

# EPIDEMICS & SOCIETY

SOC 498/598 (Class #19828/19829) Spring 2014

Day & Time: Thursday 4:30-7:15, Room: S5304

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## Course description:

Human history has recorded countless epidemics that have left profound demographic, epidemiological, economic, and cultural imprints on affected societies. Despite the revolutionary advances in medicine in the past century, many infectious diseases remain widespread and epidemics continue to occur. This course will look at the social dimensions of infectious diseases and epidemics in cross-national settings. We will consider how epidemics reflect and affect the demographics, social structure, economy, and culture of societies, and how societies mobilize their medical, economic, social and cultural resources in response to epidemics. We will focus in particular on the role of socioeconomic inequality—both within and between countries—in how epidemics emerge, spread, and are dealt with. We will pay special attention to social and structural aspects of the AIDS epidemic worldwide. The class sessions will have a seminar format: instead of lectures, we will discuss the readings and their implications.

## Requirements and grading:

The seminar is fully participatory. All students are expected to actively participate in class discussions. Each *graduate* student will be in charge of organizing and leading discussion for one or two class sessions (depending on enrollment). All students will submit reflection papers to each weekly set of readings. In addition, each student will submit a critical literature review on a more specific topic of their interest. There will be no exams. All course requirements (with the exception of preparing and leading a discussion) apply equally to graduate and undergraduate students but scoring and/or the score-to-grade conversion scale may differ between the two categories of students.

The **course grade** will be determined on the following basis:

**Reflection papers** (~55% graduate, ~60% undergrad). A reflection paper is a critical assessment of the assigned weekly readings. It should be about 3-4 pages long and is due on the day for which the readings are assigned. A reflection paper is not a summary of facts contained in the readings; instead you should identify a few common themes and illustrate how each reading fits with at least one of them. Additional tips on writing reflection papers will be provided.

**Participation in class discussion** (~15%) is an essential part of the course and is expected of all students. Discussions will be structured around assigned readings and led by instructor or designated graduate students. The instructor will make sure that each student has an opportunity to express her/himself in class. Even so, individuals' abilities and willingness to speak in public differ, and the instructor will make reasonable efforts to accommodate individual needs and constraints.

**Preparing and leading class discussions** (~10%, graduate students only) Depending on the number of graduate students involved, each graduate student will be in charge of class discussion for one or two class sessions. This will involve preparing discussion questions based on the assigned readings and leading the class discussion. Students in charge of specific sessions are encouraged to review and share additional readings they might find relevant and interesting.

**Literature review** (~20% graduate; ~25% undergraduate) This individually written paper should be focused on social dimensions of infectious diseases and epidemics. You can choose a topic or topics that fit your own longer-term research goals, but the review must involve some cross-national, cross-cultural, or historical parallels in issues and processes under consideration. It is expected that your review covers about 15 or more (10 or more for undergraduates) scholarly articles and/or books (scholarly or popular), not counting readings assigned for class (but you can include them if you wish). If you are reviewing articles, you must attach the abstracts to your review. The students must get the instructor's approval for their topics by February 27. All students must make presentations on their review papers in the last two class sessions. The review should be about 15 pages long (12 for undergraduates), excluding references and abstracts, and should be turned in by May 1.

**Miscellaneous** Standard ASU's Academic Integrity policy applies (see <http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity/policy>).

The needs of students with disabilities will be accommodated to the extent possible.

## Readings

Camus, Albert. *The Plague*. McGraw Hill College Division (any edition); available in ASU bookstore and online.

*Other readings: Available on Blackboard or the Internet free of charge.*

## Main topics and reading assignments

(may be modified with sufficient advanced notice)

### 1. (Jan 16) Course overview (no readings)

### 2. (Jan 23) Epidemics and infectious diseases in history

Boccaccio, G. 14<sup>th</sup> century. *The Decameron*. "First Day," "Introduction"

<http://www.stg.brown.edu/projects/decameron/engDecShowText.php?myID=d01intro&expand=day01> (read through [097])

Manzoni, A. *The Betrothed* (first published in 1827) Ch. 31-33. <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/35155/35155-h/35155-h.htm>

McNeill, W. H. *Plagues and Peoples*. Anchor. (1998) Ch. 4, 161-207, Ch. 5, 208-241 McNeill, Ch. 6, 243-295

Crosby, A. W. 1976. "Virgin soil epidemics as a factor in the aboriginal depopulation in America." *William and Mary Quarterly*, third series 33(2): 289-299

Livi-Bacci, M. 2006. "The Depopulation of Hispanic America after the Conquest". *Population and Development Review*, 32(2): 199-232.

