

Syllabus HS-4092
Health Issues Among Marginalized Populations
Dr. Treena Orchard
Winter 2011

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n c Dr. Treena Orchard
Class: Thursdays
Time: 9.30-12.30
Room: HSB 9
Office Hours: 1.00-3.00 pm Thursdays or by appointment, Rm 208 HS Bldg.
E-Mail: torchar2@uwo.ca
Cell: 519-639-9722

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This is an advanced undergraduate course in health sciences that examines from critical perspectives, namely medical anthropology, feminism, and political-economy theory, a series of health issues that are experienced by a diverse array of marginalized populations. One of the primary objectives of this class is for students to develop an understanding of how macro (i.e., gender, political-economy, race, poverty) and micro (i.e., individual factors within the context of people's daily lives) forces intersect to produce both marginality and particular health issues/experiences for people who are relegated to, or find themselves on, the margins of society. The course is structured topically, with different populations and issues explored weekly, including: the social geography of mental health; everyday suffering among drug users; youth 'at risk'; motherhood and surveillance among poor women; the unfortunate legacy of the "elephant man"; the violence of "starlight tours" for Aboriginal people in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; immigrant and working class women's ideology regarding cancer; a social portrait of a British neurosurgeon who devotes his time to working in impoverished hospitals in the Ukraine; violence and barriers to existence among lesbian women; and the cultural logic and social forces behind constructions of sexually-transmitted diseases. The focus is primarily on the North American context, however, the concepts and ideas employed in the class can also be applied in socio-economic, political, and gendered settings globally.

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The course is held once per week and runs for three hours. The basic format for each class will be as follows: an overview of class objectives, interactive lecture by myself, a break, group work, and class discussion. Although I am going to lecture and lead

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I use the format provided below for grading, which is the university-wide scale that has been approved by the UWO Senate

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Teaching and learning is a two-way process and to ensure the best and most productive experience for us all I ask that we all be considerate of the following: arrive on time, do not be disruptive, respect one another, and be willing to challenge yourself.

M e available in the UWO Bookstore
1 Reading Package

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Paul Farmer (1999). :b :b :b :b :b :b . Berkeley: University of California Press, pp.1-17 & 59-93 (Available on WebCT).

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R. Kevin Grigsby (1992). Mental Health Consultation at a Youth Shelter: An Ethnographic Approach,
, 21(4), 247-261.

Hazel Kemshall (2008). Risks, Rights and Justice: Understanding and Responding to Youth Risk,
, 8(1), 21-37.

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 Martha Balsheim (1991). Cancer, control, and causality: talking about cancer in a working-class community, *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, 18(1), 152-172.

Sandra Gifford (1994). The change of life, the sorrow of life: Menopause, bad blood, and cancer among Italian-Australian working class women, *Medical Care*, 32, 299-319.

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 Anna Harris (2008). The artist as surgical ethnographer: Participant observers outside the social sciences, *Medical Care*, 46(4), 501-514.

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 D.J. Aaron, Y-F Change, N. Markovic, and R.E. LaPorte (2003). Estimating the lesbian population: A capture-recapture approach, *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, 28, 207-209.

Sharron Hinchliff, Merryn Gott, and Elisabeth Galena (2005). 'I daresay I might find it embarrassing': General practitioners' perspectives on discussing sexual health issues with lesbian and gay patients, *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, 30(4), 345-353.

Ruthann Robson (1990). Lavender Bruises: Intra-Lesbian Violence, Law and Lesbian Legal Theory, *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, 15(3), 567-591.

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James Thomas and Karen Thomas (1999). Things ain't what they ought to be: social forces underlying racial disparities in rates of sexually transmitted diseases in a rural North Carolina county, *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, 24(5), 1075-1084.

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Last day of Class...Film TBA...wrap-up