehrenreich, Barbara. 1995. "The Naked Truth About Fitness." *The Snarling Citizen*. New York: Harper Perennial: 59-64.

April 14: Final presentations

Half of the class will give a presentation based on their research projects.
Final papers due (approximately 10 pages).

April 21: Final presentations

Half of the class will give a presentation based on their research projects.