

MEHX 6000-082: The History of Public Health in the U.S. (18th – 20th c.)
Tuesdays, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., IMH Library, 2.204 Ashbel Smith Building (Old Red)

Instructor Information

Course Instructor: Prof. Dayle DeLancey

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Office Hours: Tuesdays after class, from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. **-OR-** By appointment (E-mail Prof. DeLancey to arrange an appointment.)

Course Description

Examining U.S. history from the late-eighteenth century through the twentieth century, this course considers the historical development of organized, public responsibility for the maintenance of salubrious conditions, the prevention and management of disease, and the assessment of health risks. Among the themes addressed over the long sweep of U.S. history are: the role of disease in shaping regional and national public health concerns; the emergence of organized public health infrastructures; the impact of shifts in scientific knowledge and practice upon the development of public health; the impact of social, cultural, and political concerns upon public health provision; grassroots movements in public health; the relationship between U.S. public health and global public health; and critics of and controversies within public health.

Grading Criteria

Each student's course grade will be derived from the following FOUR elements:

- **Participation in seminar discussions** (20%).
- **Reading-and-Research Journal** (20%).
 - *****ALERT!*** POLICY CHANGE!!! (EFFECTIVE 5/2/07): Reading-and-Research Journal entries will now *be written in-class*, at the start of each seminar meeting. ***ALERT!*****
- **1,500-word Literature Review Essay** (roughly 6 double-spaced, typed pages) (20%).
 - **Literature Review Essay due in class June 19, 2007.**
- **6,000-word Final Research Paper/Journal Article** (roughly 25 double-spaced, typed pages), that: (a) blends analysis of primary and secondary sources, (b) represents original research, and (c) is suitable for publication in a peer-reviewed, academic journal (40%).
As such, this assignment asks you to approach it as if you are writing a paper for submission to an academic journal. We will discuss this further in class, and will revisit the issue throughout the term so that requirements are clear and so that students are guided through the stages of the assignment.
 - **Final Research Paper/Journal Article due in class August 7, 2007.**

The mechanics of the Reading-and-Research Journal, Literature Review Essay, and Final Research Paper/Journal Article will be covered in class and via e-mail.

Prerequisites

For MEHU students, no prerequisites.

Required Texts

1. **Digital and PDF Readings: Access links or hardcopies provided by the instructor.**
2. Daniels, Norman, Bruce Kennedy, and Ichiro Kawachi, eds. *Is Inequality Bad for Our Health?* Boston: Beacon, 2000.
3. Duffy, John. *The Sanitarians: A History of American Public Health*. 1990; Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1992.
4. Grob, Gerald N. *The Deadly Truth: A History of Disease in America*. 2002; Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2005.
5. Powell, J.H. *Bring Out Your Dead: The Great Plague of Yellow Fever in Philadelphia in 1793*. 1949; Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1993.
6. Tesh, Sylvia N. *Hidden Arguments: Political Ideology and Disease Prevention Policy*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1988.
7. Warner, John H. and Tighe, Janet A. *Major Problems in the History of American Medicine and Public Health*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2000.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students should know, understand, and be able to use concrete examples to explain the following in appropriate historical context:

- The development, institutionalization, and practice of public health in the U.S.
- The shifting definitions, expectations, and mandates of U.S. public health.
- Several of the most significant core issues and debates surrounding U.S. public health.
- Several of the most significant ways in which social, political, and cultural concerns have interacted with U.S. public health.

Course Schedule

PART I (Weeks 1-8):
THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

This section of our course provides an overview of the history of U.S. public health, highlighting and exploring major themes and watersheds along the way.

A. (Weeks One & Two): INTRODUCTIONS & DEFINITIONS

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTIONS, REQUIREMENTS, & “HOUSEKEEPING” ISSUES
Tuesday, MAY 1, 2007

This session covers participant and instructor introductions; a review of the syllabus; a review of course expectations and requirements; an overview of the course; and a brief discussion of course objectives and the degree to which they dovetail with individual research interests.

WEEK 2: DEFINING PUBLIC HEALTH & WRITING ITS HISTORY
Tuesday, MAY 8, 2007

Dorothy Porter, “Changing Definitions of the History of Public Health,” *Hygiea Internationalis* 1.1(1999), 9–21. [DISTRIBUTED IN PREVIOUS WEEK’S CLASS]

Gerald N. Grob, “Preface” (all) and “Prologue” (all) in *The Deadly Truth: A History of Disease in America*. 2002; Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2005.

