HS 2000A – Critical Issues and Debates in the Health Sciences

Who? The instructor is Dr. Ken Kirkwood, Room #211, A & S Labatt Health Sciences Building. X86583, kkirkwo2@uwo.ca

Where & When? Wednesdays, 7-9pm, Room #40, Labatt Health Sciences Building

What is it? Developments and greater integration between disparate fields of interest in the Health Sciences in the 21st century are examined in this survey course. Topics include: Social epidemiological approaches to health, issues of aging and senescence, environmental impacts on human health, paediatrics, social epidemiology, and philosophical perspectives on health

What are we learning?
September 15th – Class introductions and syllabus review
→ readings for this class – 1.) the syllabus

September 22nd – What is health? It’s a simple idea….right?
→ readings for this class – 1.) WHO Constitution 2.) How Should Health be Defined? 3.) WHO needs to reconsider its’ definition of health.

September 29th – “I am so happy I’m finally HIV Positive” When health is unhealthy?
→ readings for this class – 1.) Bareback sex, bug chasers and the gift of death

October 6th – “Weight loss makes you feel better about yourself???” part 1 – Apotemnophilia
→ readings for this class – A New Way to be Mad (pts.1-3)
October 13th – “Weight loss makes you feel better about yourself???” part 2 – Thinspiration
→ readings for this class – Ana & the Internet: A Review of Pro-Anorexia Websites

October 20th – “Postal codes, not genetic codes.” What is social epidemiology?
→ listening for this class – CBC Ideas, “Sick People or Sick Societies” parts 1 & 2

October 27th – “You’ll go blind, eat less fat, and other lies my Mother told me”
→ reading for this class – How the Ideology of Low-Fat Conquered America

November 3rd – “You are what you eat” In-class project (details in “Assignments” section)

November 10th – “You are what you eat, part 2” In-class project (details in “Assignments” section)

November 17th – Discussion Class re: “You are what you eat.”

November 24th – TBA

December 1st – “Old folks like sex too” – guest speaker Michelle Allain on sex & the elderly.
→ readings TBA

December 8th – TBA

How are we marked?

Participation = 25%

• Did you attend, stay awake and contribute?
• Did your fellow students learn something from you?
• Did you contribute either in class or on the discussion threads on WebCT?
• Quality and quantity matter...talk lots but say something at the same time.
In-Class projects = 2 x 20% = 40%

Project #1: Eating Well is Not Cheap?

- Partner with one or two other people (groups of no less than 2, no more than 3)
- Choose an easily accessible grocery store in London and go there
- While there, you will be ‘pretend-shopping’ for a mother and two children (aged 7 & 9)
- You will be attempting to ‘cost-out’ the appropriate number of calories and nutrients necessary for that family.
- Write up your findings in a short report (informal in style, but include complete data please!) and submit by email no later than Nov.17th.

Project #2: Eating Badly is Easier?

- Read the assigned reading first
- Partner with one or two other people (groups of no less than 2, no more than 3)
  - Same groups or different, I don’t care
- Choose an easily accessible grocery store in London and go there
- Examine the layout of the grocery store for the features mentioned in the reading.
- Write up your findings in a short report (informal in style, but include complete data please!) and submit by email no later than Nov.24th.

Final Exam = 35%

- Final exams are scheduled by the Registrar’s Office
- 2 hours (maximum), multiple choice (5 items, no multiple-multiples)

Is there anything else we should know?

In life, always. But for this class, please check the policies and other documents as they appear on our WebCT page.

School of Health Studies