

Impacts of Economic Inequality on Women's Health

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Course Description

Domestic and global economic inequality places significant numbers of people at high risk for health crises even as they are denied access to care. This course investigates the “pathogenic” aspects of economic inequality. It examines how systems of unequal resource distribution grounded in class, gender, race, ethnicity, nationality and sexuality contribute to wide disparities of health risk, access to health care, and clinical outcomes. It explores how global trade and transnational migration affect health costs, health care delivery systems, and the availability of health care professionals. By tracing links between macro-economic policies and access to health care, the course analyzes pathologies suffered by individual women in the context of structural violence, which is exacerbated by the intersections of gender, class, race, national belonging, and geopolitical power.

Course Requirements

Students are required to complete all assigned readings for the course and actively participate in the online discussion board. The class participation grade will be based on the number, volume, and quality of student comments, which will engage reading materials, films, and lectures (given by the professor and uploaded to the online lecture delivery system). Sustained, astute, and critically engaged class participation is crucial for a successful and productive online classroom experience, and such participation depends largely upon students completing the reading assignments at length. Class discussion will stay closely aligned with the reading assignments for each week. To facilitate candid discussions, it is important that each student manifest respect for the opinions of their classmates. Hostile, intolerant, and insensitive remarks will not be tolerated and will be removed from the online discussion board. **Class participation as described herein will count toward 30 percent of the final grade.**

Each student is required to complete two book reviews, the requirements for which are outlined in the syllabus under “Course Structure.” **Each book review counts toward 20 percent of the final grade; short projects count, in total, toward 40 percent of the final grade.**

There will be a final examination. Students will be given their examination a week prior to its due date and may utilize all course materials (but *only* assigned course materials) to complete the exam. **The final exam will count toward 30 percent of the final grade.**

Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated and will result in serious consequences. If students are ever unclear about the meaning of plagiarism or whether or not their work may be plagiarizing, the student must discuss the issue directly with me. Again, failure to do so may, and most likely will, result in severe punishment. You may also address your inquiries online at <http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>.

Reading Materials

The following books are required for this class. They are available for purchase at the Rutgers University Bookstore (One Penn Plaza, Ferren Mall, New Brunswick, NJ 08901). I have included ISBN numbers if you would prefer to order these books online.

Laurie Kaye Abraham. 1994. *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead: The Failure of Health Care in Urban America*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (ISBN-10: 0226001393; ISBN-13: 978-0226001395)

Anne Fadiman. 2012. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux. (ISBN-10: 0374533407; ISBN-13: 978-0374533403)

Paul Farmer. 2001. *Infections and Inequalities: The Modern Plagues*. Berkeley: The University of California Press. (ISBN-10: 0520229134; ISBN-13: 978-0520229136)

Arthur Kleinman. 1989. *The Illness Narratives: Suffering, Healing, and the Human Condition*. New York: Basic Books. (ISBN-10: 0465032044; ISBN-13: 978-0465032044)

David A. Leon, and Gill Watt, eds. 2001. *Poverty, Inequality and Health: An International Perspective*. New York: Oxford University Press. (ISBN-10: 0192631969; ISBN-13: 978-0192631961)

Anne Firth Murray. 2008. *From Outrage to Courage: Women Taking Action for Health and Justice*. Monroe, ME: Common Courage Press. (ISBN-10: 1567513905; ISBN-13: 978-1567513905)

Meredeth Turshen. 2007. *Women's Health Movements: A Global Force for Change*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. (ISBN-10: 1403978980; ISBN-13: 978-1403978981)

Other readings are drawn from these books, which are not required for this class.