Sylvia N. Tesh, “Introduction,” “Chapter 1: Nineteenth-Century Debates,” “Chapter 2: Twentieth-Century Debates,” and “Chapter 3: Multi-Causal Solutions” in *Hidden Arguments: Political Ideology and Disease Prevention Policy*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1988, pp. 3-82.

Susan Reverby and David Rosner, “Medical Culture and Historical Practice” in John H. Warner and Janet A. Tighe, *Major Problems in the History of American Medicine and Public Health*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2000, pp. 3-9.

James T. Patterson, “Disease in the History of Medicine and Public Health” in Warner and Tighe, *Major Problems in the History of American Medicine and Public Health*, pp. 17-24.

B. (Weeks Three & Four): EARLY 'PUBLIC HEALTH'

WEEK 3: NASCENT INFRASTRUCTURES & SMALLPOX PREVENTION
Tuesday, MAY 15, 2007

Grob, *The Deadly Truth*, Chapters 2, 3, and 4, pp. 26-69.

Duffy, *The Sanitarians*, pp. 1-51.

John B. Blake, "Smallpox Inoculation Foments Controversy in Boston," in John H. Warner and Janet A. Tighe, *Major Problems*, pp. 48-54.

NARRATIVES from Mather (pp. 30-33), Douglass (pp. 33-34), and Boylston (pp. 36-37) in Warner and Tighe, *Major Problems*, pp. 30-34 and 36-37.

Wolman, Roslyn S. "A Tale of Two Colonial Cities: Inoculation against Smallpox in Philadelphia and Boston." *Transactions and Studies of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia* 45(1978): 338-47. [DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS DURING WEEK 2.]

WEEK 4: NASCENT INFRASTRUCTURES & EPIDEMIC YELLOW FEVER
Tuesday, MAY 22, 2007

J.H. Powell. *Bring Out Your Dead: The Great Plague of Yellow Fever in Philadelphia in 1793*. 1949; Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1993.

Absalom Jones and Richard Allen, *A Narrative of the Proceedings of the Black People, during the Late, Awful Calamity in Philadelphia in the Year 1793* [SELECTIONS DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS DURING WEEK 3.]

NARRATIVE of Benjamin Rush, in Warner and Tighe, *Major Problems*, pp. 60-63.

Lisa Rosner, "The Philadelphia Medical Marketplace," in Warner and Tighe, *Major Problems*, pp. 80-90.

C. (Week Five): THE ROOTS OF 'MODERN' PUBLIC HEALTH

**WEEK 5: 'MODERN' INFRASTRUCTURES – CHOLERA, CIVIL WAR, or SCIENCE?
Tuesday, MAY 29, 2007**

Duffy, *Sanitarians*, pp. 79-125.

Grob, *The Deadly Truth*, Chapters 5 and 6.

Review your notes from last semester's reading of Rosenberg's *The Cholera Years*. –or– Give the copy in the IMH library a quick re-reading.

Warner and Tighe, *Major Problems*, "Chapter 4: Antebellum Medical Knowledge, Practice, and Patients, 1820-1860," pp. 91-123; "Chapter 5: The Healer's Identity in the Mid-Nineteenth Century: Character, Care, and Competition, 1830-1875," pp. 149-157; "Chapter 6: The Civil War, Efficiency, and the Sanitary Impulse, 1845-1870," pp. 159-164, 172-173, 178-195.

Alan M. Kraut, *Silent Travelers: Germs, Genes, and the Immigrant Menace* (New York: Basic, 1991), pp. 31-49. [DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS DURING WEEK FOUR.]

D. (Week Six): INSTITUTIONALIZATION & ITS DISCONTENTS

**WEEK 6: PUBLIC HEALTH EXPANSION & PUBLIC RESISTANCE
Tuesday, JUNE 5, 2007**

Duffy, *Sanitarians*, 126-220.

Grob, *The Deadly Truth*, 180-216.

Warner and Tighe, *Major Problems*, "Chapter 8: The Gospel of Germs: Microbes, Strangers, and the Habits of the Home, 1880-1925," pp. 234-273.

Alan M. Kraut, "Silent Travelers: Germs, Genes, and American Efficiency, 1890-1924," *Social Science History* 12.4 (Winter, 1988), pp. 377-394.
[DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS DURING WEEK FIVE.]

Marks, Condran, Meckel, Kearns, and Preston, "Demography and History around 1900: A Symposium on *The Fatal Years*," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 85-128.
[DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS DURING WEEK FIVE.]

