

HISTORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE UNITED STATES (HS 231)

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Course Requirements

(1) Two 5-7 page (typed, double-spaced) papers. (More instructions on final page of syllabus.)

The first will be on: Madonna Swan, A Lakota Woman's Story, as told through Mark St. Pierre (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1991). (Due **Feb 5**)

Choose one of the two following books for the second: (Due **March 12**)

Alice Wexler, Mapping Fate: A Memoir of Family, Risk, and Genetic Research (NY: Random House, 1995).

Paul K. Longmore, Why I Burned My Book and Other Essays on Disability (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2003) (Any 8 of the 13 essays)

(2) Brief response papers. At the beginning of each class session, students should hand in a brief discussion (2-4 pages typed) of the readings for that day. The papers should answer the following questions: What are the main points made by the author in each selection? Which examples supporting those points were most compelling to you? Which were the least compelling? These papers will not be graded individually but will contribute toward the final grade for class participation. (These papers are not required for either the first or last class session.)

(4) Class participation and discussion of readings. By 10 A.M. of the day of each class, send two or more discussion questions to abel@ucla.edu

Grading:

Each paper: 30%
Class participation 40%

All class readings are in the following two books, which are available in the CHS Book Store:

J. W. Leavitt and R. L. Numbers, Sickness and Health in America: Readings in the History of Medicine and Public Health, third edition (SHA)

J. W. Leavitt, Women and Health in America, second edition (WHA)

Course Outline

Jan. 8: Introduction and Overview

SHA, pages 3-10

WHA, pages 3-8

Jan. 15: HOLIDAY

Jan. 22: Gender Issues

WHA, chaps. 16-18, 23, 24, 30

(This class will meet at the regular time and place; after the break, however, we will attend a talk by historian Rickie Solinger, "Who Is a Mother? Who Decides? Race, Class, and Reproductive Politics in American History," in Royce 306 at 4 P.M.)

Jan. 29: Concepts of Illness and Health/Physicians

SHA, chaps. 1, 9, 17, 18

WHA, chaps. 6, 7, 20, 21, 28

Feb. 5: Health Care Institutions

First report due

SHA, chaps. 19-21

WHA, chap. 27

Feb. 12: Race and Health Care

SHA, chaps. 23, 24

WHA, chaps. 19, 25, 26

Feb. 19: HOLIDAY

Feb. 26: Public Health Reforms

SHA, chaps. 29-33

March 5: Epidemics

SHA, chaps. 25-27, 35, 36

March 12: Genetics and Disability

Guest speaker: Alice Wexler, Ph.D., UCLA Center for the Study of Women and Hereditary Disease Foundation

Second report due

PAPERS

All books are available at Amazon.com. Each paper should answer the following questions: In what ways does the book enlarge your understanding of the history of public health? To what extent can the experiences of the central figure in each book be generalized? To what extent are the issues discussed in the book relevant today? You will be graded on your analysis and writing as well as on your ability to integrate the issues presented in the books with relevant class discussions and other assigned readings. Thirty percent of the grade will be based on each paper.