Syllabus HS-4220G
Health Issues Among Marginalized Populations
Dr. Treena Orchard
Winter 2016

Syllabus for HS 4220G: Health Issues Among Marginalized Populations

Instructor: Dr. Treena Orchard
Class: Monday- 1.30-2.30 + Wednesday- 2.30-4.30
Room: HSB- 9
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Course Description
This is an advanced undergraduate course in health sciences that examines from critical perspectives, namely medical anthropology, feminism, and political-economy theory, a series of health issues that are experienced by a diverse array of marginalized populations. One of the primary objectives of this class is for students to develop an understanding of how macro (i.e., gender, political-economy, race, poverty) and micro (i.e., individual factors within the context of people’s daily lives) forces intersect to produce both marginality and particular health issues/experiences for people who are relegated to, or find themselves on, the margins of society. The course is structured topically, with different populations and issues explored weekly, including: the social geography of mental health; everyday suffering among drug users; youth ‘at risk’; motherhood and surveillance among poor women; the unfortunate legacy of the “elephant man”; the violence of “starlight tours” for Aboriginal people in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; immigrant and working class women’s ideology regarding cancer; a social portrait of a British neurosurgeon who devotes his time to working in impoverished hospitals in the Ukraine; violence and barriers to existence among lesbian women; and the cultural logic and social forces behind constructions of sexually-transmitted diseases. The focus is primarily on the North American context, however, the concepts and ideas employed in the class can also be applied in socio-economic, political, and gendered settings globally.

Class Schedule and Format
The basic format for each class will be as follows: an overview of class objectives, interactive lecture by myself, a break, group work, and class discussion. Although I am going to lecture and lead the discussions of the assigned readings and some additional contextual information, students are strongly encouraged to participate and share their perspectives on the respective themes as much as possible.

Evaluation
Class Attendance 5%
Detailed Outline for Research Paper 15%
Annotated Bibliography for Research Paper 30%
Research Paper 50%
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Details

Class Attendance (5%)
Given the relatively small size of the class, the focus on group work and discussion, along with the marks allotted to attendance you must take part in every class. Regular, punctual class attendance is critical and any absence, along with repeatedly late arrivals to class, will affect your mark. Everyone is expected to have the readings done before class.

Detailed Outline for Research Paper (15%)
The evaluation for this class is built around the research paper, which is due at the end of the course. To that end, each student will begin by preparing an outline for the paper that features a detailed description of the following: statement of objectives; methodology to be used to gather your information (i.e., search engines to be used, key words, basic disciplines from which the data will be sought); a brief overview of the literature that relate to the subject of the paper; the main themes or issues to be explored (with sub-headings if required); concluding discussion regarding the significance of the proposed subject matter. The outline should be 3-4 double-spaced pages.

Annotated Bibliography for Research Paper (30%)
An annotated bibliography gives an account of the research that has been done on a given topic. Like any bibliography, an annotated bibliography is an alphabetical list of research sources. In addition to bibliographic data, an annotated bibliography provides a concise summary of each source and some assessment of its value or relevance. In many ways, it’s like the abstract that prefaces a published academic article. An annotation of an academic source, for example, typically identifies its thesis (or research question, or hypothesis), its major methods of investigation, and its main conclusions. This exercise is intended to help students prepare for their research paper and develop a strong sense of the main issues/arguments within the published literature that pertains to the subject matter of the final paper. Each student must prepare an annotated bibliography of 10 academic sources, and the annotations for each of the 10 sources should be 1 double-spaced paragraph (5-7 sentences each).

Research Paper (50%)
The final research paper constitutes a very important part of the course and the subject matter is entirely up to the students’ discretion. However, it is wise to arrange a meeting with me to discuss your ideas in order to ensure that the topic(s) are in line with my expectations and that they are also feasible. The research paper should feature discussions and analysis of the headings contained in the outline: Introduction, Statement of objectives; Methodology; Overview of the literature; the main Themes/Findings; and a Conclusion, which reiterates the focus of the paper and includes a discussion of the significance of the subject matter. The papers should be 15 double-spaced pages; use standard APA format; cite 15-20 academic references (in-text); should be organized by clearly identifiable headings; and can feature the use of “I” or the “active voice.”

