

Ethnic Studies 142
Medicine, Race, and the Global Politics of Inequality

Fall Quarter, 2004-2005

Tuesdays & Thursdays

11:00-12:20

Pepper Canyon Hall, 122

Office hours: Mondays, 1:00-2:30 (Social Sciences 231)

Thursdays, 1:30-3:00 in CILAS (Gildred Hall, Institute of the Americas Complex, below RIMAC)

Instructor: Charles L. Briggs

E-mail: clbriggs@weber.ucsd.edu

Telephone: 534-6050

At the same time that medical research has made great breakthroughs in recent years in grasping the mechanisms that underlie a range of pathologies, people have become alarmed worldwide with the threat from infectious diseases. While such “new” diseases such as AIDS, Ebola, and Hanta virus have become public concerns, “old” killers that many public health practitioners had assumed no longer posed much of a threat—such as tuberculosis, cholera, and malaria—have become more widespread and have, in some cases, developed lethal new strains. The terribly unequal distribution of some of these diseases, both within and between nation-states, has rendered visible the way that differences of race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, and nation affect who gets sick and what sort of medical treatment is available.

This course traces the social life of health and disease in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries on a global basis. The focus will be both on inequities in morbidity and mortality and access to health care as well as on how individuals and populations are socially constructed vis-à-vis particular diseases—as victims, carriers, and members of an “at risk group,” and the like. Foci will include the impact of medicine and public health on colonialism, immigration, social and economic policy, and the present global circulation of capital, culture, people, and germs. Recent work that presents health and disease as central to discussions of citizenship, human rights, and social justice are included.

Requirements:

(1) Careful preparation of readings and participation in class discussions. Students are responsible on examinations for lecture material and all readings, even when they are not directly covered in class. Readings should be completed before coming to class.

(2) Mid-term examination, in class.

(3) A five-page essay on an assigned topic; that bridges the readings with contemporary issues in medicine, public health, and race; due in the eighth week.

(4) A final examination (that will focus primarily on the second half of the class, but will ask students to integrate the perspectives offered by the authors of readings covered in the first half).

Grading: The midterm will count toward 35 percent of the final grade, the essay will count for 25 percent, and the final exam the other 40 percent. Attendance is obligatory, and final grades will be lowered in cases of repeated absences. Contributions to class discussion will be considered in deciding grades at the margin.

Required texts (available at Groundwork):

Arnold, David. 1993. *Colonizing the Body: State Medicine and Epidemic Disease in Nineteenth-Century India*. Berkeley: University of California.

Briggs, Charles L., with Clara Mantini-Briggs. 2003. *Stories in the Time of Cholera: Racial Profiling in a Medical Nightmare*. Berkeley: University of California.

Briggs, Laura. 2002. *Reproducing Empire: Race, Sex, Science, and U.S. Imperialism in Puerto Rico*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Epstein, Steven. 1996. *Impure Science: AIDS, Activism, and the Politics of Knowledge*. Berkeley: University of California.

Farmer, Paul. 2003. *Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor*. Berkeley: University of California.

Kraut, Alan M. 1994. *Silent Travelers: Germs, Genes, and the "Immigrant Menace."* Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Shah, Nayan. 2001. *Contagious Divides: Epidemics and Race in San Francisco's Chinatown*. Berkeley: University of California.

Reader: Available from the UCSD Library through **E-Reserves**

Recommended Readings: These sources are provided to give students who would like to deepen their knowledge of a particular area some suggested sources. *These readings are not required, and they will not appear on exams.*

Schedule of meetings and topics:

23 September

1. Introduction: Racializing Disease and Infecting Race

Reading:

Smedley, Brian D., Adrienne Y. Stith, and Alan R. Nelson. 2002. Summary. In *Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care*, Brian D. Smedley, Adrienne Y. Stith, and Alan R. Nelson, eds., pp. 1-27. Washington, DC: National Academies Press.

28-30 September

2. Infectious Inequalities: Is Access to Health Care a Human Right?

Reading:

Farmer, *Pathologies of Power*, Introduction, chap. 1-2, 4-6, 8-9

Recommended Readings:

Breilh, Jaime. 2003. *Epidemiología crítica: Ciencia emancipadora e interculturalidad* (Buenos Aires: Lugar Editorial, 2003).

Waitzkin, Howard. 1983. *The Second Sickness: Contradictions of Capitalist Health Care*. New York: Free Press.

Navarro, Vicente. 1993. *Dangerous to Your Health: Capitalism in Health Care*. New York: Monthly Review Press.

5-7 October

3. Creating Sanitary Citizens and Unsanitary Subjects: Immigration, Hygienic Discipline, and Public Health in the United States

Reading:

Kraut, *Silent Travelers*, Intro, 31-77, 105-35, 166-96, 232-72

Recommended readings:

Leavitt, Judith Walzer. 1996. *Typhoid Mary: Captive to the Public's Health*. Boston: Beacon.

Rosenberg, Charles. 1962. *The Cholera Years: The United States in 1832, 1849, and 1866*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

12-14 October

4. Colonialism as Medical Salvation: Empire, Epidemics, and Subalterns in 19th Century India

Reading:

Arnold, *Colonizing the Body*, pp. 1-60, 116-159, 200-294

Recommended reading:

Anderson, Warwick. 1997. The Trespass Speaks: White Masculinity and Colonial Breakdown. *American Historical Review* 102(5):1343-70.

