

GWS/ ANTH/ SOC/ CPH 487

## Feminist Interpretations of Health

### Course Syllabus

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Spring 2011  
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 5:00 – 6:15 pm  
Electrical & Computer Engineering Building, Room 258

Dr. Adam Geary  
Gender & Women's Studies

Gender & Women's Studies Dept.  
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Office Hours sign up:  
<http://tinyurl.com/geary-signup>

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines “health” as a site of intense moral, social and political concern for feminist theory and activism. We will ask how the “concern” for health is framed and interpreted, and for what ends. Issues that will be considered include gender, race, sexuality and class in medical research; HIV/ AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases; poverty, racism, gender and health; obesity; environmental poisoning and health; and contemporary economic restructuring of health and social welfare.

This is an upper-division “senior” seminar. Students are expected to have strong critical-analysis, critical reading, and writing skills. Prior exposure to concepts in Gender & Women's Studies will be presumed; GWS305 “Feminist Theories” is strongly encouraged.

### REQUIRED TEXTS

- Steven Epstein, *Inclusion: The Politics of Difference in Medical Research* (Chicago, 2007). [available at the University Bookstore]
- All additional course materials will be made available to you through the course D2L website. You will need to download and print these materials. You *must* have copies of the readings with you in class on the day that they are being discussed.

## GRADING

- The final grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Attendance & Participation:	10%
Short Preparation Exercises:	10%
2 Midterm Essays:	30%
Group Final Project & Presentation:	25%
Group Final Position Paper	25%

- A portion of the final grade will be determined by your participation in the class. This will be weighted toward the *quality* of your participation, including regular and timely attendance, preparation (i.e., doing the reading, bringing the books), respectful and engaged listening to others, and contributions to discussions. Additionally, some of the work of this class will be done in groups, occasionally outside class. Your contributions to these groups will affect your participation grade.
- You will be asked to complete a number of short, written, preparation exercises on the day's readings (usually one paragraph or less). These assignments will sometimes be given out ahead of time, sometimes done in class. Because these will be the basis of class activities, *they will not be accepted at any other time than when they are due.*
- You will be required to write two (2) midterm essays dealing with the assigned reading materials, which will be graded. Explicit instructions will be provided in class. Due dates are listed in the course schedule.
- As a class, you will work together in groups to produce a substantial position paper and presentation on an issue relating to the interpretation of health. This will be the defining contribution to your course grade. In these groups you will engage in feminist research and activism: collectively defining roles, setting priorities, engaging in leadership, and working together to produce a substantial piece of writing and a presentation to the class. Instructions will be given in class early in the semester.
- You must complete a preponderance of the assignments to receive a passing grade for the course.
- Plagiarism or other academic dishonesty is grounds for *failing the course.*

## COURSE POLICIES & EXPECTATIONS

Enrollment in this class constitutes your agreement to these and all University student policies.

1. Course Readings: Assigned readings are to be completed on the day they are assigned, and you are expected to *have the assigned text with you in class* on the days that it is being discussed.
2. Attendance: Regular and timely attendance is expected and will be factored into your course grade. The following exceptions apply:

- All holidays or special events observed by organized religions will be honored for those students who show affiliation with that particular religion; and
- Absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean's designee) will be honored.

*In order to receive credit for any assignment missed because of a religious holiday or Dean's excuse, you must make appropriate arrangements with the Dr. Geary before the absence.*

3. Late Papers: Late midterm papers will be accepted, but will not receive comments from me, either written or verbal. Papers later than one week will be graded down 1/3 grade for each day or partial day that they are late. The final group position paper *will not be accepted after the posted deadline* unless you have made an arrangement with me in advance. (This policy does not apply to the regular written preparation exercises, which must be submitted in the class in which they are used.)
4. Email: In general, email should be restricted to simple, yes-no questions or emergency information. Questions requiring extensive answers should be reserved for the classroom or addressed to me during office hours. It is my policy to respond to email messages *only if* they are addressed and signed properly, with at least passable grammar. Additionally, normal turn-around time for email from me may be as long as 48 hours.
5. Academic Integrity — Plagiarism: Plagiarism is using the ideas or words of someone else without acknowledging them as the other person's. Plagiarism on any assignment is grounds for a *failing grade for the course*.
  - This course will follow the official plagiarism policy of the UA History Department. You are strongly encouraged to read this policy, and ask questions if you are unclear about any part of it.  
<http://datamonster.sbs.arizona.edu/history/undergraduates/plagiarism.php>
  - You are also encouraged to read the University's policy in the Code of Academic Integrity: <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/policiesandcodes/codeofacademicintegrity>
  - Additionally, there are a number of plagiarism links available through the University Library's website:  
<http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html>.
6. Classroom Behavior: The following, normative expectations hold for this class. Dr. Geary reserves the right to ask you to leave the class if you routinely or egregiously flout them.
  - You are bound by the Student Code of Conduct:  
<http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/policiesandcodes/studentcodeofconduct>
  - Timeliness: As a rule, you are expected to arrive and seat yourself in the classroom at or before the official beginning of the class period. Additionally, you are not to depart or prepare to depart prior to the official end of the class period.
  - Cell phones, pagers, instant-messaging programs, and all other communication devices *must be turned off or silenced* during the period of the class. Laptops are *not* to be used during class.
  - Threatening Behavior: All forms of threatening behavior are in violation of the Student Code of Conduct and are unwelcome in this class. Threatening

behavior will result in your immediate removal from the class, and you will have to petition Dr. Geary to be re-instated. See the University's policy on threatening behavior at

[http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/safety\\_related\\_policies](http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/safety_related_policies).