Grading scheme:
I use the format provided below for grading, which is the university-wide scale that has been approved by the UWO Senate:
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A+ 90-100 Exceptional
A  80-89 Superior work, above average
B  70-79 Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C  60-69 Competent work, meeting requirements
D  50-59 Fair work, minimally acceptable
F  below 50 Fail

Policies
Late assignments
All assignments must be turned in on time and only hard copies will be accepted. If you have a medical reason for not being able to complete an assignment or an examination a note from your Physician indicating the severity of your condition must be submitted to the Faculty of Health Sciences Dean’s office. You may visit Western’s Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness at: https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm for further details. If you have a non-medical reason for handing in a late assignment 3% will be deducted per day, including week-ends.

Electronic devices
Cellular phones must be turned off during class and lap-top computers will only be allowed to be open if your work on them pertains to class. You will learn more if you are fully engaged in the materials presented and the discussions.

Plagiarism
The research paper may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the ‘commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All assignments submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com. See the following site for more details: http://www.turnitin.com.

Student Inquiries
If you have any questions or comments regarding the class you may raise them during class or privately through e-mail. If you require information regarding Student Support Services or the Student Development Services, see their Web site: http://www4.registrar.uwo.ca.

Creating a “healthy” classroom
Teaching and learning is a two-way process and to ensure the best and most productive experience for us all I ask that we all be considerate of the following: arrive on time, do not be disruptive, respect one another, and be willing to challenge yourself.

REQUIRED Materials: available in the UWO Bookstore
1 Reading Package + some materials also available on OWL (see below).
Week 1- January 4 & 6, 2016
Introduction to the course and ideas about marginalization in relation to health
Viewing of the film: Maquilaopolis: City of Factories

Week 2- January 11 & 13, 2016
Bio-Social Perspectives on Health Inequalities and Disease Distribution

Week 3- January 18 & 20, 2016
A Different Approach to Mental Health: The Importance of Place and Space


Chris Philo (1997). Across the water: reviewing geographical studies of asylums and other mental health facilities, Health & Place, 3(2), 73-89 * a little tricky

Week 4- January 25 & 27, 2016
Righteous Dopefiends: Structural Forces and Everyday Suffering Among Drug Users

OUTLINES FOR RESEARCH PAPER DUE

Week 5- February 1 & 3, 2016
From “Flying Signs” to Flying High: Youth ‘At Risk’


Viewing the Film: Invisible City
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Week 6- February 8 & 10, 2016
Behind the 8 Ball: Motherhood, Surveillance, and Drug Use Among Poor Women


NO CLASS FEBRUARY 15 & 17th BECAUSE OF READING WEEK (February 15-19)

Week 7- February 22 & 24, 2016
The Legacy of “The Elephant Man”: An Unfortunate(?) Intersection of Science, Stigma, and Sordid Fascination
Y. Michael Barilan (2005). The story of the body and the story of the person: Towards and ethics of representing human bodies and body-parts, Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy, 8, 193-205.


ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHIES DUE

Week 8- February 29 & March 2, 2016
You Can Check Out Any Time You Like, But You Can Never Leave: Social Injustice, Racism, and the Violence of “Starlight Tours”

Week 9- March 7 & 9, 2016
Cancer as a Resistance and Cancer as an Idiom of Distress: Views from Working Class and Immigrant Women

Week 10- March 14 & 16, 2016
The Other Side of the Gurney: Art as Surgical Ethnography and the Life of a Surgeon

*Viewing of the Film: The English Surgeon*

Week 11- March 21 & 23, 2016
A Silence That Often Rears Its Head: Violence and Barriers to Existence Among Lesbian Women


**RESEARCH PAPERS DUE---some flexibility (LAST possible due date is April 4th)**

Week 12- March 28 & 30, 2016
Cultural Logic and Social Forces in the Production of a Particularly Stigmatized Disease: The Case of STDs


Week 13- April 4, 2016
Last day of Class…Film TBA…wrap-up