Anne-Emanuelle Birn, Yogan Pillay, and Timothy H. Holtz. 2009. *Textbook of International Health: Global Health in a Dynamic World*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Daniel Callahan, and Angela A. Wasunna. 2006. *Medicine and the Market: Equity v. Choice*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Guy Clifton. 2009. *Flatlined: Resuscitating American Medicine*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Paul Farmer. 2005. *Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

- Meredith Fort, Mary Ann Mercer, and Oscar Gish, eds. 2008. *Sickness and Wealth: The Corporate Assault on Global Health*. Malden, MA: South End Press.
- Michel Foucault. 1998. *Ethics, Subjectivity, and Truth*. Trans. Paul Rabinow. New York: New Press.
- Richard Hofrichter, ed. 2003. *Health and Social Justice: Politics, Ideology, and Inequality in the Distribution of Disease*. San Francisco, CA: John Wiley & Sons.
- Ichiro Kawachi, and Sarah Wamala, eds. 2007. *Globalization and Health*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Ilona Kickbusch, Kari A. Hartwig, and Justin M. List, eds. 2005. *Globalization, Women, and Health in the 21st Century*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Frank J. Lechner, and John Boli, eds. 2012. *The Globalization Reader*. (Fourth Edition) Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers.
- David A. Leon, and Gill Walt, eds. 2001. *Poverty, Inequality and Health: An International Perspective*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Maria Mies. 1999. *Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale: Women in the International Division of Labor*. New York: Zed Books.
- Martha C. Nussbaum. 2001. *Women and Human Development: The Capabilities Approach*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Aihwa Ong, and Stephen J. Collier, eds. 2004. *Global Assemblages: Technology, Politics, and Ethics as Anthropological Problems*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.
- Adriana Petryna, Andrew Lakoff, Arthur Kleinman, eds. 2006. *Global Pharmaceuticals: Ethics, Markets, Practices*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Nalini Visvanathan, Lynn Duggan, Nan Wiegersma, and Laurie Nisonoff, eds. 2011. *The Women, Gender and Development Reader*. New York: Zed Books.
- Evelyn C. White. 1994. *The Black Women's Health Book: Speaking for Ourselves*. (Second Edition) Seattle: Seal Press.

Course Structure

Week # 1: Diagnosing the Problem of the International Division of Health: Part I

Week of Tuesday, September 4th

Poverty, Inequality, and Health: An International Perspective (Leon and Walt, eds.): “Poverty, Inequality, and Health in International Perspective: A Divided World?” 1–16.

Infections and Inequalities: The Modern Plagues (Farmer): “Introduction,” 1–17; Chapter 1, “The Vitality of Practice: On Personal Trajectories,” 18–36; Chapter 2, “Rethinking ‘Emerging Infectious Diseases’,” 37–58; Chapter 3, “Invisible Women: Class, Gender, and HIV,” 59–93; “Miracles and Misery: An Ethnographic Interlude,” 150–157; Chapter 10, “The Persistent Plagues: Biological Expressions of Social Inequalities,” 262–282.

Global Assemblages: Technology, Politics, and Ethics as Anthropological Problems (Ong and Collier, eds.): “Antiretroviral Globalism, Biopolitics, and Therapeutic Citizenship” (Nguyen), 124–144.

Week # 2: Diagnosing the Problem of the International Division of Health: Part II

Week of Monday, September 10th

Sickness and Wealth: The Corporate Assault on Global Health (Ford, Mercer, and Gish, eds.): Chapter 10, “The Political Roots of South Africa’s Epidemic” (Bond), 119–130; Chapter 11, “The Reglobalization of Malaria” (Holtz), 131–143; Chapter 12, “The Battle against Global AIDS” (Davis and Fort), 145–157; Chapter 13, “The Struggles for People’s Health” (Cerón, Das, and Fort), 161–166; Conclusion, “Shall We Leave It to the Experts?” (Mercer), 167–172.

