

Sociology 325: Departmental Seminar for Juniors
Social Influences on the Experience of Health, Illness and Disability
Spring 2009

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Class Meeting: Tuesday/Thursday 1:15pm – 2:30pm; 106 Mandel Center

Course Summary

Getting sick and getting well are typically viewed as individual experiences. We are advised to maintain our good health through personal health behaviors such as taking our Vitamin C, exercising, and eating a healthy diet. When we get sick or injured, we are instructed to follow the doctor's orders to make a full recovery. Yet the experience of health and illness is influenced by many social, economic, and political forces beyond the individual decisions one may make. In this class, we will examine the distribution of health and illness in the United States and focus specifically on the influences that are external to the individual yet directly influence health. We will read a series of monographs, often written in first person, that detail the experience of illness and disability in the United States. These compelling books range in topics from managing childhood cancer to unethical medical experimentation to commodification of long term care. They all share a common theme, which is that our experience of health, illness, and disability is caused and shaped by social structural forces that are often unrecognized.

Books

Abraham, Laurie Kaye. 1993. *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead: The Failure of Health Care in Urban America*. University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 0-266-00139-3

Diamond, Timothy. 1995. *Making Gray Gold: Narratives of Nursing Home Care*. University of Chicago Press. ISBN-10: 0226144747

Grealy, Lucy. 2003 (Revised Edition). *Autobiography of a Face*. Perennial Press. ISBN: 0-06-056966-2

Jones, James H. 1993. *Bad Blood: The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment*. Free Press. ISBN-10: 0029166764

Penney, Darby and Peter Stastny. 2008. *The Lives They Left Behind: Suitcases from a State Hospital Attic*. Bellevue Literary Press. ISBN: 978-1-934137-07-9

Zola, Irving. 2003 (Revised Edition). *Missing Pieces: A Chronicle of Living with a Disability*. Temple University Press. ISBN-10: 1592132448

Grade Distribution

Item	Points
Book Paper 1	100
Book Paper 2	100
Book Paper 3	100
Book Paper 4	100
Discussion Questions	50
Participation	50
Total	500 pts

Book Papers

You will write a paper on four of the six books we read in this class. You will select which four you want to write about. Each paper will be no more than 10 double-spaced pages. It will be a sociological analysis of the topic, drawing from theoretical and empirical sociological literature. Further instructions will be posted on Blackboard.

Book	Due Date
<i>Bad Blood</i>	February 3
<i>Autobiography of a Face</i>	February 19
<i>Mama Might Be Better Off Dead</i>	March 17
<i>Missing Pieces</i>	March 31
<i>The Lives They Left Behind</i>	April 9
<i>Making Gray Gold</i>	May 1

Discussion Questions

Four times during the semester, you will submit three discussion questions from the reading to Dr. Kelley-Moore (you will sign up for your dates at the beginning of the semester). Questions are due *the day prior to class by 3pm* (e.g., Monday at 3pm for a Tuesday class). The questions should be critical thinking questions that will help the class explore the underlying themes and issues during the discussions. The purpose of these Discussion Questions is to allow you help direct class discussion.

Class Participation

Since this is a seminar course where we read books, class participation is critically important. It is expected that all students will participate in the class by coming to class

prepared and contributing to the discussions. The purpose of the reading days is to give students the opportunity to read the book prior to the class discussion of the text. Students are expected to have completed reading the book by the time we begin discussion of it.

Class participation will be graded on the quality of contributions and regular participation. Students are invited to bring supplemental materials to class (e.g., newspaper article) that are relevant to the discussion.

Policy on Late Work and Extensions

All assignments have posted due dates and times. Work that is submitted after the deadline will lose 5 points per day. Deadline extensions may be granted but must be requested in advance.

Academic Honesty

It is my hope that this is an unnecessary statement about academic honesty. You are responsible for producing original work in this course. Intellectual property includes the ideas, words, statements, and concepts that are produced by an individual. It is wrong to take any of these without giving credit where it is due.

Here are a few guidelines for you:

1. If you take 3 or more words in a row from any source, it must be in quotation marks and followed by the author's last name, year of publication, and page number. THIS INCLUDES CONTENT FROM THE WEB. Web content should be cited with the web page, author, and date retrieved.
2. If you take ideas or facts from a source but use your own words, you still must use a citation (author's last name and year of publication) to give credit to the source of the work.
3. You MAY NOT take the words, statements, or ideas of other students who are currently or previously in this class. This includes borrowing the work of another student and simply rephrasing it.
4. The work you produce in this class must be original. You cannot use a paper that you have previously or simultaneously submitted to another class.
5. Do not give copies of your work to other students. If someone copies your work, both of you will be considered guilty and will receive equal discipline for the action.

Consequences for breaches of academic honesty such as those mentioned above will result in failure for the assignment. A second instance will result in failure for the course.

Schedule

January 12 – Reading Day

January 14 – Reading Day

January 20 – Jones, James H. 1993. *Bad Blood: The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment*.

January 22 - Jones, James H. 1993. *Bad Blood: The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment*.

January 27 - Jones, James H. 1993. *Bad Blood: The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment*.

January 28 - Jones, James H. 1993. *Bad Blood: The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment*.

February 3 - Reading Day

Book Paper Due [*Bad Blood*]

February 5 - Grealy, Lucy. 2003. *Autobiography of a Face*.

February 10 - Grealy, Lucy. 2003. *Autobiography of a Face*.

February 12 - Grealy, Lucy. 2003. *Autobiography of a Face*.

February 17 - Grealy, Lucy. 2003. *Autobiography of a Face*.

February 19 – Reading Day

Book Paper Due [*Autobiography of a Face*]

February 24 - Abraham, Laurie Kaye. 1993. *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead*

February 26 - Abraham, Laurie Kaye. 1993. *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead*

March 3 - Abraham, Laurie Kaye. 1993. *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead*

March 5 - Abraham, Laurie Kaye. 1993. *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead*

March 10 – Spring Break

March 12 – Spring Break

March 17 – Zola, Irving. 2003. *Missing Pieces: A Chronicle of Living with a Disability*.

Book Paper Due [*Mama Might Be Better Off Dead*]

March 19 - Zola, Irving. 2003. *Missing Pieces: A Chronicle of Living with a Disability*.

March 24 - Zola, Irving. 2003. *Missing Pieces: A Chronicle of Living with a Disability*.

March 26 - Zola, Irving. 2003. *Missing Pieces: A Chronicle of Living with a Disability*.

March 31 – Reading Day

Book Paper Due [*Missing Pieces*]

April 2 - Penney, Darby and Peter Stastny. 2008. *The Lives They Left Behind: Suitcases from a State Hospital Attic*.

April 7 - Penney, Darby and Peter Stastny. 2008. *The Lives They Left Behind: Suitcases from a State Hospital Attic*.

April 9 - Penney, Darby and Peter Stastny. 2008. *The Lives They Left Behind: Suitcases from a State Hospital Attic*.

April 14 – Reading Day

Book Paper Due [*The Lives They Left Behind*]

April 16 - Diamond, Timothy. 1995. *Making Gray Gold: Narratives of Nursing Home Care*.

April 21 - Diamond, Timothy. 1995. *Making Gray Gold: Narratives of Nursing Home Care*.

April 23 - Diamond, Timothy. 1995. *Making Gray Gold: Narratives of Nursing Home Care*.

May 1

Book Paper Due [*Making Gray Gold*]