McKeown, T. 2005. "Medical issues in historical demography" *International Journal of Epidemiology* 34:515-520 (first published in 1971)

Colgrove, J. 2002. "The McKeown thesis: A historical controversy and its enduring influence." *American Journal of Public Health* 92(5):725-729

### 3. (Jan 30) The epidemiological transition and its implications

Omran, A. 1971. "The epidemiological transition." *Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly* 49(4):509-538.

Olshansky, S. J. and B. Ault. 1986. "The fourth stage of the epidemiologic transition" *The Milbank Quarterly* 64(3): 355-91.

Vallin, J. and F. Meslé. 2004. "Convergences and divergences in mortality: A new approach of health transition"

Demographic Research, Special Collection 2, Article 2, <http://www.demographic-research.org/special/2/2/>

Riley, J. C. 2005. "The timing and pace of health transitions around the world." *Population and Development Review* 31 (4): 741-764.

Caldwell, J. 1986. "Routes to low mortality in poor countries." *Population and Development Review* 12(2): 171-220.

Kuhn, R. 2010. "Routes to low mortality in poor countries revisited" *Population and Development Review* 36 (4): 655-692

Soares, R. 2007. "On the determinants of mortality reductions in the developing world" *Population and Development Review* 33(2): 253-288

Murray, C. J.L. and A.D. Lopez. 1997. "Mortality by cause for eight regions of the world: Global Burden of Disease Study" *The Lancet* 349 (9061): 1269 - 1276

Murray, C et al. 2012. "Global and regional mortality" *The Lancet* 380 (9859): 2095-2128 (please focus on the Discussion section)

### 4. (Feb 6) Epidemics and infectious diseases in the modern world: old, new, emerging, and reemerging

Olshansky, S. J., B.A. Carnes, R.G. Rogers, L. Smith. 1998. "Emerging infectious diseases : the Fifth stage of the epidemiologic transition ?" *World Health Statistics Quarterly*, vol. 51, n° 2-3-4, p. 207-217.

Lashley, F. and J. Durham (eds). 2002. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, New York: Springer. Ch. 1, 2, 3, pp. 3-70.

Jones, K. et al. 2008. "Global trends in emerging infectious diseases" *Nature* 451(7181):990-4

Knobler, S., A. Mahmoud, S. Lemon (eds). 2006. *The Impact of Globalization on Infectious Disease Emergence and Control*. Washington, DC : National Academies Press. Ch. 1 (pp. 21-48), Ch. 2 (49-79) [available electronically through ASU library]

Farmer, P. 2001. *Infections and Inequalities: The Modern Plagues*. Updated Edition. Univ. California Press, Ch. 2 "Rethinking 'Emerging Infectious Diseases'" pp. 37-58.

Fauci, A. S. 2001. "Infectious Diseases: Considerations for the 21st Century" *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, 32:675-685

Fauci, A. S. and D. M. Morens. 2012. "The Perpetual Challenge of Infectious Diseases" *The New England Journal of Medicine* 366 (February): 454-461

Garrett, L. 2005. "The Next Pandemic" *Foreign Affairs* 84(4):3-23

### 5. (Feb 13) HIV/AIDS in focus

UNAIDS 2013 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic

[http://www.unaids.org/en/media/unaids/contentassets/documents/epidemiology/2013/gr2013/UNAIDS\\_Global\\_Rep](http://www.unaids.org/en/media/unaids/contentassets/documents/epidemiology/2013/gr2013/UNAIDS_Global_Rep)

[ort\\_2013\\_en.pdf](#) (read carefully up the general introduction and introductions to each chapter; skim the through the graphs and tables)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2013). HIV and AIDS in the United States Factsheet (skim through stats) <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/resources/factsheets/index.htm>

Iliffe, J. 2006. A History of the African AIDS Epidemic. Ohio University Press. Ch. 7 (pp.58-64)

Caldwell, J. 2000. "Rethinking the African AIDS epidemic." *Population and Development Review* 26(1):117-135

Gisselquist, D. et al. 2002. "HIV infections in sub-Saharan Africa not explained by sexual or vertical transmission" *International Journal of STD & AIDS* 13: 657-666

