Class code

PUHE-UE9070002

Instructor Details

Professor Karen Lloyd

Office: 6 Bedford Square, Room 104 [our classroom]
Office Hours: By appointment after class

Class Details

Health and Society in a Global Context

Wed 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Room 104

Prerequisites

None.

Class Description

This course examines how social, behavioral, historical and political factors influence public health in community, national and global contexts. We consider how health is influenced by factors such as age, gender, culture, race/ethnicity, social class, and geography. Public health problems and their solutions are analyzed in light of individual risk factors as well as larger structural forces, and we consider the rights of the individual versus the welfare of the public. We examine the ways our understandings of health and well-being shape, and are shaped by, the health care system, our own values, and our assumptions.

The format of the course will include a mix of lectures, guest speakers, and student-led discussion and presentations.

Desired Outcomes

1. To introduce definitions of disease, illness, and well-being from various perspectives
2. To introduce students to a population perspective on health and disease
3. To define and describe the social determinants of health and explain how they differ from other (biological) determinants of health
4. To introduce the field of public health and its various dimensions
5. To encourage debates on individual versus societal rights related to the promotion of health and prevention of disease

6. To deepen students’ understandings of the complex factors that shape health issues, and the response of government, institutions, and policies to those issues.

### Assessment Components

Your final grade for the course will be based upon the following:

- **Class Attendance**: 15%
- **Participation in Class Discussions**: 15%
- **In-Class Exercises**: 15%
- **Health Issue Debates**: 15%
- **Midterm Exam**: 20%
- **Take-Home Final Exam**: 20%

**Discussion Participation**: You will be expected to come to class each week prepared to take an active part in discussion of the assigned readings. You should bring to class one discussion question gleaned from one or more of the readings for the week. The best discussion questions focus on issues that compare readings or focus on issues that span across several readings. You’ll be asked to share your question for other students to answer as part of the discussion. You may be sometimes asked to turn in your discussion question, either in hard copy or via email.

**In-Class Exercises**: We will have 2 in-class group exercises, where you will be asked as a group to analyze and summarize public health data from tables (in-class exercise #1) and discuss and critique a published research study (in-class exercise #2). You will be expected to present your findings to the class as a group (you will have approximately 15 minutes for your presentation). In-class exercise #1 will be on **February 12th (Week 3)** and in-class exercise #2 will be on **March 5th (Week 6)**.

**Debates on a Health Issue**: You will be part of a debate group of 4-5 students (2-3 students per side). Your group should decide on a controversial health issue or propositional that you would like to debate with one side developing an argument in support of the proposition and one side in refutation of the proposition. Each side should prepare a 10 minute presentation of their argument. After each side presents their position, then each will also have 3 minutes to make a rebuttal to the opposing argument. At the end of each group debate, the floor will be opened to the audience for 5-7 minutes of questions and comments. You will receive a group assignment and detailed instructions on how to complete the assignment on **February 26th (Week 5)**. Your debate topics, decided upon within your group, are due on **March 12th (Week 7)**. The debates will be held on **May**
Midterm Exam: Your midterm exam will take place on March 19\(^{th}\) (Week 8). It will be a mix of multiple-choice exams and short answer essay questions. We will discuss the form and content of the midterm in more detail a week or two before.

Final Exam: Your final exam will be a take-home essay exam. You will receive the exam on our last day of class, May 14\(^{th}\), and it must be returned to me by 5pm on Wednesday, May 21\(^{st}\).

As per NYU policy, failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class. Please come speak to me if at any point you are concerned you need extra time or support to complete an assignment.

My ideal expectations for your participation in the course: You are actively and regularly engaged in insightful discussion and critique of course readings and topics, often and elegantly making connections across readings and between weekly lecture topics. Your arguments are clearly organized and original, and sometimes draw on experience from outside the classroom, including personal experience and other coursework, particularly from your field of study. You take a leadership role in in-class exercises and debates. You make clear, thoughtful class presentations, working effectively and problem-solving as part of a team. You write a clear, insightful midterm and final exam, drawing connections between materials throughout the course, to make your arguments. You have a readable, grammatically correct writing style. You adhere to assignment guidelines, staying to task, answering all questions cohesively and completely, and stick to the appropriate length (in time and pages). You arrive to class on time and stay until the end, and do not have any unexcused absence or late/incomplete assignments.