Poverty, Inequality, and Health: An International Perspective (Leon and Walt, eds.): “Children’s Health in Developing Countries: Issues of Coping, Child Neglect, and Marginalization” (Lanata), 137–158; “Do Health Care Systems Contributed to Inequalities?” (Mackintosh) 175–193; “Poverty and Inequalities within Developing Countries: Filling the Information Gap” (Gwatkin), 217–246; “Poverty, Inequality, and Mental Health in Developing Countries” (Patel), 247–262.

Infections and Inequalities: The Modern Plagues (Farmer): Chapter 4, “The Exotic and the Mundane: Human Immunodeficiency Virus in the Caribbean,” 94–126; Chapter 5, “Culture, Poverty, and HIV Transmission: The Case of Rural Haiti,” 127–149; Chapter 6, “Sending Sickness: Sorcery, Politics, and Changing Concepts of AIDS in Rural Haiti,” 158–183; Chapter 7, “The Consumption of the Poor: Tuberculosis in the Late Twentieth Century,” 184–210; Chapter 8, “Optimism and Pessimism in Tuberculosis Control: Lessons from Rural Haiti,” 211–227; Chapter 9, “Immodest Claims of Causality: Social Scientists and the ‘New’ Tuberculosis,” 228–261.

Week # 3: Mapping Global Health’s Power Players, Part I: The Production of Economic Inequality in Health on the World Stage

Week of Monday, September 17th

World Health Organization. 2008. Commission on Social Determinants of Health. Closing the Gap in a Generation: Health Equity through Action on the Social Determinants of Health. (http://www.who.int/social_determinants/thecommission/finalreport/en/index.html)

Globalization and Health (Kawachi and Wamala, eds.): “Health Impact Assessment: Toward Globalization As If Human Rights Mattered” (O’Keefe and Scott-Samuel), 201–216; “Promoting Public Health in the Twenty-First Century: The Role of the World Health Organization” (Bonita, Irwin, and Beaglehole), 268–283; “What’s Politics Got to Do with It? Health, the G8, and the Global Economy,” 284–310.

Textbook of International Health: Global Health in a Dynamic World (Birn, Pillay, and Holtz): “Societal Determinants of Health and Social Inequalities in Health,” 309–364; “Health under Crisis,” 365–416; “Globalization, Trade, Work, and Health,” 417–469; “Health Economics and the Economics of Health,” 537–582; “Understanding and Organizing Healthcare Systems,” 583–655.

Vincanne Adams, Thomas E. Novotny, and Hannah Leslie. 2008. “Global Health Diplomacy.” *Medical Anthropology* 27(4):315–323.

Week # 4: Mapping Global Health’s Power Players, Part II: The (Secret) Role NGOs Play in the Privatization of Healthcare Worldwide

Week of Monday, September 24th

Health and Social Justice: Politics, Ideology, and Inequality in the Distribution of Disease (Hofrichter, ed.): “Getting a Grip on the Global Economy: Health Outcomes and the Decoding of Development Discourse” (Gershman, Irwin, and Shakow), 157–194.

Medicine and the Market: Equity versus Choice (Callahan and Wasunna): “The [Healthcare] Market in Developing Countries: An Ongoing Experiment,” 117–162.

The Globalization Reader (Lechner and Boli, eds.): “Global Health Governance: A Conceptual Review” (Dodgson, Lee, and Drager), 278–283; “World Culture in the World Polity: A Century of International Non-Governmental Organization” (Boli and Thomas), 306–312; “The Backlash against NGOs” (Bond), 318–323; “How Global Is Global Civil Society?” (Chandhoke), 324–331.

Michael Reich. 2000. “Public-Private Partnerships for Public Health.” *Nature Medicine* 6(6):617–620.

Lisa Bero et al. 2010. “To Give Is Better Than to Receive: Compliance with WHO Guidelines for Drug Donations during 2000–2008.” *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 88:922–929.

R. L. Stirrat and Heiko Henkel. 1997. "The Development Gift: The Problem of Reciprocity in the NGO World." *The Annals of the American Academic of Political and Social Science* 544:66–80.

