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THE POLITICS OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH, FROM SMALLPOX TO STEM CELLS

This course focuses on the politics of health and biomedicine in comparative and international context. We will investigate health care systems in both the developed and developing world from the 20th century to the present, comparing not only the evolution of approaches to health care, but also the relative roles of physicians, patient advocacy groups, industry, and other third parties. We will also discuss the emergence of global approaches toward health and medicine, by exploring international legal and policy agreements as well as the activities of international non-governmental organizations. The course will cover many major themes in health and medical policy in historical perspective, including the structures of health care and medical institutions, the dynamics of doctor/patient relationships, legal and regulatory frameworks for both health and medicine, the roles of the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, patient activism and social movements, intellectual property issues, and the conduct of biomedical research. Each broad theme will be explored through case studies, from the smallpox epidemic to contemporary debates about stem cell research, the birth of biotechnology to the development of oral contraceptive technology.

Course Readings (available for purchase and on reserve):

Fort, Meredith, Mary Anne Mercer, and Oscar Gish, editors. *Sickness and Wealth: The Corporate Assault on Global Health*. Cambridge, MA: South End Press, 2004.
Cori Hayden. *When Nature Goes Public: The Making and Unmaking of Bioprospecting in Mexico*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2003.
Inhorn, Marcia C., *Local Babies, Global Science: Gender, Religion and In Vitro Fertilization in Egypt*. New York: Routledge, 2003.

All other readings will be available online.

Course Requirements:

25% Class participation
35% Take-Home Midterm Exam
40% Final Paper

1. Class Participation (25% of final grade):

Because this is a discussion-intensive course, students are expected to keep up with weekly readings and come to class each week prepared with questions and topics for discussion. **Both attendance and participation are mandatory and will be important**

parts of your final grade. In addition, each student will be required to present at least one class's readings. This presentation should include a short write-up (2-4 pages) to be distributed to the class via e-mail **by midnight** on the eve of the day's class, and a short presentation (10-15 minutes) at the beginning of the class to introduce the readings and issues for discussion. The presentation should link together the week's readings, make connections to readings from previous weeks, develop broader themes, and raise critical questions and issues for discussion. **Do not summarize the readings in your writeup. Everyone is expected to have done the readings, so do the writeup with that fact in mind.** You are encouraged to develop creative presentations (multimedia, handouts, dramatic readings...) to facilitate understanding and discussion of the readings. **All students are expected to have read and prepared comments for the presenter's written commentary before class.**

We will begin each class with a brief (~5 minutes) discussion of what is going on in the contemporary politics of international and global health. The best way to find out what's going on in contemporary biomedicine and contribute to the discussion is to keep your eye on newspapers, magazines, and popular scientific journals like *Scientific American*. Check out *The New York Times* (<http://www.nytimes.com>) Science Times section, which runs every Tuesday. You can also set your *New York Times* online subscription to track what's going on in contemporary biomedicine (and send you relevant e-mails) by putting specific search words like "health" or "medicine," or even something more specific like "genetics."

2. Take-Home Midterm Exam and Final Paper (75% of final grade):

The majority of your grade is based on completion of two written assignments. The take-home midterm exam will require you to respond to two essay questions (~10 pages total). The final paper will respond to one question, and will be assigned in advance (9-12 pages). **These deadlines are not negotiable, and your paper grade will be reduced by one full grade for each day late (e.g., from A to B).**

Schedule of Course Readings:

April 6, 2005: Introduction to the Course

April 13, 2005: The Politics of International Health in Historical Perspective

Sanjoy Bhattacharya. "Uncertain Advances: A Review of the Final Phases of the Smallpox Eradication Program in India, 1960-1980." *American Journal of Public Health*. 94 (2004): 1875-1882.

Christopher Abel. "External Philanthropy and Domestic Change in Colombian Health Care: The Role of the Rockefeller Foundation, ca. 1920-1950." *The Hispanic American Historical Review*. 75 (1995): 339-376.

Anne-Emanuelle Birn and Armando Solórzano. "Public health policy paradoxes: science and politics in the Rockefeller Foundation's hookworm campaign in Mexico in the 1920s." *Social Science & Medicine*. 49 (1999): 1197-1213.

Banta, James E. "From International Health to Global Health." *Journal of Community Health*. 26 (2001): 73-76.

Nicholas B. King. "Security, Disease, Commerce: Ideologies of Postcolonial Global Health." *Social Studies of Science*. 32 (2002): 763-789.
In Sickness and Wealth. Introduction.