- **Harassment and Intimidation:** Any form of harassment or intimidation, including but not limited to threatening behavior, is also in violation of the Student Code of Conduct and unwelcome in the class. Harassment or intimidation may result in removal from the class, at which point you would have to petition Dr. Geary to be re-instated. See the University's policy on harassment and intimidation at [http://equity.arizona.edu/non-discrimination\\_anti-harassment](http://equity.arizona.edu/non-discrimination_anti-harassment).

7. **Disabilities Accommodations:** Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations to fully participate in course activities or meet course requirements must register with the Disability Resource Center. If you qualify for services through DRC, bring your letter of accommodations to Dr. Geary as soon as possible.

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**The student is hereby notified that information contained in this course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by Dr. Geary.**

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## COURSE SCHEDULE

### DEFINING HEALTH

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| Thursday, Jan 13 | • "The Preamble of the Constitution of the World Health Organization"  |
| Tuesday, Jan 18  | • Joan Bertin & Laurie Beck, "Of headlines & hypotheses"<br>• Kathryn Ratcliff, "Introduction" to <i>Women and Health</i><br>• Richard Hofrichter, "The politics of health inequalities" |
| Thursday, Jan 20 | • Antronette Yancey et al, "Obesity at the crossroads"<br>• Simone French et al, "Environmental influences on eating and physical activity"  |
| Tuesday, Jan 25  | • Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, "Epidemics of the will"<br>• Sam Dolnick, "The obesity-hunger paradox"  |
| Thursday, Jan 27 | • Dorothy Porter, "How did social medicine evolve, and where is it heading?"<br>• In-class screening: "Unnatural Causes"   |

## Feminist Interpretations of Health

- Tuesday, Feb 1
- Nancy Krieger et al, "Racism, sexism & social class"
  - review "Unnatural Causes" & Porter's essay from Thursday

- Thursday, Feb 3
- Midterm Essay #1 workshop in class
  - Group projects discussion

### THE POLITICS OF DIFFERENCE IN MEDICINE & HEALTH

- Tuesday, Feb 8
- Steven Epstein, *Inclusion*, Introduction – ch. 1 (pp. 1-29)
  - Bernadine Healy, "Challenging sameness"
  - Sally Satel, "Science by quota"

- Thursday, Feb 10
- Epstein, *Inclusion*, chs. 2-3 (pp. 30-73)

- Sunday, Feb 13**
- **Midterm Essay #1 due at 9:00 pm**

- Tuesday, Feb 15
- Epstein, chs. 4-5 (pp. 74-115)

- Thursday, Feb 17
- Epstein, ch. 7 & 9 (pp. 135-154 & 182-202)

- Tuesday, Feb 22
- Epstein, ch. 10 (pp. 203-232)
  - Anne Fausto-Sterling, "Refashioning race"

- Thursday, Feb 24
- Epstein, ch. 11 (pp. 233-257)
  - Anne Fausto-Sterling, "The bare bones of sex"

- Tuesday, Mar 1
- Epstein, ch. 12 - conclusion (pp. 258-302)

- Thursday, Mar 3
- Midterm Essay #2 workshop in class
  - Terry Plum & Evan Sabetelli, "Finding resources"

- Tuesday, Mar 8
- Sandi Morgan, "Movement-grounded theory"

- Thursday, Mar 10**
- **Midterm Essay #2 due at 5:00 pm**
  - No class meeting: Dr. Geary at the "Critical Ethnic Studies" conference in Riverside, California

Mar 12 - 20                      *Spring Break*

### GENDER, RACE & CLASS IN PUBLIC HEALTH: THE CASE OF AIDS

- Tuesday, Mar 22
- Cindy Patton, *Last Served?* Intro. - ch. 2 (pp. 1-47)

- Thursday, Mar 24
- Patton, ch. 3 (pp. 48-76)

- Tuesday, Mar 29
- Patton, chs. 4-7 (pp. 77-150)

## Feminist Interpretations of Health

- Thursday, Mar 31 • Janie Simmons et al, "A global perspective"
- Tuesday, Apr 5** • **Group Project & Paper Proposals due in class**  
• No additional reading
- Thursday, Apr 7 • Eileen Stillwaggon, "The ecology of poverty"  
• Merrill Singer, "AIDS and the health crisis of the U.S. urban poor"
- Tuesday, Apr 12 • Milton Terris, "The neoliberal triad of anti-health reforms"  
• Colleen O'Manique, "Global neoliberalism and AIDS policy"

### ECONOMIES, ENVIRONMENTS & SITES OF ACTIVISM

- Thursday, Apr 14 • Nancy Krieger, "Theories for social epidemiology"
- Tuesday, Apr 19 • Joni Seager, "Rachel Carson died of breast cancer"
- Thursday, Apr 21 • WHO, "Closing the gap in a generation"
- Tuesday, Apr 26 • Group presentations
- Thursday, Apr 28 • Group presentations
- Tuesday, Mar 3 • Final thoughts

**Wednesday May 11th — Group Position Papers due at 6:00 pm**