Poverty, Inequality, and Health: An International Perspective (Leon and Walt, eds.): "Injuries, Inequalities, and Health: From Policy Vacuum to Policy Action" (Zwi), 263–282; "Do Poverty Alleviation Programmes Reduce Inequalities in Health? The Bangladesh Experience" (Mushtague, Chowdhury, and Bhuiya), 312–332.

Week # 5: Global Trade in Bodies: "The Race to the Bottom" in the International Division of Health

Week of Monday, October 1st

Global Assemblages: Technology, Politics, and Ethics as Anthropological Problems (Ong and Collier, eds.): "The Last Commodity: Post-Human Ethics and the Global Traffic in 'Fresh' Organs" (Scheper-Hughes), 145–168.

Nancy Scheper-Hughes. 2004. "Parts Unknown: Undercover Ethnography of the Organs-Trafficking Underworld." *Ethnography* 5(1):29–73.

Marcel Mauss. 1973. "Techniques of the Body." *Economy and Society* 2(1):70–88.

Nancy Scheper-Hughes. 2007. "The Tyranny of the Gift: Sacrificial Violence in Living Donor Transplants." *American Journal of Transplantation* 7:507–511.

Ethics, Subjectivity and Truth (Foucault): "Technologies of the Self," 223–251.

Week # 6: Locating Women's Illness in the International Division of Health

Week of Monday, October 8th

Women, Poverty, AIDS: Sex, Drugs and Structural Violence (Farmer, Connors, and Simmons, eds.): "Women, Poverty, and AIDS" (Farmer), 3–38; "A Global Perspective" (Simmons, Farmer, and Schoepf), 39–90; "Sex, Drugs, and Structural Violence" (Connors), 91–123; "Women and HIV Infection" (Daily, Farmer, Rhatigan, Katz, and Furin), 125–144.

Health and Social Justice: Politics, Ideology, and Inequality in the Distribution of Disease (Hofrichter, ed.): "Gender, Health, and Equity: The Intersections" (Östlin, George, and Sen), 132–156.

The Women, Gender and Development Reader (Visvanathan, Duggan, Wieggersma, and Nisonoff, eds.): "Gender as a Social Determinant of Health: Evidence, Policies, and Innovations" (Sen and Ostlin), 64–73.

Poverty, Inequality, and Health: An International Perspective (Leon and Walt, eds.):
“Inequalities in Health: Is Research Gender Blind?” (Macintyre), 283–293.

Adam Ashforth. 2002. “An Epidemic of Witchcraft? The Implications of AIDS for the Post-Apartheid State.” *African Studies* 61(1):121–143.

Globalization and Health (Wamala and Kawachi, eds.): “Globalization and Women’s Health,” 171–184.

Week # 7: Locating Women’s Experiences and Work in the International Division of Health

Week of Monday, October 15th

Women and Human Development: The Capabilities Approach (Nussbaum): “Introduction: Feminism and International Development,” 1–33; Chapter 1, “In Defense of Universal Values,” 34–110; Chapter 4, “Love, Care, and Dignity,” 241–297.

Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale: Women in the International Division of Labor (Mies), “Social Origins of the Sexual Division of Labor,” 44–73; “Housewifization International: Women and the New International Division of Labour” 112–144.

From Outrage to Courage (Murray): *Women Taking Action for Health and Justice*: “From the Beginning, A Deadly Preference,” 17–28; “Childhood: The Hope of Education and the Persistence of Discrimination,” 31–59; “Adolescence: Change and Vulnerability,” 61–83; “The Maternity Death Road: Reproductive and Sexual Health,” 85–109; “Violence against Women: Abuse or Terrorism?” 111–131; “Women Caught in Conflict and Refugee Situations,” 133–157; “Aging in a Man’s World,” 193–212.

The Women, Gender and Development Reader (Visvanathan, Duggan, Wieggersma, and Nisonoff, eds.): “Caring for People with HIV: State Policies and Their Dependence on Women’s Unpaid Work” (Makina), 334–343.

