

Health, Power, and Poverty

HIST-UA 473. Fall 2021 Tuesday 2:00 PM – 4:45 PM.

David Ludden, del5@nyu.edu.

Off Hrs Wed 12-2, 53 Washington Square South, KJCC 526.

[link to weekly schedule](#)

Things to add for NYUAD J-term:

Add things from [Pandemic World History](#) Syllabus

Alice Rothchild, *Condition Critical: Life and Death in Israel/Palestine* (EBSCO via NYUHome/Bobst)

Alice Rothchild, “For Gaza’s Pregnant Women and Newborns, the War Will Never Be Over,” *New York Times*, Jan. 9, 2024

Other stuff from [Gaza Blogpost](#)

A woman's lifetime risk of maternal death is the probability that a 15-year-old woman will eventually die from a maternal cause. In high income countries, this is 1 in 5300, versus 1 in 49 in low-income countries. [WHO REPORT](#)

RACE POVERTY AND MATERNAL/CHILD MORTALITY IN THE US [NYTIMES REPORT](#)

["The true cost of maternal death: individual tragedy impacts family, community and nations."](#)

This capstone History Seminar explores the history of health environments in the modern world of globalization, focusing particularly on the ways in which inequalities of power, knowledge, and wealth influence health among social groups inside spaces of mobility and territoriality. Starting in 2021, we will focus particularly but not exclusively on large scale health problems, most importantly pandemic disease and mass malnutrition.

These are the characteristics of capstone seminars:

- Seminars are designed to offer students an opportunity to discuss a series of topics or issues around a table in an intimate setting of fewer than twenty students and a faculty director.
- Each student is expected to undertake a research project and make an oral presentation in class about some or all aspects of the project.

- The professor and fellow students critique each other's work in progress and offer helpful suggestions and insights of their own.
- At the end of the semester, the student will submit a final paper to the professor who will then assess a grade based on the quality of the paper as well as class participation throughout the semester.
- This is not a lecture course and normally there are no mid-term or final examinations.

The workload consists of (1) weekly reading, (2) class participation, (3) one-page weekly essays, to prepare for class discussion, (4) research paper proposals and drafts, and (5) a polished 25-page research paper on a topic of student choice designed in consultation with the instructor.

Grading is based on an evaluation of class participation and all the elements of the final paper, including *on time delivery* of proposals, draft, and final version, and the quality of class presentation.

Final Papers are due at 5PM on Monday, December 20, 2021, in student Google Folders. No late papers will be accepted.

The last six weeks of class are devoted entirely to the refinement of research papers.

Please remember: attendance at all student class presentations is mandatory for all students. Please come to class on time. Presenters must provide powerpoints in advance and must observe the time limit set for presentation.

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After presentations, paper drafts will be returned with comments. Late submissions will not receive attention. Students should take draft comments and class discussion into account when making final paper revisions.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

ALL updates will be [on the webpage](#)

Reading and Writing:

You DO NOT need to read everything, each week but prioritize reading according to the order of listings, each week, and starting next week, put a 1-page response paper indicating what you have read and how you find it useful into your [GoogleDoc Student folder](#). Additional Readings are in our [GoogleDocs Readings Folder](#). For more readings to develop your research, search [GoogleScholar](#) and [NYU Ebooks](#).) Initial Student Research Paper Prospectus Due in the week of October 12.

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Week 1. Sept 7. Overview of Course and Major Theme: Health and Inequity

Read: Oxfam Report: [“Today’s World on the Brink of Famine.”](#)

Study Video: David Ludden, [“Global Pandemic in National Territory.”](#)

in class: Getting Started with research: Keywords. Bobst Ebrary. Google scholar. E-data. JSTOR. Ref Librarians.

Week 2. Sept 14. Power in Medical Regimes.

The British Empire as a Medical Regime

Paul Farmer, [Pathologies of Power : Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor](#). University of California Press, 2004, to p.133.