Zhang KL. et al. 2004. Epidemiology of HIV and sexually transmitted infections in China. *Sexual Health*. 1(1):39-46

Yan, X. et al. 2007. "Expansion of HIV/AIDS in China: Lessons from Yunnan Province." *Social Science & Medicine* 64(3) 665-675

Steinbrook, R. 2007. "HIV in India--a complex epidemic". *New England Journal of Medicine*. 356(11):1089-93

Kelly J.A. and Amirkhanian, Y.A. 2003. "The newest epidemic: a review of HIV/AIDS in Central and Eastern Europe" *International Journal of STD & AIDS* 14(6): 361-371

Bongaarts, J. et al. 2008. "Has the HIV epidemic peaked?" *Population and Development Review* 34(2): 199-224

"The beginning of the end of AIDS?" 2012. *The Lancet* 380 (9858): 1967

Sidibé, M., P. Piot, and M. Dybul. 2012. "AIDS is not over" *The Lancet* 380 (9859): 2058-60

## 6. (Feb 20) Demographic, social, and economic impact of infectious diseases and epidemics

Heuveline, P. 2004. "Impact of the HIV epidemic on population and household structure: the dynamics and evidence to date" *AIDS* 18(suppl 2):S45-S53

Neumayer, E. 2004. "HIV/AIDS and cross-national convergence in life expectancy." *Population and Development Review* 30(4): 727-742

Jahn, A. et al. 2008. "Population-level effect of HIV on adult mortality and early evidence of reversal after introduction of antiretroviral therapy in Malawi" *The Lancet* 371(9624): 1603-1611

Lewis, J.C., C. Ronsmans, A.C. Ezeh, S.Gregson. 2004. "The population impact of HIV on fertility in sub-Saharan Africa" *AIDS* 18 (Supplement) 2:S35-S43

Mtika, M.M. 2001. "The AIDS epidemic in Malawi and its threat to household food security" *Human Organization* 60(2):178-188

Young, A. 2005. "The gift of the dying: The Tragedy of AIDS and the welfare of future African generations" *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 120 (2): 423-464

Bray, R. 2003. "Predicting the social consequences of orphanhood in South Africa" *African Journal of AIDS Research* 2(1): 39-55

Eppig, C., C.L.Fincher, and R.Thrnhill. 2010. "Parasite prevalence and the worldwide distribution of cognitive ability" *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*. 277: 3801-3808

Sachs, J. and P. Malaney. 2002. "The economic and social burden of malaria" *Nature* 415 (Feb): 680-5

Blanc, L. and M. Uplekar. 2003. The Present global burden of tuberculosis" Ch.5 pp. 95-111. In M. Gandy and A. Zumla (eds) *The Return of the White Plague: Global Poverty and the New Tuberculosis*. Verso.

Anonymous. 2006. "Economic and social impact of epidemic and pandemic influenza." *Vaccine*. 24(44-46):6776-8

## 7. (Feb 27) Epidemics and social inequalities

Farmer, P. 2001. *Infections and Inequalities: The Modern Plagues*. Ch. 3 (pp. 59-93) and Ch. 5 (pp. 127-149). Updated Edition. Univ. California Press

Hunt, C.W. 1996. "Social vs. biological: theories on the transmission of AIDS in Africa." *Social Science & Medicine* 42 (9):1283-96

Stillwaggon, E. 2002. "HIV/AIDS in Africa: Fertile terrain" *Journal of Development Studies* 38 (6): 1 – 22

Gilbert, L. and L.Walker. 2002. "Treading the path of least resistance: HIV/AIDS and social inequalities—a South African case study" *Social Science & Medicine* 54(2): 1093-1110

Hunter, M. 2007. "The changing political economy of sex in South Africa: The significance of unemployment and inequalities to the scale of the AIDS pandemic" *Social Science & Medicine* 64 (3): 689-700

Heimer, C.A. 2007. "Old inequalities, new disease: HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa" *Annual Review of Sociology* 33: 551-577

Guillespie, S et al. 2007. "Is poverty or wealth driving HIV transmission?" *AIDS* 21 (Suppl 7) S5-S16.

Mishra, V., et al. 2007. "HIV infection does not disproportionately affect the poorer in sub-Saharan Africa" *AIDS*, 21(suppl 7): S17-28.

