

Platter
Fall
2002

SOCIOLOGY 1003
ETHICS AND SOCIAL ISSUES IN HEALTH AND MEDICINE

FALL 2002

Tuesday, Thursday 11:00-11:50*

Adele Platter, Ph.D.

The course examines health and medical issues from a sociological perspective, focusing on current controversial topics of interest. We will study the American health care system, the distribution of illness and of health care resources, and possible alternatives for change in these areas. We will also consider ethical decision making in several areas, including: health care and health care reform, new and emerging infectious diseases, organ transplantation, stem cell research, cloning, reproductive issues, medical research, and death and dying.

Purpose of course:

1. To better understand the distribution of health and medicine in the United States.
2. To better understand the social foundations of the medical institution and the health care system in the United States.
3. To better understand the social conditions that influence decision making in health and medicine.
4. To develop skills for analyzing controversial issues in health & medicine.
5. To become more knowledgeable consumers of health care.

READINGS

The following books are required:

Conrad, P., Editor, *The Sociology of Health and Illness*, 6th edition, 2001.

Levine, C., Editor, *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Bioethical Issues*, 9th edition, 2001.

Additional readings will be distributed in class.

*One recitation per week is also required.

EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to attend class. If you are ill and/or have special needs or problems, speak to your TA or to me. We will try to work out a solution.

Participation in recitations is expected. Periodically we will examine new health programs, research findings, legislative action, and court decisions concerning health care issues or any other current issues. Students are expected to become familiar with media coverage of issues which are central to this course.

Students with disabilities who may need academic accommodations should speak with me during the first two weeks of class.

RESEARCH REPORT

Each student will submit an 6-8 page research report. The report will include library research examining a topic that is relevant to this course. The primary purpose of the paper will be to examine a controversial bioethical issue from opposing points of view. Additional information will be provided in a handout. The paper is due on November 26, 2002.

GRADES

Grades will be based upon the following:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----|
| • 2 quizzes (20% each) | 40% |
| • Research report | 20% |
| • Final exam | 20% |
| • Recitation grade | 20% |

Attendance will also be considered in the final grade.

OFFICE HOURS:

Adele Platter
Ketchum 11A, by appointment
Phone: 492-8838
E-mail: adele.platter@colorado.edu

DATE	ASSIGNMENTS
8/27	Welcome to the course. Discussion of syllabus, course expectations and requirements.
8/29	History of bioethics.
9/3	Social distribution of health & illness. Conrad: Articles 3 - 5, 8 (pp. 30-51, 76-84).
9/5	Social distribution of health & illness (continued).
9/10	Health/medicine/culture. Handouts.
9/12	Introduction to bioethics. Levine xiv-xxiv and Issues 1 & 2 (pp. 1-43) Handout.
9/17	Bioethical principles. Bioethical analysis/case studies. Levine: Issues 5, 6, 10 (pp. 84-119, 166-180).
9/19	Health care in the U.S. Conrad: Article 21, 27, 28 (pp.208-217, 275-290).
9/24	Issues in health care reform Conrad: Articles 40, 41 (pp. 421-427) Levine: Issue 18 (pp. 302-314).
9/26	Health care reform (continued). Conrad: Article 45, 46 (pp. 464-489). Levine: Issue 19 (pp. 316-335).
10/1	Quiz 1. Good Luck!
10/3	Guest speaker: Bioethics in practice.
10/8	Western medicine and complimentary (alternative) medicine Conrad: Articles 15, 16, 18, 20 (pp. 153-174, 186-188, 198-204).
10/10	Fall break.
10/15	Traditional Chinese Medicine: Film/Discussion. Handout.
10/17	Guest speaker: Traditional Chinese Medicine.
10/22	Complementary and alternative medicine.
10/24	Human Experimentation. Handout.
10/29	Human Experimentation (continued). Levine: Issue 15 (pp. 250-267).
10/31	The Emergence of New Diseases. Handout .
11/5	Emergence of New Diseases (continued). Handout.
11/7	Guest speaker: Living with AIDS
11/12	Quiz 2. Good Luck!
11/14	Organ Transplantation. Conrad: Article 34 (pp. 359-373).

- 11/19 Organ Transplantation (continued).
Levine: Issue 20 (pp. 336-352).
- 11/21 Beginning of Life Issues: Reproduction.
Levine: Issue 7 (pp. 122-133).
- 11/26 Beginning of life issues (continued).
Levine: Issue 8 (134-147).
Research paper due today.
- 11/28 **Happy Thanksgiving**
- 12/3 Genetic research/genetic therapy.
Levine: Issue 13, 14 (pp. 214-247).
- 12/5 Cloning/stem cell research.
Handout.
Levine: Issue 12 (pp. 198-213).
- 12/10 End of life issues: Death & Dying.
Handouts.
Levine: Issue 3, 4 (pp. 46-82).
- 12/12 Death & Dying (continued).
Film and discussion.
- 12/14 **Final Exam. 7:30-10:00PM**
- Good luck!**