Michael Zeheter, [Epidemics, Empire, and Environments: Cholera in Madras and Quebec City, 1818-1910](#). University of Pittsburgh Press, 2015, at least 98-198, 241-258.

David Cross: [Why America Sucks at Everything](#) – especially health

Recommended: Sunil Amrith, [Decolonizing International Health](#) New York: Palgrave, 2006

John Farley, [Brock Chisholm, the World Health Organization, and the Cold War](#) Vancouver: UBC Press , 2008

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[Reassessing Foucault: power, medicine and the body](#), edited by Colin Jones and Roy Porter. New York: Routledge, 1998

Anis Chauduri and Jomo Sundaram, [“Privatized Healthcare Worsens Pandemic.”](#) https://jomodevplus.substack.com/p/privatised-health-services-worsen?utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=email&utm_source=copy

[IDEAS on Pandemic and capitalism](#)

Week 3. Sept 21. Health, Wealth, Poverty, Entitlement

Aggregate Historical Statistics. [Gapminder Videos](#): [”200 Years that changed the world.”](#)

Poverty/Health Basics. [Key Facts: Poverty and Poor Health](#). ... [Definitions of Poverty...](#) [Defining Health?](#) WHO [The Solid Facts, Social Determinants of Health](#). 33pp. 2003

John Harris, “Bringing Politics Back into Poverty Analysis,” and S.R.Osmani, “When Endowments and Opportunities Don’t Match: Understanding Chronic Poverty, in [Poverty Dynamics : Interdisciplinary Perspectives](#), edited by Tony Addison, David Hulme, and Ravi Kanbur, Oxford University Press, 2009, Chapters 9&11, pp.205-224, 247-266.

Amartya Sen, *Poverty and Famines: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1983, pp.1-51.

Jay S. Kaufman, “[Science Alone Can’t Heal a Sick Society](#),” *NYTimes*, Sept 12, 2021.

The [Times of India Sept 19, 2020](#). “Indian Farm Bills Undermine food security – entitlements.”

Week 4. Sept 28. Malnutrition, Famine, and Food Insecurity

Amartya Sen, *Poverty and Famines: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1983, pp.52-166; and Sugata Bose, “[Starvation amidst plenty: The making of famine in Bengal, Honan and Tonkin, 1942-1945](#),” *Modern Asian Studies*, 24, 4, 1990, 699-727.

Mike Davis, *Late Victorian Holocausts: El Niño Famines and the Making of the Third World*. E-book, London: Verso, 2002. (especially Part IV, “The Political Ecology of Famine,” 277-395)

AK. Alker and E.L.Fox, “[Why Marginalization, not Vulnerability, Can best identify people in need of special medical and nutrition care](#).” *AMA Journal of Ethics*. 2018, 20: E941-947

Bina Agarwal, “[Social security and the family: Coping with seasonality and calamity in rural India](#),” *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 17, 3, 1990, 341-412.

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Week 5. Oct 5. Epidemic/Endemic Disease: Malaria

“[Pathocenosis: A Holistic Approach to Disease Ecology](#),” by Jean-Pau Gonzalez, et al *EcoHealth*, 7, 237-240, 2010

James L. A. Webb, *Humanity’s Burden: A Global History of Malaria*. Cambridge University Press, 2008. (190pp)

Ka-Chi Yip, *Disease, Colonialism, and the State: Malaria in Modern East Asian History*. Hong Kong University Press, 2009.

Robert Sallares, *Malaria and Rome: A History of Malaria in Ancient Italy*. Oxford University Press, 2002.

Week 6. Oct 12 – No class today. “Legislative Monday.” Classes meet on Monday Schedule.

Initial Research Prospectus due this week.

Week 7. Oct 19. Pandemics

William H. McNeill, [*Plagues and Peoples*](#). Anchor Random House, 1998.

Myron Echenberg, [*Africa in the Time of Cholera: A History of Pandemics from 1817 to the Present*](#), Cambridge University Press, 2011.