E. (Week Seven): GOVERNMENTALIZATION & ITS DISCONTENTS

**WEEK 7: GOVERNMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES IN ACTION
Tuesday, JUNE 12, 2007**

Duffy, *Sanitarians*, 221-272.

Warner and Tighe, *Major Problems*, “Chapter 12: The Culture of Biomedical Research: Human Subjects, Power, and the Scientific Method, 1920-1965,” pp. 388-441 and “Chapter 13: Public Health and the State during an Age of Biomedical Miracles, 1925-1960,” pp. 451-456.

Alan Derickson, “Health Security for All? Social Unionism and Universal Health Insurance, 1935-1958,” *The Journal of American History*, 80.4(1994), pp. 1333-1356.
[DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS DURING WEEK SIX.]

Margaret Humphreys, “Kicking a Dying Dog: DDT and the Demise of Malaria in the American South, 1942-1950,” *Isis*, 87.1 (1996), 1-17.
[DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS DURING WEEK SIX.]

F. (Week 8): ASSESSING LATE 20th-CENTURY PUBLIC HEALTH
Tuesday, JUNE 19, 2007

*****ALERT!*****

1,500-word Literature Review due at the beginning of class in Week 8, on June 19, 2007!

*****ALERT!*****

Warner and Tighe, *Major Problems*, “Chapter 14: Rights, Access, and the Bottom Line: Rights, Access, and the Bottom Line: Health Politics and Health Policies, 1960-2000,” pp. 459-483.

Elizabeth Fee, “Public Health and the State: The United States,” in *The History of Public Health in the Modern State*, ed. Dorothy Porter (Amsterdam and London: Rodopi, 1994), pp. 224-275.
[DISTRIBUTED DURING WEEK SEVEN.]

James Colgrove, “The McKeown Thesis: A Historical Controversy and Its Enduring Significance” *American Journal of Public Health* 92.5(2002): 725-729.
[DISTRIBUTED DURING WEEK SEVEN.]

Simon Szreter, “Rethinking McKeown: The Relationship between Public Health and Social Change,” *American Journal of Public Health* 92.5(2002): 722-724.
[DISTRIBUTED DURING WEEK SEVEN.]

PART II (Weeks 9-15):
MAJOR PROBLEMS in LATE 20th-and 21st- CENTURY PUBLIC HEALTH

This section of our course considers ‘major problems’ in recent and contemporary public health in historical context. The ‘major problems’ considered have been designated as such in two ways: first, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has named them as health priorities, and second, they reflect larger debates in the history and practice of public health in the U.S.

G. (Week Nine): MAJOR PROBLEMS IN PUBLIC HEALTH I.

WEEK 9: CHILD HEALTH
Tuesday, June 26, 2007

Department of Health and Human Services, “Objectives,” *Healthy People 2010* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 2000 and 2002), p. 17.

Eric Eckholm, “In a Turnabout, Infant Deaths Climb in the South,” *New York Times*, April 22, 2007.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/22/health/22infant.html?ei=5070&en=7abe7e5bbb054dfa&ex=1182052800&adxnlnl=1&adxnlnl=1181941728-u+0V/WgQYJYDXayohA0NRw&pagewanted=print>

Kriste Lindenmeyer, “The Federal Government and Child Health,” in *Children and Youth in Sickness and in Health: A Historical Handbook and Guide*, edited by Richard A. Meckel, Janet Golden, and Heather Munro Prescott, (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2004), pp. 107- 125.

Susan L. Smith, “The Public Health Work of Poor, Rural, Black Women: Black Midwives in Mississippi.” In *Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1995), pp. 118-148.

Karen Buhler-Wilkerson, “Bringing Care to the People: Lillian Wald’s Legacy to Public Health Nursing,” *American Journal of Public Health*, 83.12(1993): 1778-1786.

G. (Week Ten): NO CLASS

WEEK 10: NO CLASS
Tuesday, JULY 3, 2007

J. (Week Eleven): MAJOR PROBLEMS IN PUBLIC HEALTH II.

**WEEK 11: OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & CONTESTED ‘DISEASES’
Tuesday, JULY 10, 2007**

[ALL READINGS DISTRIBUTED IN PREVIOUS WEEK’S CLASS.]

Re-Examine: Department of Health and Human Services, “Objectives,” *Healthy People 2010* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 2000 and 2002), p. 17.

Herbert K. Abrams, “A Short History of Occupational Health.” *Journal of Public Health History* 22.1 (2001): 34-80.