April 20, 2005: The Landscape of Global Health Care

In Sickness and Wealth. Chapter Two through Seven.

Kent Buse and Gill Walt, "Globalisation and multilateral public-private health partnerships: issues for health policy?" *Health Policy in a Globalising World*.

April 27, 2005: Global Trade and Public Health

Shaffer, Ellen R., Howard Waitzkin, Joseph Brenner, and Rebeca Jasso-Aguilar. "Global Trade and Public Health." *American Journal of Public Health*. 95 (2005): 23-34.

M. Kent Ranson, "The Public Health Implications of Multilateral Trade Agreements." *Health Policy in a Globalising World*.

M. Gregg Bloche and Elizabeth R. Jungman. "Health Policy and the WTO." *Journal of Law, Medicine, and Ethics*. Winter 2003.

Lilani Kumaranayake and Sally Lake, "Regulation in the context of global health markets." *Health Policy in a Globalising World*.

In Sickness and Wealth. Chapter Nine and Ten.

May 4, 2005: The Politics of Intellectual Property and "Biopiracy"

Cori Hayden. *When Nature Goes Public: The Making and Unmaking of Bioprospecting in Mexico*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2003. selections.

May 11, 2005: Global Research for Global Health Care?

Paul Farmer and Nicole Gastineau Campos. "New Malaise: Bioethics and Human Rights in the Global Era." *Journal of Law, Medicine, & Ethics*. 32 (2004): 243-251.

Patricia Marshall and Barbara Koenig. "Accounting for Culture in a Globalized Bioethics." *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*. 32 (2004): 252-266.

The International HapMap Consortium. "Integrating ethics and science in the International HapMap Project." *Nature Reviews Genetics*. 5(2004): 467-475.

Goldfarb, Norman M. *Laws, Regulations and Clinical Trial Agreements*.

Initiative on Public-Private Partnerships for Health. *Partnerships for Developing World Health: Decision and Management Issues for Pharmaceutical Companies*. 2003.

MIDTERM PAPER DUE

May 18, 2005: Considering International Technology Transfer

Marcia Inhorn. *Local Babies, Global Science: Gender, Religion, and In Vitro Fertilization in Egypt*. New York: Routledge, 2003. selections.

May 25, 2005: The Emerging Threat of Bioterrorism

H. Jack Geiger. "Terrorism, Biological Weapons, and Bonanzas: Assessing the Real Threat to Public Health." *American Journal of Public Health*. 91 (2001): 708-709.

Nicholas B. King. "The Influence of Anxiety: September 11, Bioterrorism, and American Public Health." *Journal of the History of Medicine*. 58 (2003): 433-441.

Elizabeth Fee and Theodore M. Brown. "Preemptive Biopreparedness: Can We Learn Anything From History?" *American Journal of Public Health*. 91 (2001): 721-726.

[other selections to be added]

June 1: 2005: Emerging Diseases in the International Arena

Nicholas B. King. "The Scale Politics of Emerging Diseases." *Osiris*. 19 (2004): 62-76.
New Yorker Article.

David P. Fidler. "SARS: Political Pathology of the First Post-Westphalian Pathogen."
Journal of Law, Medicine, and Ethics. Winter 2003.

In Sickness and Wealth. Chapters Eleven and Twelve.

Anthony Zwi, "Globalisation, conflict and the humanitarian response." *Health Policy in a Globalising World*.

Cynthia P. Schneider and Michael D. McDonald. "'The King of Terrors' Revisited: The Smallpox Vaccination Campaign and Its Lessons for Future Biopreparedness."
Journal of Law, Medicine, and Ethics. Winter 2003.

Laurie Garrett, "The return of infectious disease." *Foreign Affairs*. Jan-Feb. 1996.

[other selections to be added]

June 8, 2005: Global Consumption and the Future of Health

Jeff Collin, "Think Global, Smoke Local: Transnational Tobacco Companies and Cognitive Globalization." *Health Impacts of Globalization: Towards Global Governance*.

Roy Smith, "The Impact of Globalization on Nutrition Patterns: a Case-Study of the Marshall Islands." *Health Impacts of Globalization: Towards Global Governance*.

Ilona Kickbusch, "Global Health Governance: Some Theoretical Considerations on the New Political Space." *Health Impacts of Globalization: Towards Global Governance*.

June 16, 2005: FINAL PAPER DUE