Women’s Health Movements: A Global Force for Change (Turshen): “The Triple Day: Women’s Home, Community, and Workplace Environments,” 61–90; “The Sexual Politic of Violence against Women,” 120–153; “Women’s Reproductive Rights,” 154–190; “Toward a New Universalism,” 191–219.

Week # 8: Locating Women’s Health Activism: How Do Women around the World Fight Global Injustices in Health?

Week of Monday, October 22nd

Globalization, Women, and Health in the 21st Century (Kickbusch, Hartwig, and List, eds.): “Introduction” (Kickbusch, List, and Hartwig), 1–7; “Understanding Gender, Health, and

Globalization: Opportunities and Challenges” (Doyal), 9–27; “Philosophy and Religion: Do Activists for Women’s Health Need Them?” (Cahill), 29–45; “Gender, Health, and Globalization: An International NGO Perspective” (Harcourt), 86–94; “Globalization, Health, and the Engendering of Resistance in Everyday Life” (Spiegel and Andruske), 95–112; “Globalizing Gendered Resistance: Moving beyond the Individual” (Lewando-Hundt), 126–133.

From Outrage to Courage: Women Taking Action for Health and Justice (Murray): “Women’s Health, Poverty, and Rights,” 1–15; “Laboring in a Globalized World,” 159–191.

Week # 9: Project Week: Book Review I

Week of Monday, October 29th

Project # 1 due 11:59pm Friday, November 2nd

Select one of these three books to review. Book review should be 1000 words. (More review guidelines will be forthcoming in a separate document.)

João Biehl. 2005. *Vita: Life in a Zone of Social Abandonment*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Paul Farmer. 2011. *Haiti after the Earthquake*. Public Affairs.

Stein Howard and Fadlalla Amal Hassan, eds. 2012. *Gendered Insecurities, Health and Development in Africa*. New York: Routledge.

Case Study # 1: The Role of Big Pharma in Structuring Economic Inequality in Health

Week # 10: Cultures of Infirmary, Part I: Pharmaceuticals, Possession, and the Mind

Week of Monday, November 5th

Michael Oldani. 2004. “Thick Prescriptions: Toward an Interpretation of Pharmaceutical Sales Practices.” *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 18(3):325–356.

Global Pharmaceuticals: Ethics, Markets, Practices (Petryna, Lakoff, and Kleinman, eds.): “Educating for Global Mental Health: The Adoption of SSRIs in Japan” (Applbaum), 85–110; “Pharmaceutical Governance” (Biehl), 206–239.

João Biehl. 2004. “Life of the Mind: The Interface of Psychopharmaceuticals, Domestic Economy, and Social Abandonment.” *American Ethnologist* 31(4):475–496.

The Illness Narratives: Suffering, Healing, and the Human Condition (Kleinman): Chapter 1, “The Meaning of Symptoms and Disorders,” 3–30; Chapter 2, “The Personal and Social

Meanings of Illness,” 31–55; Chapter 3, “The Vulnerability of Pain and the Pain of Vulnerability,” 56–74; Chapter 4, “The Pain of Living,” 75–87; Chapter 10, “The Stigma and Shame of Illness,” 158–169; Chapter 11, “The Social Context of Chronicity,” 170–186; Chapter 14, “The Healers: Varieties and Experience in Doctoring,” 209–226.

Week # 11: Cultures of Infirmary, Part II: Pharmaceuticals, Possession, and the Spirit

Week of Monday, November 12th

The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down (Fadiman)

Case Study # 2: The Role of Private Insurance in Structuring Economic Inequality in Health

Week # 12: Insurance as the Lynchpin of Healthcare Reform: What Does This Mean for Social Justice Healthcare?