Grade A (90-100%): Your course assignments and course participation include all of the above qualities, including some of them to a superior degree.

Grade B (80-89%): Your course assignments and course participation include all of the above qualities, but to a more modest standard.

Grade C (70%-79%): Your course assignments and course participation include some of the above qualities, but to a modest degree; however, you may fall short of achieving some of these standards.

Grade D (65-69%): Your course assignments and course participation do not consistently demonstrate the above qualities, however, you have worked to demonstrate some notable interest, effort and understanding of the course material.

Grade F (below 65): You have failed to fulfill any of the above qualities in your course assignments and participation. Plagiarism or failure to submit or complete any required course component will result in failure of the class.

Journal articles and other readings that appear on the syllabus will be posted in NYU Classes. Alternatively, the full text of most readings can also be found via a search of Google Scholar or PubMed and accessed via Bobst Library. You will be notified of any changes to the readings for a given week via email.

Supplemental Texts(s) (not required to purchase as copies are in NYU-L Library)

None.

Internet Research Guidelines

Please be saavy when it comes to using the Internet to conduct research for course assignments. Use reputable peer-reviewed sources whenever possible (not Wikipedia!) to make scholarly or scientific claims, but you may find that news media websites and blogs are nonetheless great sources of information about newsworthy (and debate-worthy) topics. Please just back up this information with scholarly work you find in journals and other academic sources. You are welcome to use either AMA or APA Citation Style in your written work, but be consistent in whatever you choose to use.

Additional Required Equipment

None.

Week 1

**Course Introduction & Basics of Public Health**

January 29th

Schneider Chap 1: Public Health: Science, Politics, and Prevention

Schneider Chap 2: Why is Public Health Controversial?

Schneider Chap 3: Powers and Responsibilities of Government

**Epidemiology**

Schneider Chap 4: The Basic Science of Public Health

Schneider Chap 5: Principles and Methods

Schneider Chap 6: Problems and Limits
Week 2

Statistics and Data
Schneider Chap 7: Making Sense of Uncertainty

Schneider Chap 8: The Role of Data in Public Health


Biomedical Basis of Public Health

Schneider Chap 9: The Conquest of Infectious Diseases

Schneider Chap 10: The Resurgence of Infectious Disease

Scheinder Chap 11: The Biomedical Basis of Chronic Diseases


Week 3

In-Class Exercise #1 – In this exercise, you will be asked as a group to analyze a table of health data and prepare a presentation on your interpretation of the data. You will receive your group assignment and a handout on the exercise, along with the data tables, at the start of class. You will have approximately 30-45 minutes to prepare in-class and then approximately 15 minutes to make your presentation.

Social Construction of Illness & Medicalization


Week 4

Social Inequality and Health: SES

February 19th


Pampel FC, Krueger PM, Denney JT. 2010. “Socioeconomic Disparities in Health Behavior:


**Week 5**

**Social Inequality and Health: Race**


**Gender and Health**


**Week 6**

**In-Class Exercise #2** – In this exercise, you will be asked as a group to assess and critique a published research study and prepare a presentation on your critique. You will receive your group/study assignment in Week 5 and you will receive a handout on the assignment at the start of class. You will have approximately 30-45 minutes to prepare in-class and then approximately 15 minutes to make your presentation.

