

**Danz Humanities Course – Humanities 201**  
**Diagnosing Injustice: Ethics, Power and Global Health**  
**Fall 2006 – Tu/Th 10:30-11:50 a.m., Sieg 134**

Instructors:

Sara Goering (Philosophy)  
Savery 331C  
[sgoering@u.washington.edu](mailto:sgoering@u.washington.edu)  
(206) 616-2102

Janelle Taylor (Anthropology)  
Denny M39  
[jstaylor@u.washington.edu](mailto:jstaylor@u.washington.edu)  
(206) 543-4793

Office hrs: Tu/Th 1-2 p.m. and by appt

Office hrs: Th 1:30-3:30 p.m. and by appt

Teaching Assistants (offices in Communications 218):

Monica Aufrecht (Philosophy) [aufrecht@u.washington.edu](mailto:aufrecht@u.washington.edu) (hrs Tu/Th 12-1 p.m.)

Emily Lynch (Anthropology) [emlynch@u.washington.edu](mailto:emlynch@u.washington.edu) (hrs W/F 10:30-11:30 a.m.)

Joon-Ho Yu (Public Health Genetics) [joonhoju@u.washington.edu](mailto:joonhoju@u.washington.edu) (hrs W 12:30-2:30)

Brief description: To understand and to address illness, we tend to look first to the body of the individual sufferer. Yet if we look instead to global patterns of power and inequality, illness comes into focus as a problem of injustice – and by the same token, it becomes clear how injustice can cause people to sicken, suffer, and die. This course highlights the problem of global health disparities, and introduces students to conceptual tools from medical anthropology and medical ethics for critically analyzing health and illness in global, social, and ethical perspectives. What do we as citizens of a wealthy and powerful country, or as citizens of the world more generally, need to understand about the connections between power and health? What are our responsibilities? What are some of the complications and difficulties that arise in trying to implement solutions to global health problems – and what are some examples of successful and positive efforts? These questions that shall guide our exploration of a range of specific topics, including poverty and structural violence, war and terror, and biotechnology and pharmaceuticals. Course materials will include films as well as readings, and our discussions will be enriched by several guest speakers.

- 
- Texts: • *Sickness and Wealth: The Corporate Assault on Global Health* (eds. Fort, Mercer and Gish), Cambridge MA: South End Press, 2004. Available at the University Book Store.  
• Reading packet, available at Ave Copy Center, 4141 University Way NE Suite 103  
• Course website: <http://faculty.washington.edu/jstaylor/hum201/>

---

Requirements:

E-posts – due the night before section, in 5 different weeks ( <i>satisfactory/unsatisfactory</i> )	15%
Short paper (2-3 pgs) – what is structural violence? ( <i>4.0 scale</i> )	10%
Op-ed piece (2-3 pgs) – on structural violence and a health issue ( <i>4.0 scale</i> )	20%
Group project: plan of action & poster ( <i>4.0 scale, combination of product/effort</i> )	55%
Component elements:	
1) students e-post topics, why interesting & important, persuade classmates	(5%)
2) what is the health problem & how apparently linked to injustice?	(5%)
3) who are the parties involved in creating/perpetuating the problem/injustice?	(5%)
4) how have people addressed problem, what obstacles were encountered?	(5%)
5) what do you propose as course of action, to whom will you address this?	(5%)
6) POSTER: must contain elements described in assignment; will be graded on final product as well as individual contribution. ( <i>4.0, grp with indiv adjustment</i> )	(30%)
Self-evaluation and peer evaluations	

Students with disabilities are invited to contact Disabled Student Services at (206) 543-8924/V, (206) 543-8925/TTY, (206) 616-8379/FAX or email [uwdss@u.washington.edu](mailto:uwdss@u.washington.edu). If you need academic accommodation for any reason, please discuss this with us early in the term.

Tentative schedule:

Th Sept. 28 Introduction to the course – what is medical anthro/medical ethics, structure of the course

Structural violence and justice

Tu Oct. 3 **What is structural violence?**  
Tracy Kidder, “The Good Doctor”  
Paul Farmer, “On Suffering and Structural Violence”

Th Oct. 5 **Who is responsible? What are our obligations?**  
Paul Farmer, “Health, Healing and Social Justice”  
Thomas Pogge “Responsibility for Poverty-Related Ill Health”  
Singer “Famine, Affluence and Morality”

*Paper 1 assigned*

War and Terror

Tu Oct. 10 **Terror and public health**  
Sidel et al, “Good Intentions and the Road to Bioterrorism Preparedness”  
Cohen et al, “The Pitfalls of Bioterrorism Preparedness”  
Eckenweiler, “Emergency Health Professionals and the Ethics of Crisis”

Th. Oct. 12 **Jonathan Moreno, guest lecture on classified human research and national defense**  
Moreno, “Bioethics and the National Security State”

Tu Oct. 17 **The effects of war on individual lives**  
Anderson “War Comes to our Waiting Room”  
*Landmines: A Love Story*

*Paper 1 due in section, 10/18*

Th Oct. 19 **War’s effects on health infrastructure**  
Noji and Burkholder, “Public Health Interventions”  
Whiteford and Tobin, “Saving Lives, Destroying Livelihoods”  
Medact Report on infrastructure in Iraq, 2004.