Week of Monday, November 19th

Watch *Bill Moyers Journal* interviews with Wendell Potter, Dr. Marcia Angell, and RoseAnn Demoro

Bill Moyers interview with Wendell Potter

(<http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/03052010/watch.html>)

Bill Moyers interview with Dr. Marcia Angell

(<http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/03052010/watch3.html>)

Bill Moyers interview with RoseAnn Demoro (<http://billmoyers.com/segment/roseann-demoro-on-the-robin-hood-tax/>)

Read the entire Scotusblog on *The Affordable Care Act in Depth*

(<http://www.scotusblog.com/category/special-features/affordable-care-act-in-depth/>)

Film: *Sicko* (2007)

Week # 13: US Healthcare as Market, Not as System

Week of Monday, November 26th

Health and Social Justice: Politics, Ideology, and Inequality in the Distribution of Disease

(Hofrichter, ed.): “A Society in Decline: The Political, Economic, and Social Determinants of Health Inequalities in the United States” (Raphael), 59–88; “Is Capitalism a Disease? The Crisis in U.S. Public Health” (Levins), 365–384.

Flatlined: Resuscitating American Medicine (Clifton): “Private Health Insurance: No Added Value,” 170–178.

Medicine and the Market: Equity versus Choice (Callahan and Wasunna): “Introduction: Of Money, the Market, and Medicine, 1–15; “From Adam Smith to HMOs: The Origins of Medicine and the Market,” 16–51; “A Tale of Two Cultures: Canada and the United States,” 52–86; “The Endurance of Solidarity: Universal Healthcare in Western Europe and Elsewhere,” 87–116.

Film: *Sick around the World: Other Rich Countries Have Universal Health Care: Why Don't We?* (2008)

Week # 14: US Healthcare in the Two-Thirds World: Examining the Role of Insurance in Social Justice Healthcare

Week of Monday, December 3rd

Mama Might Be Better Off Dead: The Failure of Healthcare in Urban America (Abraham)

Suggested reading:

The Black Women's Health Book: Speaking for Ourselves (White, ed.): “In Answer to the Question: Have You Ever Considered Suicide” (Rushin), 3; “Breathing Life into Ourselves: The Evolution of the National Black Women's Health Project” (Avery), 4–10; “Rocking in the Sun Light: Stress and Black Women” (Adisa), 11–14; “Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired: The Politics of Black Women's Health” (Davis), 18–26; “Living with Cancer” (Lorde), 27–37; “Doctor's Journal: Healing from the Inside Out” (Bonner), 65–76; “Controlling Hypertension” (Sherrod), 151–155; “Sickle Cell Anemia and Me” (Bragg), 156–159; “Lupus and Black Women: Managing a Complex Chronic Disability” (Jones), 160–166; “Looking at the Total Picture: A Conversation with Health Activist Beverly Smith” (Lewis and Smith), 172–181; “AIDS: In Living Color” (Richie), 182–185; “Service without Subsistence: Reflections of a Registered Nurse” (Killion), 240–250; “HIV Infection, AIDS and Black Women” (Mitchell, Loftman, and Carrington), 319–322; “Your Silence Will Not Protect You: Nurse Eunice Rivers and the Tuskegee Syphilis Study” (Hammonds), 323–331; “Learning to Love” (hooks), 332–341; “We Flesh” (Morrison), 362.

Week # 15: Project Week: Book Review II

Project # 2 due 11:59pm Wednesday, December 12th

Week of Monday, December 10th

Write a 1000 word book review of *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead* and *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*. I encourage you to review both books simultaneously, comparing and contrasting their subject matter and methodology. Both books, in very different ways, highlight deep failures in our American healthcare system. Document those failures and discuss how and

in which ways each book tells the story of inadequacy in the US healthcare system. (Specific guidelines for your book review will be attached in a separate document.)

The final examination is open book and will appear online by 11:59pm Wednesday, December 12th. The exam is due on or before 11:59pm Thursday, December 20th.