Anderson, Warwick. 2002. *The Cultivation of Whiteness: Science, Health and Racial Destiny in Australia*. Melbourne: Melbourne University Press.

Vaughan, Megan. 1991. *Curing Their Ills: Colonial Power and African Illness*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

12-19 October

5. Colonialism, Gender, and the Politics of Sterilization in Puerto Rico

Reading:

Laura Briggs, *Reproducing Empire*

Film and discussion: *La operación*

Recommended reading:

López, Iris. 1998. An Ethnography of the Medicalization of Puerto Rican Women's Reproduction. In *Pragmatic Women and Body Politics*, Margaret Lock and Patricia Kaufert, eds. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Hunt, Nancy Rose. 1999. *A Colonial Lexicon of Birth Ritual, Medicalization, and Mobility in the Congo*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

21 October

Midterm examination

26 October

6. The Wages of Race: Environmental Racism and Social Justice

Readings:

Bullard, Robert D. 1990. *Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class, and Environmental Quality*. Boulder: Westview Press. Pp. 21-36. [on electronic reserves]

Robinson, William Paul. 1992. Uranium Production and Its Effects on Navajo Communities Along the Rio Puerco in Western New Mexico. In *Race and the Incidence of Environmental Hazards: A Time for Discourse*, Bunyan Bryant and Paul Mohai, eds. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. Pp. 153-62. [on electronic reserves]

Navarro, Vicente. 1993. *Dangerous to Your Health: Capitalism in Health Care*. New York: Monthly Review Press. Pp. 100-113. [on electronic reserves]

Pellow, David Naquib, and Lisa Sun-Hee Park. 2003. *The Silicon Valley of Dreams: Environmental Injustice, Immigrant Workers, and the High-Tech Global Economy*. New York: New York University Press. Chap. 4. [on electronic reserves]

Recommended Readings:

Bullard, Robert D., ed. 1994. *Unequal Protection: Environmental Justice and Communities of Color*, Robert D. Bullard. San Francisco: Sierra Club.

Hill, Kathy. 1994. Impacts of the Energy Industry on the Navajo and Hopi. In *Unequal Protection: Environmental Justice and Communities of Color*, Robert D. Bullard, ed., pp. 130-54. San Francisco: Sierra Club.

Szasz, Andrew and Michael Meuser. 1997. Environmental Inequalities: Literature Review and Proposals for New Directions in Research and Theory. *Current Sociology* 45: 99-120.

28 October – 2 November

7. Health, Race, Sexuality: Biopolitical Foundations of Immigration Policy

Reading:

Shah, *Contagious Divides*, chap 1-5, 7-8

Recommended Readings:

Foucault, Michel. 1973. *The Birth of the Clinic: An Archaeology of Medical Perception*. Translated by Alan Sheridan. London: Tavistock.

_____. 1978. *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction*, vol 1. Translated by Robert Hurley. New York: Vintage.

4-9 November

8. Medical Resistance in the United States: Social Movements and Scientific Authority

Reading:

Epstein, *Impure Science*, Introduction, pp. 1-264, 330-53

Recommended Readings:

Farmer, Paul. 1992. *AIDS and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame*. Berkeley: University of California.

Patton, Cindy. 1990. *Inventing AIDS*. New York: Routledge.

_____. 1996. *Fatal Advice: How Safe-Sex Education Went Wrong*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press.

11 November: no class

16-18 November

8. Gender, Culture, and Everyday Death: “Bad Mothers,” Disposable Bodies, and Other Modern Artifacts

Readings:

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. 1992. *Death without Weeping: The Violence of Everyday Life in Brazil*. Berkeley: University of California., chap. 6. [on electronic reserves]

Fadiman, Anne. 1998. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, chap. 3-7. [on electronic reserves]

Hunt, Nancy Rose. 1999. *A Colonial Lexicon of Birth Ritual, Medicalization, and Mobility in the Congo*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chap 6. [on electronic reserves]

Recommended readings:

Santiago-Irizarry, Vilma. 1996. “Culture as Cure.” *Cultural Anthropology* 11(1):3–24.

Navarro, Vicente. Race or Class, or Race and Class. *International Journal of Health Services* 19(2):311-14.

23-30 November

Medical Immutable Mobiles: How Representations of Unsanitary Subjects Travel Across Borders

Reading:

Briggs with Mantini-Briggs, *Stories in the Time of Cholera*, Introduction, chap 1, 4-6, 9-13

Recommended Readings:

Armada, Francisco, Carlos Muntaner, and Vicente Navarro. 2001. Health and Social Security Reforms in Latin America: The Convergence of the World Health Organization, the World Bank, and Transnational Corporations. *International Journal of Health Services* 31(4): 729-768.

Cohen, Lawrence. *No Aging in India: Alzheimer's, the Bad Family, and Other Modern Things*. Berkeley: University of California.

Das, Veena. 1995. Suffering, Legitimacy and Healing: The Bhopal Case.” In *Critical Events: An Anthropological Perspective on Contemporary India*, 137–174. Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Pigg, Stacy Leigh. 2001. Languages of Sex and AIDS in Nepal: Notes on the Social Production of Commensurability. *Cultural Anthropology* 16(4):481-541.

2 December

Wrap up and discussion

7 December 2004, Tuesday, 11:30-2:30

Final Examination