**8. (Mar 6) Epidemics and social inequalities (cont.)**

- Mamelund, S-E. 2006. "A socially neutral disease? Individual social class, household wealth and mortality from Spanish influenza in two socially contrasting parishes in Kristiania 1918-19." *Social Science & Medicine* 62(4): 923-940
- Grineski, S. E., B. Bolin, and V. Agadjanian. 2006 "Tuberculosis and urban growth: Class, race, and disease in early Phoenix, Arizona, USA" *Health and Place* 12 (4): 603-616
- Thorson, A. and Diwan, V.K. 2003. "Gender and tuberculosis" Ch.3 pp. 55-69. In M. Gandy and A. Zumla (eds) *The Return of the White Plague: Global Poverty and the New Tuberculosis*. Verso.
- Farmer, P. 2001. *Infections and Inequalities: The Modern Plagues*. Updated Edition. Univ. California Press, Ch. 7, 8, pp.185-261
- Adimora, A. A., & V.J. Shoenbach. (2005). "Social context, sexual networks, and racial disparities in rates of sexually transmitted infections." *Journal of Infectious Diseases*, 191, Supplement S115-122
- Singer, M.C. et al. (2006). Syndemics, sex and the city: Understanding sexually transmitted diseases in social and cultural context. *Social Science & Medicine*, 63: 2010-2021
- Wojcicki, J.M. 2005. Socioeconomic status as a risk factor for HIV infection in women in East, Central and Southern Africa: a systematic review. *Journal of Biosocial Science*. 37(1):1-36.

**Mar 13 SPRING BREAK****9. (Mar 20) Local perceptions and experiences of infections disease and epidemics**

- Liddell, C., L. Barrett, and M. Bydawell. 2005. "Indigenous representations of illness and AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa" *Social Science & Medicine* 60(4): 691-700
- Farmer, P. 2001. *Infections and Inequalities: The Modern Plagues*. Updated Edition. Univ. California Press, Ch. 6 "Sending Sickness" pp. 158-183
- Gausset, Q. 2001. "AIDS and cultural practices in Africa: the case of the Tonga (Zambia)" *Social Science & Medicine* 52 (4): 509-518
- Genberg, B., et al. 2009. "A comparison of HIV/AIDS-related stigma in four countries: Negative attitudes and perceived acts of discrimination towards people living with HIV/AIDS." *Social Science & Medicine* 68(12): 2279-87
- Stansbury, J. P. and M. Sierra. 2004. "Risks, stigma and Honduran Garífuna conceptions of HIV/AIDS." *Social Science & Medicine* 59(3): 457-471
- Yanqiu, R.Z. 2007. "If you get AIDS... You have to endure it alone": Understanding the social constructions of HIV/AIDS in China. *Social Science & Medicine* 65 (2): 284-295
- Cooper D. et al. 2007. "Life is still going on": Reproductive intentions among HIV-positive women and men in South Africa." *Social Science & Medicine* 65 (2): 274-283
- Siu, G.E, J. Seeleya, and D. Wight. 2013. "Dividuality, masculine respectability and reputation: How masculinity affects men's uptake of HIV treatment in rural eastern Uganda" *Social Science & Medicine* 89: 45-52

**10. (Mar 27) Confronting epidemics: individual and community responses**

- Watkins, S.C. 2004. "Navigating the AIDS epidemic in rural Malawi" *Population and Development Review* 30(4): 673-706
- Agadjanian, V. 2002. "Informal social networks and epidemic prevention in a third world context: Cholera and HIV/AIDS compared." Pp. 201-221 In *Advances In Medical Sociology*, Vol.8 (Social Networks and Health), edited by J. A. Levy and B. A. Pescosolido. JAI-Elsevier Science.
- Hearst, N. and S. Chen. 2004. "Condom promotion for AIDS prevention in the developing world: Is it working?" *Studies in Family Planning* 35 (1): 39-47
- Tavory, I, and A. Swidler. 2009. "Condom semiotics: Meaning and condom use in rural Malawi," *American Sociological Review* 74(2):171-89
- Mantell, J. et al. 2006. "The promises and limitations of female-initiated methods of HIV/STI protection" *Social Science & Medicine* 63(8): 1998-2009
- Dworkin, S. L. Ehrhardt, A. A. 2007. "Going beyond 'ABC' to include 'GEM': critical reflections on progress in the HIV/AIDS epidemic." *American Journal of Public Health*. 97(1):13-18
- Baylies, C. 2002. "The impact of AIDS on rural households in Africa: A shock like any other?" *Development and Change* 33 (4): 611-632