**Social Relationships, Networks, and Health**


Week 7

March 12th

**Neighborhoods and Health**


**Health, Lifestyle, and Behaviors**


**Case Study Debate Topics DUE TODAY**

Week 8

March 19th

**Midterm Exam**

Filming Screening: The Age of AIDS

Week 9

March 26th

**HIV Treatment As Prevention, Treatment Access, and Activism**


Frank E, Rodlach A. 2013. “To Disclose or Not to Disclose. That is the Question! Antiretroviral Therapy, Access to Resources and Stigma in Southern Africa.” *Journal of*


Film Screening: Pills, Profits, Protest: A Chronicle of the Global AIDS Movement

Week 10: April 2nd

Infant and Maternal Mortality Around the World


United Nations Millennium Development Goals, Fact Sheet on Maternal Mortality


Week 11: April 9th

Public Health, Policy, and the Law


Jones MM, Bayer R. 2006. “Paternalism and its discontents: Motorcyle helmet laws,


**Smoking and Tobacco**

Schneider Chap 15: Public Health Enemy Number One: Tobacco


**Comparative Health Care Systems**

Schneider Chap 26: Is the Medical Care System a Public Health Issue?


**U.S. Health Care System**

Schneider Chap 27: Why the U.S. Medical System Needs Reform


**Film Screening:** *Frontline – Sick Around the World*
Week 13
Health Issue Debate Presentations Week #1

May 7th

Week 14
Health Issue Debate Presentations Week #2

May 14th

Health and Health Care: Challenges Going Forward

Schneider Chap 31: Public Health in the 21st Century: Achievements and Challenges


Take-Home Final Exam handed out today.

Week 15
Take-Home Final Exam Due today by 5pm GMT.

May 21st

Please submit in a word document with appropriate citations to me via email. Please also place the hard copy version of your Turnitin digital receipt in my mailbox at 6 Bedford Place.

Classroom Etiquette

Please arrive to class on time and ready to engage in a discussion of the course readings. Active participation, including developing discussion questions, is a significant portion of your grade and just makes the class more enjoyable for everyone. Please be respectful of others’ perspectives and opinions, while also engaging in lively debate. Please turn off all mobile phones and limit laptop use to classroom activities (try not to check Facebook 😊).

Required Co-curricular Activities
None.

Suggested Co-curricular Activities
None.

Your Instructor
I am a displaced New Yorker and NYU alumnus, having studied for my M.A. at the Gallatin School of Individualized Study. I am now completing my PhD in Medical Sociology at the
University of California, San Francisco. My research interests are in HIV Treatment as Prevention and other technological/biomedical approaches to HIV prevention, as well as the Sociology of Birth, particularly home and natural birth, and in qualitative research methods. I have lived/worked/studied in the U.S., South Africa and India, and now live permanently here in the UK with my husband and daughter.

NYU LONDON ACADEMIC POLICIES

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism: the presentation of another piece of work or words, ideas, judgments, images or data, in whole or in part, as though they were originally created by you for the assignment, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the plagiarism policy.

All students must submit an electronic copy of each piece of their written work to www.turnitin.com and hand in a printed copy with the digital receipt to their professor. Late submission of work rules apply to both the paper and electronic submission and failure to submit either copy of your work will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.

Electronic Submission

The Turnitin database will be searched for the purpose of comparison with other students’ work or with other pre-existing writing or publications, and other academic institutions may also search it.

In order for you to be able to submit your work onto the Turnitin website, you will need to set up an account:

1) Go onto the Turnitin website http://www.turnitin.com
2) Click ‘Create Account’ in the top right hand corner
3) Select user type of ‘student’
4) Enter your class ID & Turnitin class enrolment password (these will be e-mailed to you after the drop/add period, or contact academics@nyu.ac.uk if you have misplaced these).
5) Follow the online instructions to create your profile.

To submit your work for class, you will then need to:

1) Log in to the Turnitin website
2) Enter your class by clicking on the class name
3) Next to the piece of work you are submitting (please confirm the due date), click on the ‘submit’ icon
4) Enter the title of your piece of work
5) Browse for the file to upload from wherever you have saved it (USB drive, etc.), please ensure your work is in Word or PDF format, and click ‘submit’
6) Click ‘yes, submit’ to confirm you have selected the correct paper (or ‘no, go back’ to retry)
7) You will then have submitted your essay onto the Turnitin website.
8) Please print your digital receipt and attach this to the hard copy of your paper before you submit it to your professor (this digital receipt appears on the web site, immediately after you submit your paper and is also sent to your e-mail address). Please also note that when a paper is submitted to Turnitin all formatting, images, graphics, graphs, charts, and drawings are removed from the paper so that the program can read it accurately. Please do not print the paper in this form to submit to your lecturers, as it is obviously pretty difficult to read! You can still access the exact file you uploaded by clicking on the ‘file’ icon in the ‘content’ column.