Gerald Markowitz and David Rosner, “‘The Street of Walking Death:’ Silicosis, Health, and Labor in the Tri-State Region, 1900-1950,” *The Journal of American History* 77.2 (1990), pp. 525-552.

Tesh, “Chapter 5: Air Traffic Control and Stress,” *Hidden Arguments*, pp. 105-130.

Michele Murphy, “Feminism, Surveys, and Toxic Details” and “Indoor Pollution at the Encounter of Toxicology and Popular Epidemiology,” in *Sick Building Syndrome and the Politics of Uncertainty: Environmental Politics, Technoscience and Women Workers* (Duke University Press, 2006), pp. 57-80 and 81-110.

K. (Week Twelve): MAJOR PROBLEMS IN PUBLIC HEALTH III.

**WEEK 12: THE ‘OBESITY EPIDEMIC’
Tuesday, JULY 17, 2007**

SPECIAL NOTE: Don’t panic! This unit only looks daunting: in reality, it consists of a large number of VERY SHORT articles, plus a book chapter. (I’ve included page counts [in brackets] after each entry to assuage any fears!)

- **[8 PAGES]** Allan M. Brandt, “Risk, Behavior, and Disease: Who is Responsible for Keeping Americans Healthy?” in Warner and Tighe, *Major Problems*, pp. 532-539.

[THE FOLLOWING SOURCES DISTRIBUTED IN PREVIOUS WEEK’S CLASS:]

- **[4 PAGES]** Department of Health and Human Services, “Leading Health Indicators” and “Overweight and Obesity” in *Healthy People 2010, 2nd Edition* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 2000 and 2002), pp. 24-25 and 28-29.

- **[1 CHAPTER]** Michael Gard, *The Obesity Epidemic* (New York: Routledge, 2005).
(SELECTIONS)

- **[3 PAGES] Kassirer-Angell-Koop Debate [6 PAGES TOTAL]**: Jerome P. Kassirer and Marcia Angell, “Losing Weight — An Ill-Fated New Year's Resolution,” *New England Journal of Medicine*, 338.1 (1998): 52-54. <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/338/1/52> **[3 PAGES] - AND-** Cindy Karra, “Dr. Koop and Leading Public Health Experts Challenge An Editorial in the *New England Journal of Medicine* which ‘Trivializes’ Obesity,” *Press Release, Shape Up! Health for Life*, January 1998. http://www.shapeup.org/about/arch_pr/010698.php

- **[ABOUT 20 PAGES TOTAL] Packet of Short Newspaper Articles**: **Gregg Easterbrook**, “The Nation: Wages of Wealth: All This Progress Is Killing Us, Bite by Bite,” *New York Times*, March 14, 2004; **Mary Ferguson**, “A Growing Problem: Race, Class and Obesity among American Women.” *J. Post., Special Issue: Diversity or Division?: Race, Class and America at the Millenium*, January 2000 http://journalism.nyu.edu/pubzone/race_class/othergirlsstuff.html#; **Dinita Smith**, “Demonizing Fat in the War on Weight,” *New York Times*, May 1, 2004; **Marc Santora**, “New York Pushing Better Diet in Poorer Neighborhoods.” *New York Times*. January 20, 2006; **Tom Angiotti**, “Obesity, Asthma, and Public Health: What Can Planners Do?” *Gotham Gazette*, November 8, 2006, <http://www.gothamgazette.com/article/landuse/20061108/12/2025>; **Carol Lloyd**, “Where We Live May Be to Blame for Obesity,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, April 22, 2007.

- **OPTIONAL ONLINE AUDIO FILE**: Dan Charles, “Group Maps City Access to Healthy Foods,” *Day to Day*, National Public Radio, January 31, 2007.
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=7097476>

J. (Week Thirteen): MAJOR PROBLEMS IN PUBLIC HEALTH IV.

**WEEK 13: HEALTHCARE ACCESS & ITS DISCONTENTS, AT HOME AND ABROAD
Tuesday, JULY 24, 2007**

Norman Daniels, Bruce Kennedy, and Ichiro Kawachi, eds., *Is Inequality Bad for Our Health?*
Boston: Beacon, 2000. (short book – read all)

[ALL READINGS BELOW DISTRIBUTED IN PREVIOUS WEEK'S CLASS]

Department of Health and Human Services, "Access to Healthcare," in *Healthy People 2010, 2nd Edition* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 2000 and 2002), pp. 44-45.