Tu Oct. 24 **Holly Barker & Erika Strong guest lecture**– on U.S. nuclear testing in Marshall Islands and struggle for justice (clips of film *Half-Life*)  
Barker, “Fighting Back”  
Yamada in *Sickness and Wealth*

Th Oct. 26 **Doctors’ complicity in torture**  
Selections from Miles *Oath Betrayed: Torture, Medical Complicity and the War on Terror*;  
Kaplan, “South Africa”

Poverty

Tu Oct. 31 **Health costs of free markets**  
Janes and Chuluundorj, “Free Markets and Dead Mothers”  
Verdugo in *Sickness and Wealth*

*Part 1 poster, due 11/1*

Th Nov. 2 **Guest lecture – Steven Bezruschka on income gaps and health;**  
Bezruchka and Mercer in *Sickness and Wealth*  
Bezruchka, “Economic Equality is the Best Medicine”  
Parrish, “Defending My Life”

*Paper 2 assigned*

Tu Nov. 7 **Poverty and health in the U.S.**  
selections from *Uninsured in America*  
Adler and Newman “Socioeconomic Disparities in Health: Pathways and Policies”

*Part 2 poster, due 11/8*

- Th Nov. 9      **Poverty and health around the world**  
 Bond in *Sickness and Wealth*  
 Holz and Kathur in *Sickness and Wealth*
- Tu Nov. 14     **Steven Gloyd (UW Global Health) guest lecture**  
 Gloyd in *Sickness and Wealth*  
 Hong in *Sickness and Wealth*  
 Gish in *Sickness and Wealth*
- Paper 2 due in section, 11/15*
- Th Nov. 16     **Questions of citizenship, legitimacy and access**  
 Fassin “Social Illegitimacy as a Foundation of Health Inequality”  
 Horton “Land and Rural New Mexican Hispanics’ Mistrust of Federal Programs:  
 Unintended Consequences of Medicaid Eligibility Rules”

Global Pharmaceuticals and Biotechnology

- Tu Nov. 21     **Ethical Standards for Research: Controversies**  
 Petryna, “Ethical Variability”  
 Angell, “Investigators’ Responsibilities to Human Subjects in Developing Countries.”  
 Gray et al., “The Ethics of Research in Developing Countries”
- Part 3 poster, due 11/22*
- Th Nov. 23     THANKSGIVING
- Tu Nov. 28     **Money Talks: Exploitation and Conflict of Interest**  
 Macklin, “Avoiding Exploitation”  
 Elliott, “Pharma Buys a Conscience”
- Part 4 poster, due 11/29*
- Th Nov. 30     **Treatment Implementation**  
 Abadia-Berrero, “Happy Children with AIDS”  
 Rennie and Behets, “AIDS Care and Treatment in Sub-Saharan Africa”  
 Davis and Fort in *Sickness and Wealth*
- Tu Dec. 5      **Loyce Mbewa** (on NGOs for justice and AIDS treatment in Kenya)  
 Readings TBD
- Part 5 poster, due 11/8*
- Th Dec. 7      **Struggling for Justice**  
 Ceron et al in *Sickness and Wealth*  
 Mercer in *Sickness and Wealth*  
 Course evaluations/wrap-up

Exam Period: Monday, December 11, 10:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. (poster presentation and judging)  
*(Part 6 poster, due 12/11; Part 7 turned in)*

**Tuesday, December 12, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Mary Gates Hall atrium.** Special reception and poster session for public audience. Poster prizes will be awarded. All students should plan to attend and may invite guests.

**E-posts (15%):** You will be asked to e-post responses & comments on the course readings five times over the course of the quarter, no more than once each week. Your comments should address the day's readings, and must be posted no later than 8 p.m. on the day before your section meets. These postings will be used to guide and enrich class discussion. Individual postings will be graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. You are not required to read your classmates' postings, but you may find it helpful and interesting. Please single-space your posting, title it, and sign your name at the end. Each posting should be a short (~150-300 words) coherent paragraph(s) that follows one of these two formats:

Close reading (title your posting "Close reading: [name of author/s]"): Identify a passage from one of the readings that either excites you, or stumps and frustrates you; briefly explain how or why it does so; then pose a question that might help move our discussion forward to follow your inspiration, or address your frustration.

Crosstalk (title your posting "Crosstalk: [topic or theme]"): Write a short paragraph situating the day's readings within the context of the course as a whole: what new elements do they bring to our exploration of justice and global health? Which previous readings do they build upon, which do they forget? How do they speak to themes emerging in class discussion?

To post your contribution, go to the "Diagnosing Injustice" e-post discussion area, which you can link to through the course website: <http://faculty.washington.edu/jstaylor/hum201/>