Please also see the Late Submission of Work policy, above.

Students must retain an electronic copy of their work for one month after their grades are posted online on Albert and must supply an electronic copy of their work if requested to do so by NYU in London. **Not submitting a copy of a piece of work upon request will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.** NYU in London may submit in an electronic form the work of any student to a database for use in the detection of plagiarism, without further prior notification to the student. Penalties for confirmed cases of plagiarism are set out in the Student Handbook.

Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor. Late work should be submitted in person to a member of NYU London staff at the Academic Office (Room 308, 6 Bedford Square) during office hours (Mon – Fri, 10:30 – 17:30). Please also send an electronic copy to academics@nyu.ac.uk for submission to Turnitin.

Work submitted within 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 10 points on the 100 point scale.

Written work submitted more than 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

**Please note** end of semester essays must be submitted on time.
NYUL has a strict policy about course attendance. **No unexcused absences are permitted.** While students should contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work, you should NOT approach them for excused absences.

Excused absences will usually only be considered for serious, unavoidable reasons such as personal ill–health or illness in the immediate family. Trivial or non-essential reasons for absence will not be considered.

Excused absences can only be considered if they are reported in accordance with guidelines which follow, and can only be obtained from the appropriate member of NYUL's staff.

**Please note that you will need to ensure that no make-up classes – or required excursions - have been organised before making any travel plans for the semester.**

**Absence reporting for an absence due to illness**

1. On the first day of absence due to illness you should report the details of your symptoms by e-mailing absences@nyu.ac.uk including details of: class(es) missed; professor; class time; and whether any work was due including exams. Or call free (from landline) 0800 316 0469 (option 2) to report your absences on the phone.

2. Generally a doctor’s note will be required to ensure you have sought treatment for the illness. Contact the Gower Street Health Centre on 0207 636 7628 to make an appointment, or use HTH general practitioners if you cannot get an appointment expediently at Gower Street.

3. At the end of your period of absence, you will need to complete an absence form online at [http://bit.ly/NuCl5K](http://bit.ly/NuCl5K). You will need to log in to NYU Home to access the form.

4. Finally you must arrange an appointment to speak to Nigel Freeman or Donna Drummond-Smart on your first day back at class. You must have completed the absence form before making your appointment.

Supporting documentation relating to absences must be submitted within one week of your return to class.

**Absence requests for non-illness reasons**

Absence requests for **non-illness** reasons must be discussed with the Academic Office prior to the date(s) in question – no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retrospectively. Please come in and see us in Room 308, 6 Bedford Square, or e-mail us at academics@nyu.ac.uk.

**Further information regarding absences**
Each unexcused absence will be penalized by deducting 3% from the student’s final course mark. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.

Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from an examination (with authorisation, as above), your lecturer will decide how you will make-up the assessment component, if at all (by make-up examination, extra coursework, viva voce (oral examination), or an increased weighting on an alternate assessment component, etc.).

NYUL also expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. If timely attendance becomes a problem it is the prerogative of each instructor to deduct a mark or marks from the final grade of each late arrival and each early departure.

Please note that for classes involving a **field trip or other external visit**, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the policies relating to attendance. A copy is in your apartment and has been shared with you on Google Docs.

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**Grade conversion**

NYU in London uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

- A=94-100
- A-=90-93
- B+=87-89
- B=84-86
- B-=80-83
- C+=77-79
- C=74-76
- C-=70-73
- D+=67-69
- D=65-66
- F=below 65

Where no specific numerical equivalent is assigned to a letter grade by the class teacher, the mid point of the range will be used in calculating the final class grade (except in the A range, where 95.5 will be used).
NYU in London aims to have grading standards and results in all its courses similar to those that prevail at Washington Square.