Nancy Tomes, “[“Destroyer and Teacher”: Managing the Masses During the 1918-1919 Flu Pandemic](#).” *Public Health Reports*, 2010, 125, 48-62.

WHO official says [Booster shots “make a mockery of vaccine equity](#). NYT 20 Aug21

Oxfam report: “[The Inequality Virus](#)”

India Today: “[How Covid-19 crisis has exposed India’s growing wealth gap](#)”

Susan Sell, “What COVID-19 Reveals about Twenty-first Century Capitalism: Adversity and Opportunity,” [Development 63, 2020, 150–156](#).

Paul Farmer, “Ebola, Spanish Flu and the Memory of disease,” [Critical Inquiry, 46, 2019, 56-71](#).

Alex de Waal, “New Pathogen, Old Politics.” We should be wary of simplistic uses of history, but we can learn from the logic of social responses. [Boston Review, Apr 3, 2020](#)

Video (36min): Ludden, “[Global Pandemic in National Territory](#).” Oct 5, 2020

Google Top Glove pandemic for Malaysia migrant labor infections [here is NYT](#)

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Primary sources: [The Natural History and Epidemiology of Cholera: Being the Annual Oration of the Medical Society of London, May 7, 1888](#) Sir Joseph Fayrer, RCP Library, 1888. ... [New York Times Report on Cholera in NYC 1832](#).

Online Resources: [Pandemic Studies Webpage](#). [Visualizing the history of pandemics](#)

Week 8. Oct 26. War

[India and World War I: A Centennial Assessment](#). Edited by Roger Long and Ian Talbot Taylor and Francis, 2018. Chapter 6, Santanu Das “Subalterns at Mesopotamia: battle, siege, and captivity,” pp.157-172, and Chapter 7, Rachel Constance, “In the shadows: contextualizing cholera outbreaks in the Indian Army during the Great War,” pp.173-188

Pat Walsh, "[Who Remembers the Persians?](#)," *Irish Foreign Affairs*, 2004. A review of [The Great Famine and Genocide in Persia, 1917-1919](#) by Mohammad Gholi Majd, University Press of America: (Review). Second Edition, 2013,

Madhusree Mukerjee, [Churchill's Secret War : The British Empire and the Ravaging of India during World War II](#), Basic Books, 2010.

[War and Health: The Medical Consequences of the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan](#). Lutz, Catherine, and Andrea Mazzarino, editors. Vol. 4, NYU Press, 2019.

Week 9. Nov 2 -- Exclusion, Displacement, Migration, Inequity, Violence.

[Invisible: The Rohingyas, the crisis, the people and their health](#)

[Migration, Ethnicity, and Mental Health: International Perspectives, 1840–2010](#), edited by Angela McCarthy and Catharine Coleborne, New York:Routledge, 2011.

James K. Boyce, "[Inequality is bad for your health](#)." *DifferenTakes*, Hampshire College.

Stephen Devereaux, "[Sen's Entitlement Approach: Critiques and Counter-critiques](#)." *Oxford Development Studies*, 29, 3, 2001, 245-263.

Gary Evans and Elyse Kantrowitz," [Socioeconomic Status and Health: The Potential Role of Environmental Risk Exposure](#)," *AnnRev Public Health* 2002, 23, 303-31.

Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, [Every Thirty Minutes: Farmer Suicides. Human Right, and the Agrarian Crisis in India](#). New York University, 2011.

WHO [Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women](#). 2005

[International Journal for Equity in Health](#) ... 2003: 2, 4. "[Poverty and Inequity in the Era of Globalization: Our Need to Change and to Re-conceptualize](#)"

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Midterm grades due

Week 10. Nov 9. Student Research Discussion

Week 11. Nov 16. Student Research Discussion

Week 12. Nov 23. Draft Research Paper Workshop

Week 13. Nov 30. Draft Research Paper Workshop

Week 14. Dec 7. Draft Research Paper Workshop

Week 15. Dec 14. Wrap up discussion. Papers Due by Friday Dec 17.