Alejandro Reuss, "Cause of Death: Inequality," *Dollars and Sense: The Magazine of Economic Justice*, May/June 2001. Reprinted online at *The World Traveler*:
http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Health/Cause_Death_Inequality.html

Peter Lurie, et al., "Letter to the Department of HHS concerning their funding of unethical trials which administer placebos to HIV-infected pregnant women through NIH and the Centers for Disease Control." April 22, 1997. (HRG Publication #1415).

Marcia Angell, "The Ethics of Clinical Research in the Third World," *New England Journal of Medicine*, 337.12 (1997):847-849. Reprinted online at:
<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/337/12/847?ijkey=7TDfEkYpBcCP2>

David D. Ho, "It's AIDS, Not Tuskegee," *Time*, September 29, 1997.
<http://www.time.com/time/printout/0,8816,987069,00.html>

****SPECIAL CLASS SESSION: Thursday, July 26, 2007****
RESEARCH PAPER/JOURNAL ARTICLE MINI-WORKSHOP, PART I.
Mini-Workshop for Final Papers/Journal Articles

Mosquito Café, 12:30 p.m.

What issues are you facing as you write your final paper for this course? What approaches to writing and organization have been working for you thus far – and which have not? Which materials from our course are you trying to integrate with your own research? During this session, which will be structured and conducted like a meeting of a peer writing group, students interact with the instructor and the rest of the seminar to discuss and receive feedback on their papers.

J. (Week Fourteen): MAJOR PROBLEMS IN PUBLIC HEALTH V.

**WEEK 14: RESURGENT DISEASES AND PERSONAL LIBERTY
Tuesday, JULY 31, 2007**

DRUG-RESISTANT TB PACKET: Richard Knox, “Man Eluded Attempts to Control Deadly TB Strain,” *All Things Considered*, National Public Radio, May 30, 2007. <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=10554040> –and– Vikki Valentine, “Why TB Remains a Modern and Deadly Problem,” National Public Radio, May 30, 2007. <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=10551019>

AMA Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs, “The Use of Quarantine and Isolation as Public Health Interventions,” Council Report (CEJA 1-1-05), 2005. (2 pages)

Department of Health and Human Services, “Immunization,” *Healthy People 2010* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 2000 and 2002), pp. 42-43.

James Colgrove, “Chapter 1: Between Persuasion and Compulsion: Vaccination at the Turn of the Twentieth Century” and “Chapter 2: Science in a Democracy: Smallpox Vaccination in the Progressive Era and the 1920s” in *State of Immunity: The Politics of Vaccination in Twentieth-Century America* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: Milbank and the University of California Press, 2006).

George J. Annas, “Bioterrorism, Public Health, and Civil Liberties,” *New England Journal of Medicine* 346, no. 17 (2002): 1337–1342.

James Colgrove and Ronald Bayer, “Manifold Restraints: Liberty, Public Health, and the Legacy of *Jacobson v Massachusetts*.” *American Journal of Public Health* 95(2005): 571-576.

Wendy K. Mariner and George J. Annas, “*Jacobson v. Massachusetts*: It’s Not Your Great-Great Grandfather’s Public Health Law,” *American Journal of Public Health* 95.4(2005): 581-590.

****SPECIAL CLASS SESSION: Thursday, August 3, 2007****

RESEARCH PAPER/JOURNAL ARTICLE MINI-WORKSHOP, PART II.

Mini-Workshop for Final Papers/Journal Articles

Mosquito Café, 12:30 p.m.

During this session, which will be structured and conducted like a meeting of a peer writing group, students will interact with the instructor and the rest of the seminar to discuss and receive feedback on their papers. Addressing each student’s final paper/journal article as a team, we will revisit the issues discussed during our July 26, 2007 meeting, assess progress, and address any lingering (or new!) problems.

M. (Week Fifteen): CONCLUSION & PAPER REFLECTIONS

**WEEK 15: CONCLUSION – WHITHER PUBLIC HEALTH?
Tuesday, AUGUST 7, 2007**

*****ALERT!*****

6,000-word Final Research Paper/Journal Article due at the beginning of class in Week 15, on August 7, 2007!

*****ALERT!*****

First Portion of Session: Each student will be asked to offer brief, unprepared reflections on the process of completing the research papers that they have just submitted.

Second Portion of Session: The bulk of the session will consist of a seminar discussion about a new set of excerpts from the Department of Health and Human Services' *Healthy People 2010* publication, situating it within the larger historical landscape of public health that we have explored during the foregoing semester.

Department of Health and Human Services, "Introduction" and "A Systematic Approach to Health Improvement," *Healthy People 2010* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 2000 and 2002), pp. 1-6 and 7-23.