**11. (Apr 3) Confronting epidemics: policies and politics**

- Garrett, L. 2007. "The challenge of global health" *Foreign Affairs* 86:14-38
- Patterson, A.S. 2006. "The African state and the AIDS pandemic" Ch. 2 (pp.21-58) in *The Politics of AIDS in Africa*, Lynne Rienner
- Patterson, A.S. 2006. "External donors and political commitment" Ch. 5 (pp.131-172) in *The Politics of AIDS in Africa*, Lynne Rienner.
- Parkhurst, J. O. and L. Lush. 2004. The Political Environment of HIV: Lessons from a Comparison of Uganda and South Africa. *Social Science and Medicine* 59(9):1913-1924
- Hoppe, Trevor. 2013. "From sickness to badness: The criminalization of HIV in Michigan" *Social Science & Medicine* 101: 139-147
- Smith, R. D. 2006. "Responding to global infectious disease outbreaks: Lessons from SARS on the role of risk perception, communication and management" *Social Science & Medicine* 63 (12): 3113-23
- Hongyi, Lai. 2004. "Local Management of SARS in China." Ch.3 In J. Wong and Z. Yongnian *The SARS Epidemic: Challenges to China's Crisis Management*. Singapore: World Scientific. Pp. 43-97
- Suarez, M. R. et al. 2005. "Is what I have just a cold or is it dengue? Addressing the gap between the politics of dengue control and daily life in Villavicencio-Colombia" *Social Science & Medicine* 61 (2): 495-502
- Tadros, M. "Scapepigging: H1N1 Influenza in Egypt." 2010. In S. Dry and M. Leach (eds.) *Epidemics: Science, Governance, and Social Justice*, pp. 213-238 EarthScan
- Rosella, Laura et al. 2013. Pandemic H1N1 in Canada and the use of evidence in developing public health policies – A policy analysis. *Social Science & Medicine* 83: Pages 1-9

**12. (Apr 10) Another kind of epidemic**

- Gaziano, M. J. 2010. "Fifth phase of the Epidemiological Transition: The age of obesity and inactivity." *Journal of American Medical Association* 303 (3): 275-276
- James, P. T., R. Leach, E. Kalamara and M. Shayeghi. 2001. "The Worldwide obesity epidemic" *Obesity Research* 9:5228-5233.
- Oliver, J.E. 2006. "The politics of pathology: how obesity became an epidemic disease." *Perspectives in Biology & Medicine*. 49(4): 611-27
- Finkelstein, Eric A. et al. 2005. "Economic causes and consequences of obesity" *Annual Review of Public Health*. 26: 239-57
- Christakis, N. A., J. H. Fowler. 2007. The spread of obesity in a large social network over 32 years. *New England Journal of Medicine* 357(4): 370-379
- Zhang, Q. and Y. Wang. 2004. "Socioeconomic inequality of obesity in the United States: do gender, age, and ethnicity matter?" *Social Science & Medicine* 58 (6): 1171-1180
- Kaufman, L. and A. Karpati. 2007. "Understanding the sociocultural roots of childhood obesity: Food practices among Latino families of Bushwick, Brooklyn." *Social Science & Medicine* 64 (11): 2177-2188.
- Gordon, R.A. 2000. "Dimensions of an epidemic" Chapter 3. *Eating Disorders: Anatomy of a Social Epidemic*. Oxford-Blackwell.
- Lee S. 1996. "Reconsidering the status of anorexia nervosa as a western culture-bound syndrome." *Social Science & Medicine* 42(1): 21-34.
- Yach, D., D. Stuckler, and K. Brownell. 2006. "Epidemiologic and economic consequences of the global epidemics of obesity and diabetes." *Nature Medicine* 12(1):62-66.
- Byers, T. and R.L. Sedjo. 2007. "Public health response to the obesity epidemic: too soon or too late?" *Journal of Nutrition* 137(2): 488-92

**13. (Apr 17) Social construction of epidemic**

Camus, A. *The Plague*. Part 1 pp. 3-59; Part 2 pp. 61-150, Part 3 151-168, P. 4 pp. 169-240, P.5 pp. 241-278

**14. (Apr 24) Students' presentations of literature reviews.**

**15. (May 1) Students' presentations of literature reviews. *Reviews are due.* Course conclusions**